

NEWS IN BRIEF

PALM BEACH, Fla. — An alligator was trapped and killed in mid-April at Palm Beach Polo & Country Club here after the reptile bit a diver attempting to collect golf balls from an on-course pond. The diver was hospitalized with a puncture wound in the foot, said club officials. Lee Wilson, a licensed trapper, was called in to apprehend the 350-pounder.

•••

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — With a grand opening slated for January 1995, construction on the 18-hole, par-72 Legend Trail golf course and its 6,000-square-foot clubhouse will begin immediately. Formerly named Desert Ranch, developers have sold the golf course property within the 573-acre Legend Trail community project to New York-based Ziff Communications and golf professional Al Mengert.

•••

LEESBURG, Ga. — The Lee County Commission has approved the zoning changes necessary for more than 300 acres of south Lee County farmland to become Grand Island Golf Course and subdivisions. The decision allows Ledo Properties, which owns the land, to begin construction on the county's first course. John Gay, managing partner for Ledo Properties, hopes the course will open for play by late summer.

•••

SHAWNEE MISSION, Kan. — A woman has sued a golfer at Mission Hills Country Club here after she was struck in the face by an errant shot while sitting in her car. Filed at the federal courthouse, the suit alleged golf was an "abnormally dangerous activity." U.S. District Court judge John Lungstrum disagreed, but did rule the woman's suit "sufficiently stated claim for negligence and is entitled to the opportunity (however slight) to prove defendant golfer failed to exercise reasonable care in striking the golf ball."

Watson warns ASGCA of impending water trouble

Architects meet by the Bay;
Dr. Watson honored; Knott
succeeds President Matthews

By MARK LESLIE
and PETER BLAIS

SAN FRANCISCO — Green areas, especially golf courses, are a national treasure and must be preserved, effectively maintained and expanded, according to Dr. James R. Watson, who received the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects during its annual meeting here in late April.

Watson — founder of International Turfgrass Society and the USGA Green Section Turfgrass Research Committee — challenged the architects to continue as industry pioneers in the agronomic sense, as well as the artistic sense.

He reminded them that Robert Trent Jones Sr. and other led the way in improving the greens mix from the old standard — one-third peat, one-third sand, one-third soil. These forward-looking architects, he said, began to recognize the one-third mixture was inadequate to support the increased play and moved the industry toward an 80:20 sand-peat mix, even before agronomists proved it was the best solution.

"As technology expands, as golfers and builders demand preciseness, as environmental demands become more stringent and water conservation becomes mandatory, I think it will become incumbent on anyone who builds golf courses of any type to follow very rigid specifications," said Watson. "Whether they are USGA specifications or not, remains to be seen. Those specs are changing and being revised as new technology becomes available."

Environmental concerns, wetlands legislation, increasing scarcity of water, and water-use statutes at all government levels "point to the inevitable curtailment of the amount of water that will be allocated to golf courses," he said. And there lies the next great challenge, he said.



PROPER BALANCE

*The Natural, an 18-hole public golf course in Gaylord, Mich., is a prime example of architecture and environmental preservation principles working hand-in-hand. Designed by Jerry Matthews, the outgoing president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the course features 123 acres available for golf. Yet only 35 acres, or less than 28 percent, are under normal maintenance. The rest of the course is left completely natural. For more information and case histories of how ASGCA members design courses to enhance wildlife habitats, write for a special 48-page booklet, *An Environmental Approach To Golf Course Development*. It's available for \$10 per copy from the ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.*

As a member of the National Academy of Science technology board on the future of irrigation, Watson reported: "Already, it is very apparent that some of these issues affecting water quality and quantity do not bode well of for the green industry."

In spite of "a very favorable environment for management of wildlife of all types... golf courses will not be given the amount of water they deserve," he predicted. "All sources of water — recycled, storm, gray, non-potable water of all types, including brackish and saline — must be considered as a potential sources of future irrigation for golf courses."

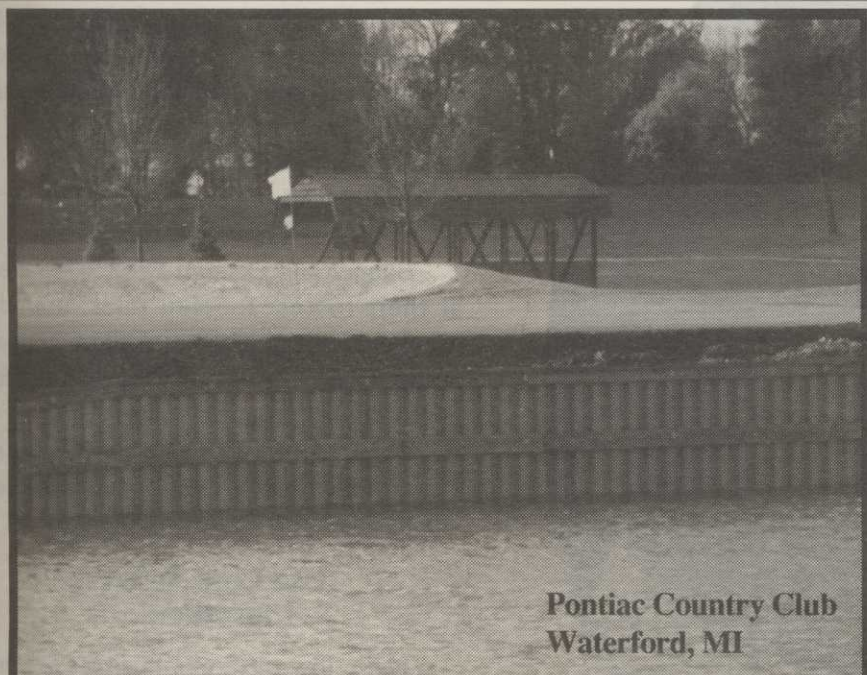
Even though breeding, selection, bioengineering, genetic engineering and proplastic transfusion will all provide superior plants in the future, Watson said, "None

Continued on page 10

ROY DYE, 1929-1994

Architect Roy Dye, who joined brother Pete in a golf course design practice in the late 1960s and 70s before working on his own, died after a long illness early on April 18, in Phoenix. Colleagues gathered in San Francisco for the ASGCA meeting mourned Mr. Dye's passing prior to sessions held Monday afternoon.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, Roy Dye was a chemical engineer by trade. After assisting his brother early in their partnership, Roy Dye handled many projects on his own, most notably Waterwood National GC in Huntsville, Texas, and the CC of Colorado in Colorado Springs.



Pontiac Country Club
Waterford, MI

C-LOC® Developed and introduced the first vinyl plastic interlocking panels for soil retention applications

Panel Features:

- Attractive appearance
- Ease of installation
- Proven performance in any natural environment

To find out more about C-LOC, call or write today:

C-LOC® Retention Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 180283 • Utica, MI 48318
(313) 731-9511 • FAX (313) 731-9516



Treetops Sylvan Resort, Gaylord, Michigan

Just add Water.

Quick. Easy. Add the beauty of water to any landscape project with an EPI pond liner. Tough, durable and flexible, it cost-effectively provides a leak-free body of water. Send us your site plan and we'll custom fabricate to fit any size, shape or application.



Environmental Protection, Inc.

P.O. Box 333
Mancelona, Michigan 49659
Call: 800-34-LINER; Outside the U.S.: 616-587-9108
Fax: 616-587-8020