

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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EPA-friendly

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Having problems keeping your ponds & lakes free of these and other intruders? See special report 40

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DR. DUICH EARNS ROSSI AWARD

Builders association President Jim Kirchdorfer (left) presents Dr. Joe Duich the Don Rossi Award during the builders' banquet in San Francisco. For story on Duich and a complete GCSAA Show Wrap-up, see pages 33-39.

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Truce!

Soil labs & USGA settle differences

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Comforted and hopeful after meeting with representatives of eight soil-testing laboratories, U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section officials believe the clock is ticking toward a future where accreditation for labs is the norm.

"I'm very relieved," said Green Section National Director Jim Snow, who entered the February meeting expecting an angry mob of lab technicians.

Saying a committee of lab officials "will hold discussions among themselves and tell the USGA what needs to be done," he said: "It will take awhile

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Owners buy into group purchasing

By PETER BLAIS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Insurance, electric bunker rakes and used turf equipment are the latest products to find their way onto the ever-growing list of discounted service and merchandise available through the National Golf Course Owners Association Smart Buy Program.

The NGCOA group purchasing program provides the association's members with price breaks from preferred suppliers ranging from shirt makers to credit-card processors.

CNA Insurance Compa-

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BACK TO THE LINKS

A lonely pin stands starkly on the 18th green, as the sun sets on Ocean Forest Golf Club, a throwback, links-style design from Rees Jones. The 380-acre property sits on the tip of Sea Island, Ga., just where the Hampton River meets the Atlantic Ocean. For details on Jones' successful collaboration with nature and the Cloisters Hotel, see page 47.

EPA puts product approval on fast track?

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, created in November to speed up registration of biological pesticides, is accomplishing the task, according to spokesman Anne Leslie.

A chemist and turf industry liaison with the EPA, Leslie said that in the division's first three months, three new active ingredients were registered and registration actions had been completed on three others. Historically, it has taken three to

five years to approve an active ingredient for use, she said.

"The EPA is committed to expediting registration of safer pesticide products," Leslie told an audience at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco. She explained that for chemical pesticides, the EPA has initiated a priority set of procedures to hasten approval, while the new division was created to deal with biological pesticides.

In the case of chemical pesticides, "registrants can make an argument as to why

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Opryland Springhouse Golf Club in Nashville, Tenn. is among those courses designed by incoming ASGCA president Jeff Brauer.

Q & A

Brauer to assume ASGCA presidency

By MARK LESLIE

SCOTLAND — When the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) meets here in April on the eve of its 50th anniversary, a week of travel and meetings will be climaxed with the passing of the gavel to a new president — Jeffrey Brauer.

Already, Brauer's sights are set on April 1996 when the society holds its golden anniversary at the hallowed greens and fairways of Pinehurst, N.C.

Questioned about his objectives, the president of GolfScapes in Arlington, Texas, answered: "I will begin to play

on the 50th anniversary theme. In my view, while the challenges of golf course architecture are certainly significant today, with the environment and the financing, I think the challenges have always been there throughout the 50 years of the society. I think the top architects have met those challenges in the past and I'm certain will meet them in the future."

Golf Course News: What have those challenges been?

Jeffrey Brauer: Historically, if you look at the '40s, there wasn't any qual-

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EPA, green industry consider partnership

Continued from page 15

this new program, which "seeks to reduce the risks of pesticides in agriculture and turf settings," she said.

"Environmental stewardship is integral to pesticide management practices," Leslie said, adding that partners are users who commit to responsible use while the government will foster and fund practices to reduce risk and use.

The GCSAA board of directors is expected to discuss joining PESP at its May meeting.

"We are going to take a serious, hard look at it. We'll work with EPA, people already with the program, figure out if it makes sense for the GCSAA, and go from there," said GCSAA Chief Operating Officer Joseph O'Brien. "It depends on how complicated it is and what the commitments are. Then, if it's a reasonably simplified commitment — say, part of it is organization and stating that you commit to do this, that and the other — and if it fits with superintendents, then we'll do it.

"On the surface it's curious enough — a regulatory-agency approach to working with an industry — to look at. The whole issue is, what does it mean? If you're in it, then what? Do you do things? Are there milestones to reach? Have you made a commitment and are you going to be judged on that?"

O'Brien, who serves as chairman of the Allied Association's Environmental Committee, said each group with the Allied Association would have to address the question of joining PESP on its own. "The 'allies' would not do it under an allied banner," he said.

The USGA will participate in the program, said Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section. "The belief is growing that golf courses can be managed properly with a minimal impact on the environment," Snow said. "But the question is, can we



'We are going to take a serious, hard look at it. We'll work with EPA, people already with the program, figure out if it makes sense for the GCSAA, and go from there.'

— Joe O'Brien, GCSAA chief operating officer

educate everyone in the industry so they actually follow through with the things they ought to be doing? This is a program to encourage people to participate, to learn, to educate others... EPA is trying to reduce pesticide use in every industry and an educational program is how you do that."

Terming membership "a show of support for the concept of reducing pesticide use," Snow said, "Just by making that statement... things are going to happen over time."

"We think it [joining] is a positive move," said PLCAA Director of Government Affairs Tom Delaney. "But it's a two-way street. We want to sit down with the EPA folks and get them to do things, too, like watch what they're saying about us, since we are both supposedly partners in this."

The partnership is the first under the commitment made by the three agencies before the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993 to work jointly with pesticide user groups to develop commodity-specific initiatives toward achieving the Clinton Administration's goal of reducing the use and risks of pesticides.

"Voluntary pollution prevention has been a cornerstone of our efforts to protect human health and the environment, and this ... is an important step toward that goal," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner in a statement.

The partnership has agreed to commit to guiding principles that will shape pest management practices:

- Pesticide users will continue to develop and implement pest management practices that reduce risk to humans and the environment and will continue to work to minimize the use of pesticides where desirable and practical.

- Recognizing the need to maintain cost-effective pest control in the marketplace, the federal government will seek to foster, fund and promote — through education, research and other means — the adoption of alternative pest management technologies and practices that enhance pest management and reduce pesticide use and risk.

- The federal government shall integrate the environmental stewardship plans developed by PESP members into its agricultural and environmental policies and programs.

PESP partners, Leslie said, "are to come up with a strategy to show how they will reduce the risk of pesticides in their industry. The strategy could be educational efforts, looking at statistics

USGA, labs work toward accreditation

Continued from page 1

for the committee to decide what it's comfortable with and then implement it. Some will be accredited before then, but I doubt we will have a list before the end of the year."

A less optimistic Steve McWilliams, president and CEO of Turf Diagnostics and Design in Olathe, Kan., said it could take five years before an accreditation program is in place.

The Green Section "will make any changes needed," Snow said. "Once they agree, the standards will be sent to the accreditation agency."

The USGA is working with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation of Washington, D.C., which has accredited more than 800 labs of various types.

on usage and seeing where reductions could be made, etc.

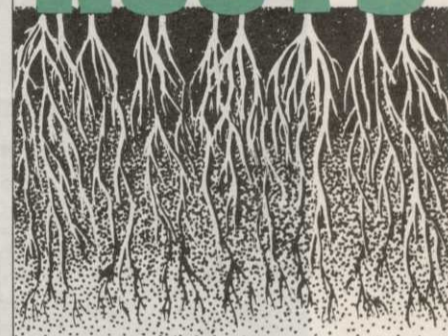
"The only thing we require is a strategy statement within six months and a report at the end of the year — perhaps a uniform date for everybody."

The EPA will not use PESP to regulate, Leslie said, "but we may be able to help them [partners] wade through the regulatory process. Say they bring us information about getting a pesticide to control a certain pest — and it is in the queue to be registered. We can move it along."

There is no cost to join PESP. The EPA has allocated funds to support demonstration projects proposed by members, she said.

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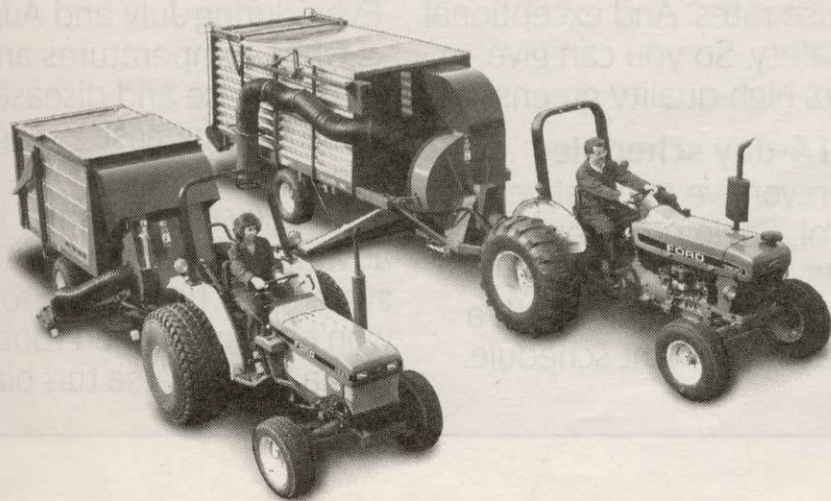
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