

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

## 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

Continued on page 63



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-

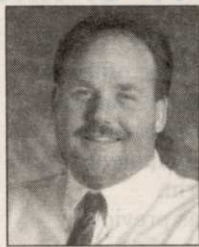
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## Drake and Ferguson promoted at Ransomes America

LINCOLN, Neb. — Ransomes America Corporation has announced the appointment of Kirk Drake to the position of marketing coordinator.

In his new position, Drake will assist in the development of print and audiovisual materials for advertising and dealer training. He will work with each of the company's three divisions: Turf, Professional Lawn Care, and Industrial & Commercial. His responsibilities also include coordi-



Kirk Drake



Dave Ferguson

nating trade shows.

In other Ransomes news, Dave Ferguson has been named training coordinator for Ransomes America Corp.

In his new position, Ferguson will implement dealer sales training programs in North America and work with training personnel in the United Kingdom. Ransomes America Corp. currently holds yearly dealer sales training sessions in Lincoln, Neb.; Johnson Creek, Wis.; and Long Boat Key, Fla.

## Ransomes' Florida dealer expands

Golf Ventures, a Lakeland, Florida-based dealer of Ransomes America Corporation's line of turf maintenance equipment, has expanded its sales and service territory in the state. Golf Ventures' new territory will encompass Ft. Myers, Jacksonville, Naples, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Tampa and Tallahassee.

Founded more than eight years ago, Golf Ventures has grown to be one of Florida's leading turf grass equipment and supply dealers. According to Jim

Sartain, chief executive officer of Golf Ventures, the expanded sales territory means that the firm will distribute Ransomes America Corporation's entire line of Cushman, Ransomes and Ryan turf maintenance equipment to nearly 75 percent of the state. Golf Ventures serves approximately 600 golf courses in Florida.

Sartain added that the firm plans to build a new sales and service office in the Jacksonville area to accommodate the increased sales volume.

## EPA fast track

Continued from page 1

their pesticide should be considered safer. If we [EPA scientists] agree, we put the pesticide at the front of the queue," Leslie said. "This year, we probably won't look at anything other than the safer ones."

The pilot biopesticide division "was created particularly to demonstrate how streamlining will work in the government," Leslie said. The fact biopesticides are exempt from a number of regulations speeds up registration naturally. Yet the timing is fortuitous since so many of the new ingredients being tested are biologicals.

"We have seen a big change," Leslie said. "In the last two years about 50 percent [of new registrations] have been biologicals. Before then, maybe two or three of the 30 pesticides registered a year were biologicals."

According to an EPA report, its Office of Pollution Prevention registered 31 new pesticide active ingredients in 1994, more than half of which are considered "reduced-risk pesticides." Reflecting the recent trend, 15, or nearly half, were biological pesticides, according to the report.

Biologicals include microbial pesticides, which are bacteria, viruses, or other micro-organisms. Biochemical pesticides include pheromones, insect or plant growth regulators and hormones.

Creation of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division is a major change among several upcoming at the EPA. A comprehensive reorganization plan was expected to be submitted by end of March and to be implemented in 1996, Leslie said.

Meanwhile, the federal EPA hopes to sign formal agreements with their state colleagues similar to the one they signed with the California EPA's Department of Pesticide Regulation "to harmonize federal and state pesticide registration activities."

The agreement will "fast-track" registration of new biological pesticides. The first fruit of the California pact is registration of the pesticide Bio-Save, marking the first anniversary of the agreement to harmonize federal and state pesticide registration activities.

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