

BRIEFS



TURF RESOURCE LIT OFFERED

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — The Turf Resource Center has released informational four-color brochures about turfgrass sod. Turf Installation Guide demonstrates a four-step process for quick turfgrass sod installation — from measuring and ordering sod to soil preparation and future maintenance. Self-Scoring Method: How To Establish a Lawn compares sod versus seed and hydroseeding, including a checklist to evaluate the importance of each factor and which method best suits specific needs. They are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the center at 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008.

ARIZONA PESTICIDE USE SURVEYED

The pesticide coordinator's office at the University of Arizona, in cooperation with the Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association of Arizona, is conducting a pesticide use survey on Arizona golf courses. The office is attempting to determine, from



these confidential surveys, such information as pesticide use patterns, management strategies and integrated pest management (IPM) practices. The survey was expected to be distributed in January.

HODGE TAKES CHARGE IN MAINE

PORTLAND, Maine — Jim Hodge of Val Halla Golf Course in Falmouth was elected president, heading a new slate of officers for the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, and declared his role will be "that of a communicator" within the organization. Hodge, who replaced Pat Lewis of Portland CC, is joined by Vice President Norm Hevey of Dutch Elm GC in Biddeford and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Child. John Laprey of York Golf & Tennis Club in Cape Neddick was elected to a three-year term to the board of directors. Saying he will be available to discuss concerns and answer questions, Hodge said: "I want to keep all members informed of what's going on in their association."

PA TOURNEYS RAISE \$19,000

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council grossed \$19,000 at two golf tournaments in October to benefit research, teaching and extension at Penn State University. Sewickley Heights Golf Club in the Pittsburgh area and Chester Valley Golf Club outside Philadelphia hosted the tournaments. Forty-six sponsors and 240 players took part.



A job that's never done

Mark Leslie photo

Terry Buchen, rear, checks out another new drain at Double Eagle.

Drainage, drainage, drainage...

By **MARK LESLIE**

If only superintendents were rice farmers. Then they could applaud rainstorms and not worry about drainage. Insufficient drainage is the plight of superintendents everywhere, whether their course is brand spanking new or was built with horse and scraper.

"There's never enough drainage," said Bob Mitchell, superintendent at The Greenbriar in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. "We have installed miles and miles of drainage in my 21 years here and we still have not done enough."

"If you install five miles of drainage on a golf course, you're going to need another five miles of it over time," said Larry Rogers of Larry Rogers Design in Lakewood, Colo., who has installed irrigation systems in hundreds of golf facilities.

"By use, you find out more areas that need more drain-

Continued on page 41

Supers to designers: Stop! Look! Listen!

By **PETER BLAIS**

Not only should architects strive to bring superintendents aboard as early as possible in the construction process, they need to listen to them once they are there.

Those were the overriding concerns of superintendents at courses opened in the past year. The superintendents were queried in a *Golf Course News* survey asking them to rate the job done by architects at their courses.

At Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla., superintendent Tim Hiers worked closely with architects Art Hills and Mike Dasher on the course design and particularly the maintenance area.

"I believe they left here with a better understanding for what makes a well-designed maintenance complex than when they came in," said superintendent Tim Hiers.

"Most architects don't give a lot of thought to the need for a maintenance complex that maximizes human performance, is aesthetically pleasing and has the functional ability to service the golf course. It would help them to work closely with an experienced superintendent and listen to his input."

The same goes for the irrigation system, according to Brad

Continued on page 38

A HISTORY

It's a golf world after all

By **JIM CONNOLLY**

There exist numerous historical accounts on the game of golf from every perspective and point of view. Authors of different persuasions write about "Golf And The Golf Club," "Golf And The Golf Ball," "Golf and the Rules," "Golf's Great Players," ad infinitum, each offering their opinions depending upon point of view.

This following account addresses golf and golf course turfgrass maintenance and how the condition of the putting green influences the game.

Changes in maintenance have influenced other areas of the golf course as well, not just putting greens. However, the putting green is the "heart" of the game and very sensitive to change.

Other developments that have had a profound effect upon the game include development of a more lively golf ball, steel shafts instead of hickory, graphite shafts instead of steel, better athletes (a debatable subject), and increased technology in the area of equipment, player training, etc. Discussions of such subjects are plentiful and often very spirited.

First in a series

Continued on page 28

Breeders close to solving *Poa annua* puzzle

By **DAVID M. ROSE**

Poa annua, an invasive annual bluegrass, is a perennial headache for course managers in marine climates all over the world. Strategies for eradicating *Poa annua* exist, but they're labor-intensive and not always successful. Now researchers expect to provide superintendents with a new weapon in the battle against this invasive weed. Their solution? Better *Poa annua*.

"Our goal is to develop perennial *Poa annua* cultivars for golf course use," said Dr. Donald White, leader of the *Poa annua* breeding project at the University of Minnesota. White said perennial varieties may be available commercially by 1998.

"These perennial *Poas* will have improved color, texture, and vigor" when compared to naturalized varieties, White said, adding he hopes they will outperform bentgrass in areas where *Poa annua* thrives.



Mark Leslie photo

Cypress Point Golf Club, on California's Monterey Peninsula, has the perfect climate for *Poa annua*.

As the name suggests, most naturally occurring varieties of *Poa annua* have an annual life cycle, seeding heavily in the spring and dying off in the summer months. Because of their heavy seed production, they infest weak spots on bentgrass greens and quickly take over.

Continued on page 44

Supers say architects can learn from them about maintenance complexes

Continued from page 25

Johnsen, head superintendent at Dick Nugent-designed Klein Creek Golf Course in Winfield, Ill. Johnsen was hired after the irrigation system was 75 percent installed. By that time it was too late to correct the installation of a 1,600-gallon-per-minute pump on a course whose pipes could only handle 1,000 gallons in 60 seconds.

"They [Nugent Design] did the design work in their own offices rather than hiring an irrigation specialist," said Johnsen, who believes he would have spotted the problem before anything was installed if he had been brought aboard earlier. "We could have saved money by getting a smaller pump. Now I can't water the course the way or as fast as, I want."

Johnsen said he encountered a similar situation at Roger Packard-designed Eagle Brook in Geneva, Ill., a previous employer. An irrigation specialist was hired there. Johnsen, though, came along after most of the irrigation system was installed.

"The [Eagle Brook] system wasn't wired the way it should have been," Johnsen said, adding that the problem might have been avoided had he been brought on earlier.

Nugent did an excellent job of using the remaining land available at Klein Creek after housing was in place to still make a dramatic course, Johnsen said. Johnsen also marveled at the way Nugent avoided draining everything into the 25 acres of lakes that dominate the course.

Throughout a number of "amiable conversations," Johnsen said, he and Nugent compromised on the sloping of mounds and bunkers.

"They [Nugent] wanted a dramatic look and I wanted to make sure I could maintain the place," the superintendent said. "If I hadn't been here, the slopes would have been more severe. But in the end, Nugent delivered what the owner wanted."

The severe slopes at Robert von Hagge-designed Pelican Marsh & Bay Golf Club in Naples, Fla., stand in sharp contrast to the relatively flat surrounding southwest Florida landscape. Hand mowing with Flymos, extensive fertilizing and intensive maintenance are the only way to keep them up, according to superintendent Robert Johnson. But that came as no surprise.

"[Developer] Westinghouse [Corp.] wanted something different for the area and von Hagge delivered," Johnson said. "It's the talk of the town. The architect forecast an annual maintenance budget and we're in that range."

Mark Wilson of Peter Jacobsen-designed Creekside Golf Club in Salem, Ore., and Jack Archer of Earl Stone-designed Timbercreek

Golf Club in Daphne, Ala., were very complimentary of their architects.

This is Archer's second Stone course, having opened Marcus Point in Pensacola, Fla., from 1990-92. Archer walked the Timbercreek site with Stone when it was still largely woodlands. Archer marveled at Stone's ability to place tees, greens and fairways in the middle of the woods with the aid of just a compass and topographical map.

Construction mistakes — like inappropriate irrigation systems — can be prevented by having a super on board and listening.

"Earl likes the superintendent on site on a daily basis from day one," Archer said. "He listened

to my input on the maintenance facility, design and equipment needs. He's set in his ways, but willing to listen to new ideas if you can show him they work."

Archer said the maintenance facility and clubhouse work together extremely well at Timbercreek because Stone was in contact with him and the director of golf right from the start.

"Peter [Jacobsen] had a good vision of what he wanted to do here and was a pleasure to work

with," Wilson said. "I didn't provide a lot of input because I liked what he was doing."

Approximately 100 pot bunkers are scattered about the course. Many are steep-sided, requiring Flymo cutting. But the owner wanted them and Jacobsen, working with Golf Services Group of Houston, accurately estimated the cost of maintaining them in his preliminary budget, Wilson said.

Continued on next page



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Supers should be brought on-site 'as early as possible,' designers say

By MARK LESLIE

Saying superintendents should be the world's expert on their properties, designers today more often advocate bringing the heads of maintenance on board early in construction.

"We want them on site as early as possible," said Michael Hurdzan, a Columbus, Ohio-based architect. "There's more than enough work for him to do. He should know the soils, rocks, legal ramifications, EPA

[Environmental Protection Agency] regulations, boundary lines, water, wells, tile. Then, in construction, all the construction methods, how and where things were done..."

"The quality of maintenance is something we're extremely interested in," said architect Jack Snyder of Phoenix, Ariz. "We like to help select the superintendent and have him on the job very early for his recommendations and ideas, and so he can know what's

underground and take pictures, particularly of areas he has questions about."

"A superintendent should be brought in when they start moving dirt, and at least at the point where they are installing drainage and irrigation," said architect Keith Foster of St. Louis, Mo., and Phoenix, Ariz.

"The superintendent can be hired before we are," Hurdzan said. Referring to a current project in Peoria, Ill., for which Pete

Clarno was on board from the start, Hurdzan said: "That's very, very smart on their [developer's] part. I look to the superintendent for lots and lots of input — as being a professional asset."

Jan Beljan, a lead architect with Tom Fazio Golf Course Designers, Inc. in Jupiter, Fla., said at the World Woods project in Homosassa, Fla., the developer hired superintendents Steve Hritsko and Bob Wagner "to assist us in adjusting the clearing limits.

They were the owner's reps."

"The charm of having a superintendent involved in the process early is that it adds another set of eyes," Foster said. "It also creates good interaction. Many architects have a difficult time in that interaction because they think their abilities are being questioned. But I think nobody has an exclusive on good ideas. If we can choose the best ideas to make the holes better, that's what matters."

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Decatur Country Club
Decatur, Alabama

Listen up!

Continued from previous page

Jacobsen has returned to Creekside several times since it opened last May and the visits have been very helpful, Wilson said. "We've done some tree replanting to get more sun into certain spots. His input has been very valuable. I don't know if it's unusual for architects to make follow-up visits, but it's very helpful. I've seen cases where golf courses have been torn apart by committees. It would be nice to have an architect at some of those meetings to lend a professional eye."

Getting a touring pro to listen to the superintendent on design issues isn't always easy, however, noted Thomas Schlick, head superintendent at the Jerry Pate-designed Golf Club at Shiloh Falls in Pickwick Dam, Tenn. In general, trained architects seem more willing to take advice from seasoned superintendents than are pro-turned-architects, he added.

Still, Schlick said: "I'd work with Jerry again in a second. But he could bend a little when he gets sound advice from an experienced superintendent."

Against Schlick's advice, Pate sodded a wet, low-lying area and a second out-of-bounds area. He also built a sand bunker on a steep slope in front of a tee. Schlick accurately predicted the bunker couldn't hold its sand during a heavy rain.

"We've made some minor changes to those areas," Schlick said, "and ended up with a very maintainable golf course. It's a hilly site, but there's only one area we really can't cut. Considering that, Jerry did a great job."

Architect D.J. DeVictor was very willing to listen to the superintendent and a turfgrass consultant hired at Eagles Landing Golf Club in Sevierville, Tenn., according to superintendent Kevin Bramer.

"As long as an architect is willing to listen and consider your ideas, everything usually works out fine," the superintendent said. "If we [Bramer and the turfgrass consultant] said one grass would work here better than another, he took our advice. D.J.'s forte was engineering a course that would work, and he did."