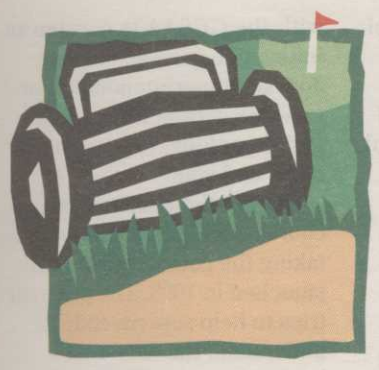
BRIEFS



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 gong on in their association."

PA TOURNEYS RAISE $19,00

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.

Mark Leslie photo

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

A job that's never done

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 pespective 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 influeneces 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.

First in a series

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.

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

History lessons

Continued from page 25

But why is there such a lack of discussion on course conditioning, save the few comments about turf being "better conditioned today than in the past," or the common complaint about slow greens.? Turfgrass conditions are so closely linked to the character of the game that I believe:

The manner in which the course is maintained has more impact upon the game than any development in equipment, design, or player skill.

The writings of Wind, Ouimet, Jones, Hutchinson, Hagen, Snead, Old Tom, et al, supply enough information to make intelligent correlations between course conditions and playing strategy. The change in turfgrass conditions over the years is boldly apparent. Every new playing philosophy is closely linked to the maintenance of that time. History is change. Everything is constantly changing, some for better, some for worse. Change in itself is not bad, but I believe we should understand and be aware of the reasons for change and the direction the change is taking us. The game of golf has definitely changed, although the basic principle has remained: get the ball in the hole with the fewest possible strokes, and don't cheat while you're doing it!

It is important to realize that knowledge of the game and its past is fundamental to the success of proper green keeping. The person in charge of the golf course grounds has been given various titles from custodian of the links, to caretaker, to green keeper, to golf course superintendnt. Whichever title you prefer, proper maintenance of the golf course requires a dedicated, knowledgeable individual. After all, Old Tom Morris (regarded as the father of superintedents) was revered and respected by many and thought it appropriate that he be called custodian of the links!

Willie Park, a great golfer and amateur architect at the turn of the century, said "Golf design starts with the green and goes backward to the tee."

Officially, the putting green is that area specially prepared for the part of the game known as putting. Although golf had its beginning some 600 years ago, putting — as we know it — began about 450 years later! Studying the gradual changes that have occurred over the last 600 years gives a better understanding of the game, and golf maintenance.

The putting green is definitely a focal point on the course, and the superintendent is often judged on his overall ability based upon the condition of the putting green.

"The most fertile source of adverse criticism on the part of a club membership against the greenkeeper is that in relationship to the conditions that prevail upon the putting green." (W.K. Gault, 1913)

For simplicity and clarity, I will divide the historical account into five eras, separated by changes in maintenance, technology, or other influences on turfgrass.

Next month: 1457-1832

Next month, learn about the Father of Greenkeepers, Old Tom Morris, center with beard.

James Connolly is senior technical agronomist for JacklinGolf in Post Falls, Idaho, and a former agronomist for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. He has spent 10 years compiling this history of the putting green.