

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIAMI — Golf at sea? Well, Royal Caribbean Cruises says it will unveil a complete (if miniaturized) 18-hole golf course aboard on of its new cruise ships, due to debut in the Caribbean come May. The first-ever course of its kind will reportedly feature sand traps, trees, Scottish heather and, presumably, lots of water hazards. There's no word yet on yardage.

...

MARION, Iowa — A proposed golf course and housing development here would create about \$1 million per year in property taxes and \$500,000 for the Linn-Mar school district. The proposed \$20 million Hunters Ridge project will include a daily-fee, 18-hole golf course along with 278 large lots for upscale homes and 100 townhouse units. The project is being undertaken by a private partnership involving local businessmen Bob and Dave Verhille, Ralph Blackford, and George Powers.

...

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Burns Park now has a full, 18-hole golf course to complement another 18. A new nine-hole course, under construction for 30 months, has been added to an existing "short nine" to create a par-71, 6,300-yard layout. In the spring, builders will finish sodding and installing cart paths. The new nine cost about \$200,000 and was funded by the city of North Little Rock and the Burns Park men's golf association.

...

AUSTIN, Texas — The city will spend \$100,000 to study pollution from golf courses. The city has hired Spectrum Research Inc. of Duluth, Minn., to perform the work. The project will include evaluation of city golf course management practices and recommendations to minimize pesticide and fertilizer pollution of waterways on and off the city's six municipal golf courses. Private courses are also likely to participate in the study.



TERRAVITA GC UNVEILED IN THE ARIZONA DESERT

A late-afternoon sun frames the 9th hole at Terravita Golf Course. Opened for play last month in North Scottsdale, Ariz., this Casper/Nash design is the first project of its size to be developed under the City of Scottsdale's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance governing desert development. Paul Ellwood is the new superintendent and Phil Green the director of golf.

Survey: Safe chemical use a public concern

There's no question in the minds of consumers about the benefits of specialty pesticides, but there are concerns about their responsible use, according to results of a public opinion survey commissioned by RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment).

The study — conducted by Charlton Research Co. of San Francisco — assessed public attitudes toward the value and risk of specialty pesticides and was conducted among the general public, rather than consumers who specifically purchase and use pesticides.

The Charlton survey consisted of both qualitative and quantitative research. Eight focus groups were conducted at four different locations: Pittsburgh, Seattle, Milwaukee and

Half those surveyed believe pesticides available to the public are thoroughly tested; the other half aren't so sure.

Birmingham. Each group comprised adults of mixed age, gender, area of residence and education. Each discussion lasted 90 minutes to two hours.

Quantitative research included a telephone survey of 1,000 adults, 18 years and older, and consisted of 83 questions. Each phone interview lasted approximately 22 minutes.

Key findings showed:

- Many Americans clearly see the benefits of pesticides and are willing to

balance their personal and environmental health and safety concerns with these perceived benefits.

- The most trusted sources of information on pesticides are local government agencies: extension services, poison control centers and departments of health.

- Professional applicators are thought to be safer with the pesticides they apply, even though they are thought to use stronger pesticides than homeowners.

- The majority of people use some form of pesticides, with controlling household insects/rodents ranking first with 64 percent. Garden care/outdoor insect control ranked second with 48 percent, while lawn care ranked third with 38 percent. One in 10 respondents

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In search of the better idea

By TERRY BUCHEN

BELTON, Mo. — Nels A. Lindgren, CGCS, golf course superintendent here at the Loch Lloyd Country Club, grew in this tournament-caliber golf course in 1989 and hosted a Senior PGA Tour event

just 13 months after it opened for initial play. Quite a feat, to say the least.

The course, just south of Kansas City, was designed by Don Sechrest and built by Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

I like to tour other superintendents' maintenance facilities as I always learn at least 10 new ideas on how to operate a modern, functional, efficient maintenance building operation. I was at Golf Course Superintendents Association of America headquarters in September for a Research Committee meeting and had the pleasure to stop off at Loch Lloyd with Don Tolson, CGCS, and Mark Esoda, CGCS, for a "Cook's Tour" and came away with the following neat ideas:

GRANULAR FERTILIZER/PESTICIDE STORAGE

Making the best use of available space in a maintenance building is always a superintendent's goal. Lindgren found

some used warehouse racks for his 30-by-60-foot cold storage building. This building has 12-foot-high garage doors with 13-foot ceilings. The racks were cut with a torch to fit on all three sides of a building that did not have garage doors.

The club mechanic rebuilt an old forklift by putting in a new short block and they started putting in pallets of fertilizer that weighed about one ton each. Where the pallets were three across, the metal sagged slightly but remains structurally strong on the free-standing racks. Lindgren and his crew use space underneath the lower racks for additional equipment storage, which works quite effectively.

Lindgren has one additional used warehouse rack outside one of his other maintenance buildings that was not cut off with a torch. The rack is 16 feet high. It is used for palletized storage for tournament supplies, irrigation pipe, irrigation spools of wire, etc. The racks had brackets welded to them and bolted to the outside of the building. Because of their additional height, they needed this extra strength.

FOAM MARKERS

Foam markers are common on boom-type golf course sprayers to show the operator where he/she has sprayed and where he/she hasn't. The markers are becoming more common for use with tractor/truckster-mounted rotary and



Granular products can be stored easily and neatly with a forklift.

oscillating fertilizer spreaders.

Lindgren has mounted a Richway Foam Marker on the front of a turf tractor and has two hoses out in front (in-between the front wheels). He uses a red piece of rebar steel for weight.

When his personnel fertilize wheel track to wheel track, a foam spot is left in-between each wheel mark. For added insurance, a green dye could be added just in case the foam disappears during a hot, sunny day while the spreader is being filled up with material.

Electric switches, which operate the marker, are located on the dash board and the 12-volt electrical is hooked up to a spare fuse.



The foam marker mounts easily on frame bolted to front weight tray of tractor.

Levar: For turf's sake

Continued from page 11

root-zone environment. The benefits of superior health, pathogen suppression and reduced reliance on artificial substances further justifies the use of peat in root zones.

Peat is the standard, natural organic of the horticultural industry and has been for decades. It has stood the tests of research and commercial use over time, and is unparalleled in performance as a plant substrate. To best ensure its performance, follow a quality-control pathway of selection, analyses, blending and testing of your components. While establishing and sustaining a healthy, playable turf, you will receive the bonuses of water conservation, more efficient use of agrichemicals and reduced management costs using peat.

Public chemical concern

Continued from page 3

indicate they currently use a lawn care company.

- People strongly believe pesticides are safe when used as directed, but are less certain if their neighbors are using pesticides safely.

- Approximately half of those surveyed believe pesticides made available to the public are thoroughly tested, with the remaining respondents indicating they are unsure if pesticides are thoroughly tested.

- "Maintaining public health" was the reason given by almost 8 in 10 respondents for applying pesticides to control pests and weeds in public areas.

For more information on this study and its findings, contact RISE at 202-463-0474.

REINDERS HOSTS

TURF SHOW AND CLINIC

ELM GROVE, Wisc. — Reinders, Inc. will host its 12th Turf Conference, Equipment Show and Service Clinic on March 15 and 16, here at the Waukesha Expo Center. The clinic is the largest show of its kind in Wisconsin and has been held every year since 1973. More than 1,400 people are expected to attend. For more information contact Ed Devinger at Reinders, Inc., 13400 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, Wisc., 53122 or by calling 414-786-3301.

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