

BRIEFS



TOURNEY TO ENDOW DUICH FUND

OAKMONT, Pa. — Oakmont Country Club will host the inaugural benefit golf tournament for the Joseph M. Duich Turfgrass Endowment at Pennsylvania State University on Oct. 9. The endowment was started through the efforts of Dr. Duich and other professors in the turf project at the university. Interest from the endowment will fund projects crucial to continuing turfgrass research, teaching and extension, according to Oakmont superintendent Mark Kuhns, who is chairman of the tournament. More information is available from Kuhns at 412-828-5567.



Dr. Joe Duich

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The governor of Nevada has signed a law redefining "golf cart" for the purpose of properly registering motor vehicles. Under the legislation, "golf cart" is defined as 1) having no fewer than three wheels in contact with the ground; and, 2) designed to carry golf equipment and not more than four persons, including the driver. According to the National Club Association newsletter, vehicles meeting those criteria do not have to be registered as long as they remain on golf courses and designated areas and are operated during daylight hours.

FAZIO TABBED FOR OLD TOM MORRIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Course architect Tom Fazio will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the GCSAA's international conference and show here next Feb. 10. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game. GCSAA President Gary T. Grigg cited Fazio's "commitment to the game and to his community — especially all the personal time he devotes to the Boys and Girls Cubs — is a great example of the spirit that Old Tom brought to golf."



Tom Fazio

CONFERENCES COMBINED

BOSTON — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is joining forces with the Massachusetts Turf and Lawngrass Association to sponsor the Massachusetts Turf Conference in future years. The conference will move from Springfield to the Marriott Copley Plaza Hotel here, beginning next Jan. 15-17.

GCSAA reaching out to educate through Audubon School Program

By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has committed to sponsor the Audubon Society of New York's School Program, involving superintendents in educating their local schoolchildren concerning the environment, according to New York Audubon Executive Director John Santacrose.

Just as the U.S. Golf Association in effect adopted the Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, the GCSAA will be involved in the evolution and expansion of the School Program, said GCSAA Executive Director Steve Mona. The GCSAA board of directors voted in June to support the program.

"Over the next six months or so we

will get a lot of input from teachers and our members," said GCSAA Communications Director Pat Jones. "There is a menu of options for the superintendent to be involved. Most important is overall sponsorship of the program. We will do something good for the schools of this country and continue to support the Audubon movement. It's the right thing to do.

"It even gives us a stronger interest in helping to support and promote the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. As more courses get involved in that program, that will likely increase participation in our program. The two are indirectly tied."

GCSAA officials expect to get the

Continued on next page



Golf courses like Anaheim Hills illustrate clean environment in California.

Calif. EPA: Air, water significantly better

By PETER BLAIS

Before anyone tells you the California environment is going to hell in a hand basket and golf is among the devil's legions leading the way, check out these statistics generated by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency's first "Environmental Indicators Report" lists the impressive gains in cleaner air, less solid waste, improved water quality and significant reductions in the volumes of chemicals released into the environment.

The golf industry has contributed significantly to the clean up of the Golden State's environment, said David

Flaxbeard, head superintendent of Oakmont Country Club in Glendale and immediate past president of the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSA).

"Superintendents are much more aware about the environment than they were 10 or 15 years ago and we are communicating that knowledge to club owners and members," Flaxbeard said. "When I told my members that our underground storage tanks (USTs) were apparently leaking, they were out of the ground and new ones in within a couple months. Everyone is more aware of how golf can help

Continued on page 15

Grass carp legislation falls short of supers' hopes

By PETER BLAIS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Water may be good for fish, but a watered-down legislative bill is of little use to the sterile grass carp or golf courses, according to the president of the California Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Peter Bowman and other supporters of the grass carp, or white amur as it is also called, had hoped the state Senate would approve a bill allowing use of the exotic, weed-eating fish in any golf

course pond not draining into the Sacramento or San Joaquin rivers, the state's two major watersheds north of Los Angeles.

The grass carp, which reaches weights of 80 pounds or more, eats massive quantities of weeds and algae. More than half the states have approved golf course use of the fish as an environmentally friendly alternative to herbicide use.

"Grass carp can be sterilized so that they won't breed," said Bowman, who



Pioneering research getting to the bottom of putting greens

By KIMBERLY ERUSHA

FAR HILLS, N.J. — As a result of the myriad technological changes, the United States Golf Association's (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee will solicit pre-proposals for research projects concerning the construction and maintenance of golf course greens.

The committee made the decision during its meeting in Oklahoma City in May. Ten to twelve grants of \$20,000 per year for up to five years will be awarded to universities or non-profit research institutions.

After extensive investigation, the USGA first introduced its Specifications for a Method of Putting Green Construction in 1960. The method utilized sand as the principal component of the root-zone mix to provide adequate drainage and resistance to compaction, and incorporated a perched water table in the profile to provide a reservoir of moisture for use by the turf. When constructed and maintained properly, USGA greens have provided good results for more than three decades in most regions of this nation and the world.

But the game of golf has changed. The number of rounds played on courses continues to climb. Golfers continue to demand closer mowing and perfection in playing conditions. New grasses have been developed that have different maintenance requirements. Maintenance technology continues to improve and advance. And the environmental impact of maintenance practices has come under increased scrutiny.

During the past 10 to 15 years, changes have occurred regarding the way greens are maintained, and an increasing number of new products and technologies has been

Continued on page 17

is head superintendent at Merced Hills Golf Club. "The sterilization is successful in more than 99 percent."

But it was that 1 percent of unsuccessful sterilizations that spooked lawmakers.

Fearing the possibility that fertile fish could somehow find their way into the rivers — where they could mate and produce offspring that would threaten the ecosystem of other fish — the Senate recently approved a revised bill that

Continued on next page

Victory over carp measure termed 'hollow'

Continued from previous page
would restrict the fish to ponds in the three southern counties of Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino.

That's 5 percent of the state's 58 counties. And Bowman expects the bill to be further watered down by the general assembly, which is expected to act on the measure by November.

"It's kind of a hollow victory," Bowman said. "The fish is already available with a special permit in two of the three counties. The more-northern counties were where we really hoped they could be used."

With environmentalists pressuring golf courses to find ways to reduce or eliminate pesticide use, Bowman was disappointed that legislators weren't willing to accept the minimal

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— Peter Bowman

risk involved.

"They were afraid a fisherman might catch one and restock it into a river," he said. "Or a bird would snare one, try to carry it away and then accidentally drop it into the Sacramento."

"But even if that happened, that fertile fish would have to find a second fertile fish before it could mate. What are the odds of that ever happening?"

But Bowman knew his fish, er-r goose, was cooked when one legislator mentioned the movie *Jurassic Park*, which described how supposedly sterile, genetically engineered dinosaurs escaped from captivity and began to breed.

So, superintendents instead must continue to use pesticides and motor-driven weed harvesters to keep their ponds clean.

If a limited-use bill is finally passed, and there are no incidents of fish escapes the first few years, Bowman hopes the Legislature will eventually consider expanding the number of counties.

"Our worry now is that since the fish will probably be so rare [and thus valuable] one of the few courses that has the fish could sell some to one of the courses that shouldn't have it," said Bowman. He noted that overly restrictive legislation could establish a lucrative black market for the grass carp.

"I'd like to think all my fellow superintendents are honest. But you never know."

Schools the new arena for GCSAA's environmental movement

Continued from previous page

School Program operating in 1996. "It will grow slowly and superintendents will choose a variety of ways to get involved," Jones predicted.

GCSAA will financially support the program and promote its concept to its members, as well as have a hand in two training videos — one geared to superintendents and the other to teachers. The amount of financial support was not revealed.

"Critical from the teachers' perspective is realistic and justifiable educational goals.

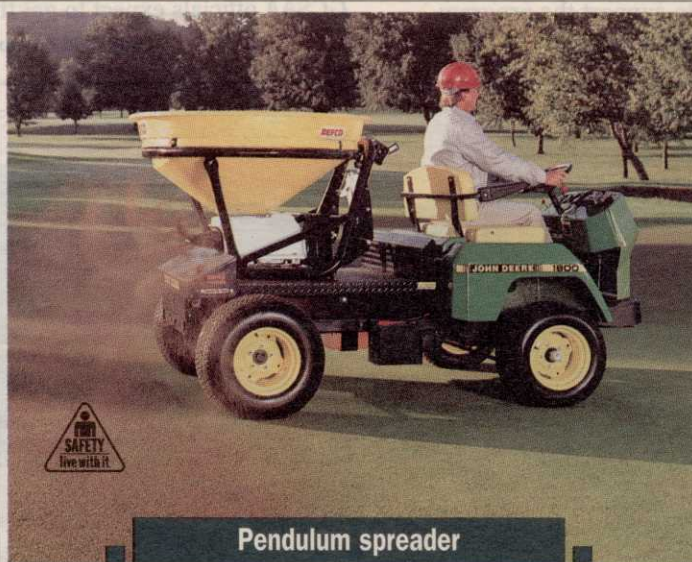
Objectives must be stated that meet the teachers' curricula," Jones said. "The targeted grades are 3 through 6."

For the schools it will be a group effort, involving art, science, social studies, English and other teachers. "That's very important because it meets a broad range of education goals and lessens the burden on any one teacher," he added.

As in the South Florida and Chicago areas, where superintendents are already working with school systems, the program may include speakers, golf course tours,

building nature trails and implementing environmental measures similar to those in the golf course program. New York Audubon experts will perform a resource inventory for participating schools, similar to the surveys done for participating golf facilities.

"We couldn't be more excited about it," Jones said. "It will be an opportunity for our members to get involved in their children's schools, and hopefully educate children about the realities of golf courses. They are hearing *Ranger Rick* stories and the negative side and not getting the true picture."



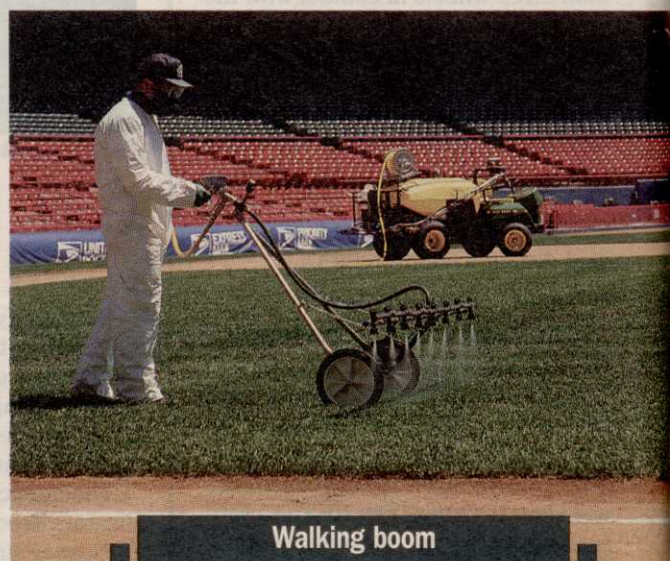
Pendulum spreader



Chemical injection system



Dump option



Walking boom

NOW YOU KNOW WHY 'UTILITY' IS ITS MIDDLE NAME

