

Phillips comment: All ahead into the 21st century

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Peter Blais, Diana Costello-Lee and myself — can now be reached at this address, which will also appear monthly in the masthead.

I honestly believe this will allow better communication between Golf Course News and our readers. Besides, those of you with postal phobias can now e-mail letters to the editor, story suggestions, likes, dislikes and agronomic epiphanies.

For those of you not yet on the

Net, get with the program! Don't wait until your kids have to show you how...

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This just in: The Colorado Golf Association (CGA) has gone spikeless. In the four tournaments it has scheduled for this year, use of metal spikes has been prohibited. Alternative cleats will be provided by Rockwell, Md.-based Softspikes Inc. for all those participating in the events: June 5-8 at Bear Creek Golf Club in Denver; Sept.

12-14 at Battlement Mesa Golf Club in Battlement Mesa; Sept. 16-17 at Sheraton Steamboat Golf Club in Steamboat Springs; and Sept. 22-24 at Fort Collins Country Club.

According to the CGA's stated policy, players will not be allowed to wear metal-spiked shoes, period. Apparently, upon entry the CGA will send each player a set of alternative spikes. Otherwise, players must wear spikeless golf shoes, tennis shoes, or other soft-soled shoes.

Say what you like about spike alternatives in general, but superintendents have every reason to like the idea.

Greens aren't chewed up at nearly the same rate and Poa annua doesn't weasel its way onto unsuspecting golf courses.

There remain some legitimate questions about spike alternatives — namely, slippage on wet inclines and the liability a course might incur.

But several ritzy clubs have

already banned traditional spikes and only more will follow.

It's interesting to note there has been some resistance to spike alternatives in various consumer golf magazines. However, most of it has centered around the author's attachment to the "plinkety-plinkety" sound spikes make on concrete and bathroom tile. Puh-leeze! If you can't come up with anything more compelling, don't bother raising the subject.

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The dust has cleared since San Francisco, where the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) held its first conference and show with the significant financial backing of several golf industry corporations.

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Steve Mona said his members liked the new approach and attendees can expect more corporate-sponsored events down the road.

"We got very good reviews on the corporate involvement at the San Francisco show and we're taking that as a mandate that we can continue with them," said Mona. "The corollary to that is that we could possibly see more in the future."

"If we had received a hue and cry from our members, our attitude would be different. We don't want to offend the sensibilities of our members. But because we got good reviews, I feel comfortable saying we have a clear mandate to continue and look at other opportunities."

Video workshop targets performance

KOHLER, Wis. — The "Superintendent's Video Workshop," a video training series designed to enhance staff training and managerial skills for golf course superintendents, has released a new training workshop to teach managers how to get consistent peak performance and enthusiasm from employees.

Videotaped at Blackwolf Run here, "Bringing Out the Best in the People You Manage" features noted golf industry GCSAA training specialist, Gerry Sweda, with one of his most popular new seminars. Sweda shares secrets and practical tips for motivating employees to care as much about the quality of their work as managers do. Manager workbooks help superintendents implement their own unique program.

SVW training workshops are developed by video training experts, EPIC of Wisconsin, and by renowned superintendent, Paul R. Latshaw, who is currently preparing to host his 4th major U.S. tournament.

For a 14-day free trial of this program and other video training workshops, call EPIC of Wisconsin, Inc., at 1-800-938-4330.



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