

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

## Audubon, Systematic

The TPC network has instituted the Audubon Sanctuary program systemwide ..... 15

## Liability Limits

Legal columnist Nancy Smith warns against the use of overly inclusive player release forms ..... 13

## Minus The Red Tape

CourseCo. finds a profitable management niche in government-owned facilities ..... 41

## Resort membership? CMAA mulls options

By PETER BLAIS

Expanding its educational program to include more offerings of interest to managers of upscale public resorts is one of the items that could be considered as the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) reviews its strategic plan in the coming months.

CMAA's main goal is to broaden employment prospects for its 5,000 members, explained James Singerling, executive director of the Arlington, Va.-based organization for private club managers. Increasingly, private clubs are competing financially against public facilities, such as upscale resorts.

Resorts sometimes have far superior amenities and accommodations than nearby private clubs. With hotel rooms running at \$350 a night and green fees of \$150 per round not uncommon, upscale resorts are

Continued on page 46



Golf Course Expo  
Directory, pp. 27-36

# GOLF COURSE



# EXPO

ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 9-10, 1995

A NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE FOR OWNERS,  
SUPERINTENDENTS, MANAGERS, AND DEVELOPERS OF  
PUBLIC-ACCESS GOLF FACILITIES

THROUGH PROFIT...

## Learning centers in vogue

By PETER BLAIS

They can make money, lots of money. And they don't cost much, relatively speaking. For those reasons, practice centers are becoming increasingly popular among public and private developers.

Governmental bodies are particularly fond of them because everyone can use them, not just the 10 percent of the population who call themselves golfers.

"Anyone can hit a bucket of balls on the range or try a few putts. Practice centers reach a bigger audience than a municipal golf course," said Bill Kerman, an associate designer in Michael Hurdzan's course design office. Hurdzan will speak at Golf Course Expo on *The Value and Trends in Golf Learning Centers* at Nov. 9-10, in Orlando.

Continued on page 54



## FASTER PLAY AND PROFIT?

Electronic-distance measuring systems are poised to make a big impact on bottom lines. See story page 41.

## COURSE MAINTENANCE

Columbus supers: Competitors, comrades ..... 15  
Efficient structures, from the ground up ..... 17  
Making fairway/directional pins wind-resistant ..... 22

## COURSE DEVELOPMENT

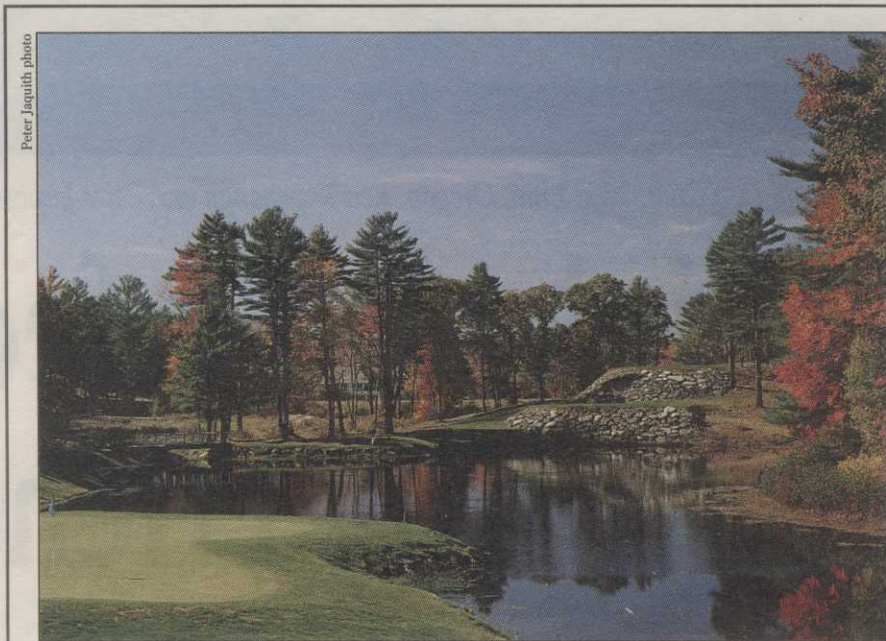
Dormant Tillinghast track to stay that way ..... 3  
Q&A: Desert duo, Greg Nash & Billy Casper ..... 37  
Planned and approved course charts ..... 40

## COURSE MANAGEMENT

Ocean Course sale finalized, finally ..... 41  
Off-color ad reaps marketing benefits ..... 41  
Virginia daily-fee course going private ..... 43

## SUPPLIER BUSINESS

DowElanco reorganizes T&O attack ..... 47  
Turf Producers to meet in Austin ..... 49  
What's new in the marketplace? ..... 50



Peter Jaquith photo

## COMEBACK COURSE

The 5th hole at Ipswich (Mass.) Country Club hasn't always been so idyllic. A victim of the '80s real estate bust, Ipswich fell into disrepair and nearly went under before solid management turned things around. For story, see page 10.

## Cactus forest preserved via transplantation

By JERRY ROSE

TUCSON, Ariz. — Startling vistas, colorful sunsets, giant cacti, splashes of green in the midst of desert. This is golf in the Southwest. Now, a Scotsdale developer, Raven Golf, has created what may

be a golf course construction prototype for preserving desert vegetation and animals.

"We really wanted to show ourselves as good citizens of the community and good stewards of the land," said spokesman Steve Adelson, speaking of the extraordinary lengths Raven Golf went to in protecting the integrity of the

moran Desert surroundings at The Raven Golf Club at Sabino Springs. "It's our sincere belief that great golf can and should co-exist with its environment. That is why

Continued on page 39



A cactus is spared through preservation at Raven GC, Sabino Springs course, in Tucson, Ariz.

## Super survey reveals concern and confusion

By MARY MEDONIS

An overwhelming majority of superintendents call themselves "very concerned" about the environment and nearly one-third feel government agencies provide inadequate disposal methods and other pertinent information, according to a survey.

A questionnaire sent to superintendents across the country to elicit their views on environmental matters garnered more than 40 responses. While they do not provide a random sampling statistically, they demonstrate varied opinions dealing with different state organizations, on a wide variety of golf course conditions.

There seems to be no  
Continued on page 24



## Survey reveals concern, confusion

Continued from page 1

doubt that superintendents have the best intentions when it comes to land management. Years of

### ANALYSIS

working closely with the terrain and elements

seem to naturally evoke a heightened sense of environmental awareness. When asked about their concern for environmental issues, 82 percent of the superintendents said they are "very concerned."

The golf industry's relationship with the various government agencies is decidedly dichotomous. One administrative agency is involved with setting the laws and regulations involving environmental compliance, often with the impetus of various watchdog groups. Another assists superintendents, educating and guiding them through the various, rapidly changing regulations.

How efficient are the various environmental agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, their state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the local Cooperative Extension in both informing and assisting superintendents?

The majority felt these groups worked with them on a satisfactory level. However, 29 percent are dissatisfied with how well new and problematic regulations are disseminated and explained. Thirty-two percent feel these agencies did not provide adequate disposal methods and other pertinent information.

One superintendent in the Northeast related his frustration when, several years ago, he was trying to find the environmentally correct and legal method of disposing of two chlorophenoxy herbicides that had been recalled by his state. In contacting the state's Office of Pesticide Control, he received a response he felt shed no brighter light on his problem. The letter read, in part: "Concerning Silvex, and 2,4,5-T, there was a recall by its basic producers. However, I do not know the outcome of its final disposal. The U.S. EPA was to designate ultimate disposal sites, but that is as much as I know."

A faction of New York state superintendents feel hindered by their DEP's seemingly snail-like pace in approving a certain herbicide. A nonphenoxo-type post-emergent, it could potentially replace some of the 2,4-D products, with an active ingredient application rate less than half of the phenoxy herbicides. Their impatience was compounded by the fact that this chemical had already been approved in several states, including neighboring New Jersey and Connecticut.

While the superintendents' feelings were understandable, from a regulative point of view, an equally appropriate and valid credence must exist for the New

Mary Medonis is a University of Massachusetts graduate and has been an assistant superintendent at three Westchester County, N.Y. golf courses. She currently lives in Pleasantville, N.Y., and does freelance golf course consultation work.

York DEP's hesitancy to approve the herbicide.

Nationwide, there appears to be a need for more effective communication between superintendents and government agencies.

Focus on the environmental is-

ssues has resulted in some "hot topics," ones the public rallies against and lobbies for more than others. It is interesting, then, that when simply asked what was notable about their golf courses, the majority of superintendents responded with reference to their facility's natural water sources, or other impacts regarding water. Included were comments about landlocked ponds, creeks and streams, and courses bordering rivers, flood plains, or the ocean. Also cited were wetlands and other bodies of water that were habitat to rare birds, fowl, and fish. One Hawaiian superintendent had the

unenviable encumbrance of being located over the only potable aquifer on the island!

•••

It is not coincidental that today's golf course superintendents are focusing on the issue of water. In a Family Forum questionnaire, to which more than 10,000 individuals responded, the participants felt the worst environmental problem facing the country is water pollution.

Environmental watchdogs, and the general public alike have good reason to be concerned. Often enough, focus turns to the green industry. In New York

State, "Toxic Fairways: Risking Ground-water Contamination from Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses," was a report published by state Attorney General Robert Abrams and the NYS Department of Law in 1991.

While the title alone might be enough to make some superintendents tuck in their tails, or automatically put them on the defensive, there is validity behind the disquietude. Long Island's population of 3 million depends solely on ground water for its source of drinking water, fed primarily from the Magothy and

Continued on next page

## Introducing new PENDULUM And the PENDULUM

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GREEN FOXTAIL  
*Setaria viridis*



GIANT FOXTAIL  
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fertilizers from American Cyanamid, the leading manufacturer of preemergent turf herbicides.

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## Doral loses McHugh to Boca Raton club; Cooks moves on

BOCA RATON, Fla. — **Pat McHugh** has left Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami to join The Polo Club of Boca Raton here. The Michigan State University graduate, who has 20 years of experience, will undertake renovations at The Polo Club, just as he had at Doral. He said he expects to renovate 18 of the club's 36 holes next year. Absorbing nearly six feet of rain just during the summer didn't help any of the Florida clubs.

•••

LIVERMORE, Calif. — **Todd Cook**, who supervised and scheduled golf course maintenance at The Olympic Club's Ocean and Lake courses, has joined Poppy Ridge, the Northern California Golf Association's new Rees Jones-designed facility.

Cook, who was involved in construction and grow-in of the Executive Course at The Olympic Club, is working on grow-in at



Poppy Ridge, which was grassed this fall and will open in the fall of 1996.

•••

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — **David Dube**, formerly at Caesar Park Beach & Golf Resort in Cancun, Mexico, has been named superintendent for The Golf Club at Eagle Mountain, currently under development in Fountain Hills by Denro of Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to join-

ing Caesar Park, Dube was the assistant superintendent at Troon Golf and Country Club in Scottsdale and foreman for Desert Mountain's Renegade course in Scottsdale.

A native of Maine, Dube has been involved in the golf industry since 1988 and earned his degree in turfgrass management in 1992 from the University of Massachusetts. The Golf Club at Eagle Mountain is scheduled to open to the public in December.

## Super survey

Continued from previous page

Lloyd aquifers. Historically, the importance of ground water had gone unrecognized. The Upper Glacial aquifer, which had previously supplied Brooklyn and Queens, was contaminated to a non-potable state earlier this century.

Yet, "Toxic Fairways" was laced with minor factual errors throughout, which may have had a subsequent impact on the readers' perception of risk and danger. Most notably, in discussing the immediate health concerns of pesticide exposure, the publication recalled the 1982 death of Lt. George Pryor, who died two weeks after playing the Army and Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va. His physician, a forensic pathologist, stated that Pryor reportedly suffered from a severe reaction to chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787), which was applied weekly. It is interesting to note that three years prior to "Toxic Fairways" publication, Diamond Shamrock was legally cleared of any liability when it had been determined that Pryor's death was due to Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, which was caused by a viral infection.

In any event, it is vital for the golf course superintendent to focus on "hot" environmental topics, both on the national and local levels. Perhaps it would do us good to mentally reword the saying, "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck..." The green industry needs to be both understanding and respectful of how the general public feels about the environment.

The scope and impact of environmental issues are perhaps felt more strongly by the green industry than any other group. Like farmers and other land managers, golf course superintendents are responsible for maintaining relatively large tracts of land. Today's superintendent must be prepared to make responsible decisions, aimed at providing a balance between achieving the best possible playing conditions, while adhering to federal, state and local regulations, as well as respecting the ecology of his or her golf course. Despite the best intentions, it can often be a complicated process.

As superintendents, we have the responsibility to conscientiously maintain that land by using our experience and education. We need to follow regulations and work safely within the environment's parameters. To do so will allow maximum enjoyment of the environment in the present, and guarantee the same for the generations to come.

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