

BRIEFS



EPA STARTS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has unveiled a new service to help the public access environmental information. The Government Information Locator Service (GILS) is an electronic service through the Internet that provides a decentralized location to anyone who needs to locate, access or acquire government information. GILS is available on the world wide web at <http://www.epa.gov/gils>.

MECHLING IS OHIO MAN OF YEAR

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The 29th Annual Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Regional Conference and Show was highlighted by presentation of the Man of the Year Award to Paul Mechling of Heather Downs Country Club in Toledo. John Fanning was honored for Professional Excellence, while Dr. Jim Beard and Doug Halterman were given special recognition and Gene Probasco was presented an honorary lifetime membership.



E/T EQUIPMENT BACKS DELHI

DELHI, N.Y. — A major distributor of turfgrass products has donated two new state-of-the-art mowers to the golf education program at the State University College of Technology at Delhi. E/T Equipment Co. of Croton has supplied the Delhi College Golf Course with a John Deere fairway mower and walk-behind greens mower, according to Delhi's Dominic Morales.

CANADIANS SUPPORT AUDUBON

HALIFAX, N.S. — The Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) has awarded \$75,000 to the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation to continue its turfgrass and environmental research projects, while Audubon International received \$31,000 to fund a separately run Canadian office that will be instrumental in protecting the environment's relationship with golf courses.



RUTGERS' ROYALTIES ADDING UP

SOMERSET, N.J. — Jon Loft, president and CEO of Lofts Seed, and Dr. Richard Hurley, Lofts' director of research and professional sales, have presented Drs. C. Reed Funk, T. M. Casey and Bruce Clark of Rutgers University with a royalty check in the amount of \$713,150. To date, Lofts Seed, through the marketing of its turfgrasses, has contributed over \$3.5 million in royalties to Rutgers.

Cold stressed at the Maine turf conference

By MARK LESLIE

ROCKPORT, Maine — Hardening off cool-season turfgrasses is the most important factor in turf surviving a winter of freezing stresses, according to Dr. William Torello, turf program director at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Speaking at the Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show here March 7, Torello said superintendents should make every effort to accumulate volumes of carbohydrates within the turf plant. Higher carbohydrate levels mean less internal ice

crystal formation — "the kiss of death" — within the plant, he said.

Torello told superintendents to enhance the hardening process by:

- Increasing mowing heights, which "does great things for you. Even if you only bring it up 1/8 inch, it makes a big difference because you have increased leaf area and green tissues, which means higher carbohydrate production during the fall, increased storage, and increased concentration of stored carbohydrates in the crown which is going to give you a

much better-prepared turf."

- Decreasing or eliminating soluble nitrogen (N) applications as the fall progresses. "Make no N applications after Oct. 15 — earlier in Maine," he warned. "How does nitrogen interfere with the hardening process? The more N picked up by the plant, the more protein it makes. Protein is made by taking carbohydrate and attaching ammonium nitrogen to it. It takes away carbohydrate." Dormant applications are an exception, he said.

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Determined: All sprinklers are not 'created equal'

By AL KLINE, CGCS



Photo by JoAnn Kline

Tim Cavellier (left) and Jim McPhilomy are shown in 1990 making a practice run on the PITOT PSI test soon after the test stand was activated.

Technical advances in irrigation equipment closely parallel the rapid gains made in all areas of turf management. Today, many of us think most, if not all, mysteries have been solved and maybe things have become a bit ho-hum. Yet, why do we continue to be plagued with "localized dry spot," wet areas, dry areas (that require continual attention from "hot spot" or "sponge" crews), less-than-acceptable results from pesticide and fertilizer applications, black layer, and just plain old-fashioned non-uniform turf.

Well, howdy to the real world where so many of us are frustrated and looking for answers. Indeed, a few people think sprinklers may be the key to solving the unsolvable and should be put under the old magnifying glass!

That's what we did at the University of New Mexico Championship Golf Course. Tim Cavellier, a local Toro irrigation specialist, and I built what appears to be the best outdoor sprinkler test stand in the world and are using the SPACE (Sprinkler Profile And Coverage Evaluation) computer program for sprinkler head evaluation as produced by The Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University-Fresno. Key players at CIT whom we have worked with, and are indebted to, are Dr. Ken Solomon, Dave Zoldoski and Joe Oliphant.

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The play's the thing, say supers who hit the links

By PETER BLAIS

All superintendents may not play as much or as well as Jim Dusch of Atlanta National Golf Course in Alpharetta, Ga.

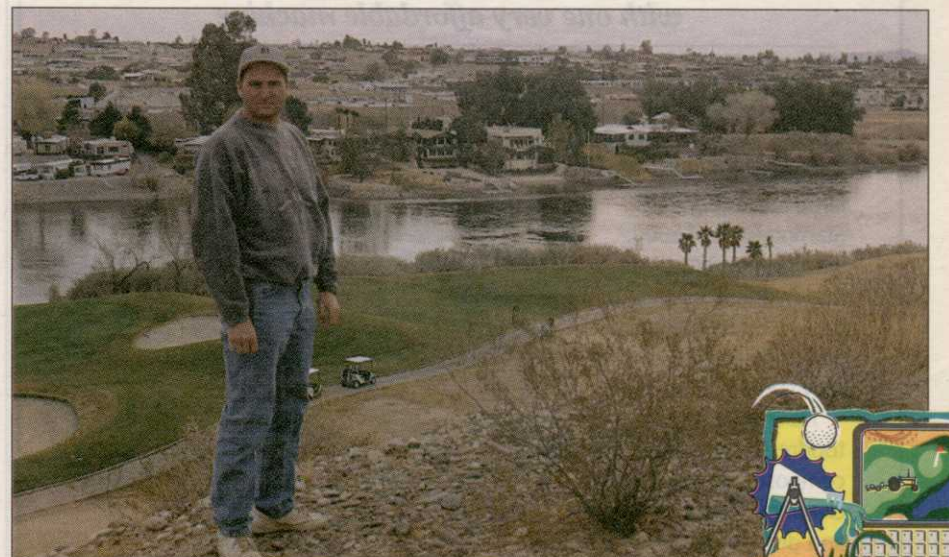
"But it's hard to see how you can do this job and not play the game," said Dusch, winner of this year's GCSAA Championship and a self-described 1-handicap player. "My goal is to get the course to the point where it is agronomically sound and playable in my eyes."

Dusch tries to play his course at least once a week. He watches how the ball rolls on the greens, how bunkers are raked and how worn the tees are as both a superintendent and a golfer.

"You don't have to be a great golfer," he said. "But you should know what the course looks like to the people playing your course. Playing helps you understand what is good and what is bad from the player's perspective. I'm not saying someone who doesn't play can't have a great course. But it would be tougher if you weren't a player."

Charles Passios, head superin

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Jay Long pauses above one of Emerald River's most picturesque holes. The Colorado River flows in the background.



Beating the water woes in Nevada

By ALTON PRYOR

LAUGHLIN, Nev. — Emerald River Resort and Country Club stretches for four miles along the Colorado River where it is carved out of rough and unforgiving desert. Built in 1989 on 380 acres of desert base, it requires huge amounts of water to cope with high summer temperatures. For golf course superintendent Jay Long, water is his biggest concern. Even though he pumps from the giant Colorado River, flowing only a fairway from the course, water is an expensive commodity and Long has had to discover ways to reduce that expense.

"We pump out of the river, but cost for water is very high," Long said. "I'm budgeted \$250,000 a year for water and that isn't enough. We are charged \$1.94 per thousand gallons, which is the residential rate, and there are meters on the pumps to make sure we don't cheat. When the courts broke up the water rights among the states on the Colorado River, Nevada didn't get a very big share."

Long said he applies about 50 acre feet per year to his green areas — about 75 acres. During the summer, when temperatures soar to as high as 125 degrees,

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Superintendents weigh in on importance of playing

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tendent at the private Hyannisport (Mass.) Club, often plays with club members, particularly board members.

"Members ask employees questions about the course," Passios said. "But they tend not to ask the right people and their questions never get back to the person with the best answers, the superintendent."

Playing with members improves communication at the club, Passios said. Many clubs require the superintendent to play with certain people, often the green chairman, on a regular basis. Finding the time to play a full round within the 60-to-70-hour work weeks of most superintendents can be difficult, however.

"I've started out to play 18 holes with a member and ended up playing five or six because there was something that I had to attend to," Passios said. "But those five holes are still quality time and you learn a lot."

Superintendents at public, as well as private courses, should make the effort to play frequently, according to Dennis Lyon, director of the City of Aurora, Colo.'s four golf facilities. Having the head pro and superintendent play together on a regular basis allows the two to compare notes and better understand each other's needs, he said.

"We have a superintendent/pro tournament three times a year," Lyon said. "The superintendents at our courses play the pros. The course hosting the tournament is usually in tip-top shape. Our regular players benefit from that. But the best thing is the camaraderie and exchange of information that occurs between the superintendents and pros. The dialogue is non-stop."

Dusch plays several times a year with Atlanta National head pro Gordon Leslie, a strong player who missed the cut for the U.S. Senior Open by a single shot last year.

"We talk a lot," Dusch said. "Since we're both pretty good players, we're talking apples to apples when we discuss the course from the player's viewpoint. And members seem to respect what you say a little more if they know you play."

To help his staff better understand the game from the customer's perspective, Lyon holds an annual golf outing with the superintendents, pro shop staff, City Council and Council-appointed golf advisory committee. What they've discovered is most important to customers is the condition of the greens and tees followed by whether the drinking water cans are full, the bathrooms are clean and the ball washers contain water.

"A good superintendent should look for every opportunity to communicate with board

members, pros and customers," Lyon said. "Playing golf is one way to do that."

Because of the seasonal nature of many resort courses, it is difficult for superintendents at those facilities to find the free time or tee times to play regularly. Ron Mahaffey, head superintendent at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon, plays as often as possible at his 36-hole complex in Tucson,



Charles Passios

Ariz. But he also seeks input from his two assistants and the rest of the management staff, all of whom play frequently.

"I sit down daily with my assistants and weekly with the rest of the management staff," Mahaffey said. "What they have to say about the courses is very helpful."

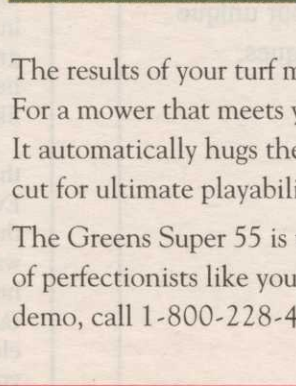
Mahaffey, Lyon, Passios and Dusch all agree it isn't neces-

sary to be a single-digit handicap player. It is helpful to enjoy the game and understand the rules in order to better communicate with players. But absolutely necessary? No.

"A good friend of mine, John O'Connell [who died last year], was superintendent at Blue Rock Golf Course [in Yarmouth, Mass.] for 37 years," Passios said. "It received all kinds of play and John kept it in beautiful shape, even though he didn't play at all."

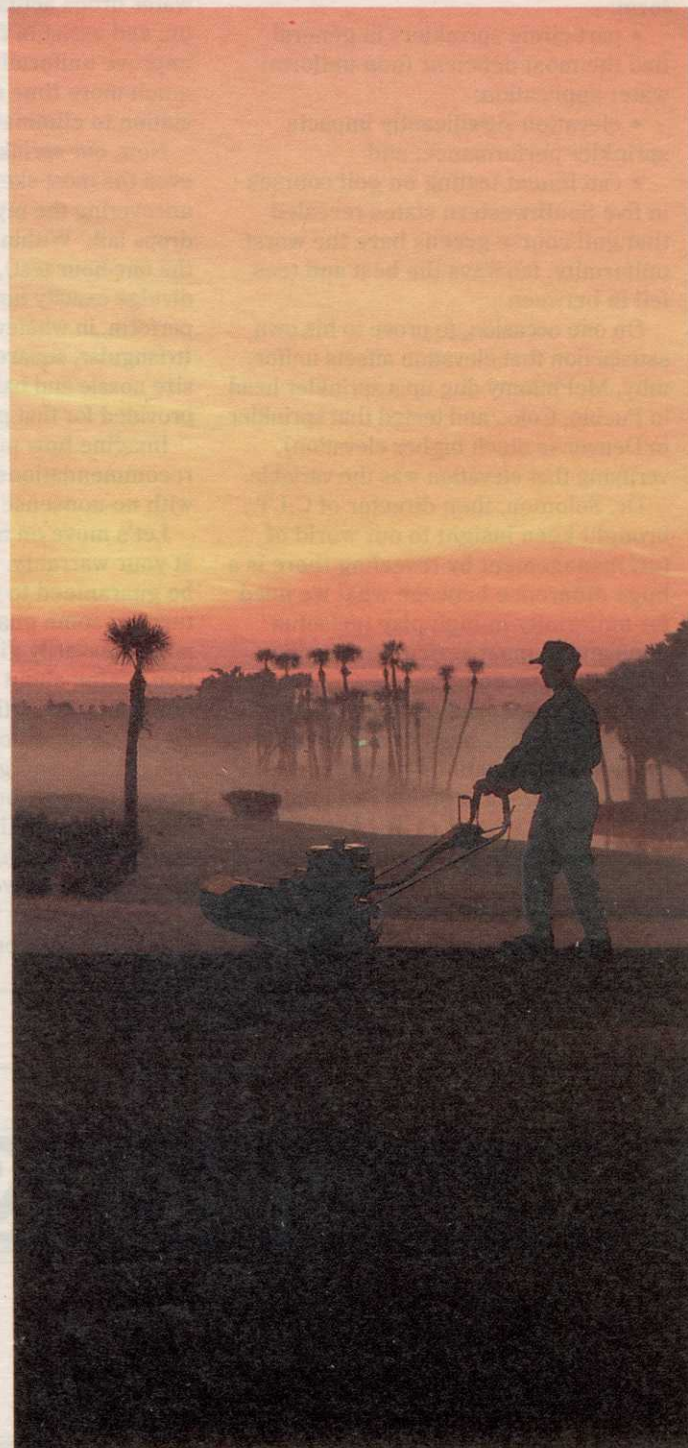
GARDENS HONOR BURTON

ATHENS, Ga. — The International Botanical Gardens here have been dedicated to Dr. Glenn Burton of the University of Georgia on behalf of the work in plant development he has done over his lifetime. "The sun never sets on plants developed by Dr. Burton," it was said at the dedication ceremonies. Plants he developed have provided sources of sustenance, both for soul and body, reported Georgia GCSA's *Through the Green* magazine.



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