

LANGER AT WORK IN NATIVE LAND

The Bernhard Langer-designed Soufflenheim Golf Club near Baden-Baden, Germany, has opened for play. Soufflenheim expects a substantial portion of play to come from Brenner's Park Hotel & Spa, located 20 kilometers away in the country's Alsace region.



DEVELOPMENT

Robbins/Koch active in Asia-Pacific

KAJANG, Malaysia — The third nine at private Palm Garden Golf Club is scheduled to open in early spring, according to architect Rick Robbins of Robbins/Koch Golf Designs.

Developer Industrial Oxygen, Inc. of Kuala Lumpur opened the first 18 last year.

Industrial Oxygen is also involved with the Swee Lam Golf Club, another 27-hole Robbins design located in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Routing plans for the resort facility have been drawn up and some preliminary earthmoving completed.

Robbins has a third Malaysian project in the planning stages, a nine-hole addition to Cinta Sayang Country Club in Kedah.

The violence in Sri Lanka is delaying the start of construction of Penrith Estates in Avisawella. Robbins' preliminary master plan for the new 18-hole, resort layout is complete.

Robbins also did the master and landscape plans for the Borneo Golf Resort in Kota Kinabalu in Saba, Indonesia. Jack Nicklaus and son Jack, Jr., designed the two golf courses.

Phillips comment

Continued from page 10

According to Sharon Newsome of the National Wildlife Federation, the principles are not meant to be instructions, but rather more like a "road map."

A good piece of advice from Jay Feldman, head of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (Geez, never thought I'd be quoting him in that context): "Keep records of your chemical use," Feldman urged those gathered in Pinehurst. "Good records don't exist with regard to golf course usage, and it's hard to debate usage without them. Your community wants to know. Besides, record-keeping is part of IPM [integrated pest management]. Embrace it. Use it to further the dialogue."

Hard to argue with that.

The Pinehurst meeting was part presentation, part interactive group discussion. My particular table spent a good deal of time talking about how the industry can convince the playing public to stop judging golf courses on the "Lush Augusta Scale." How can we convince golfers the occasional brown patch is acceptable, even environmentally responsible?

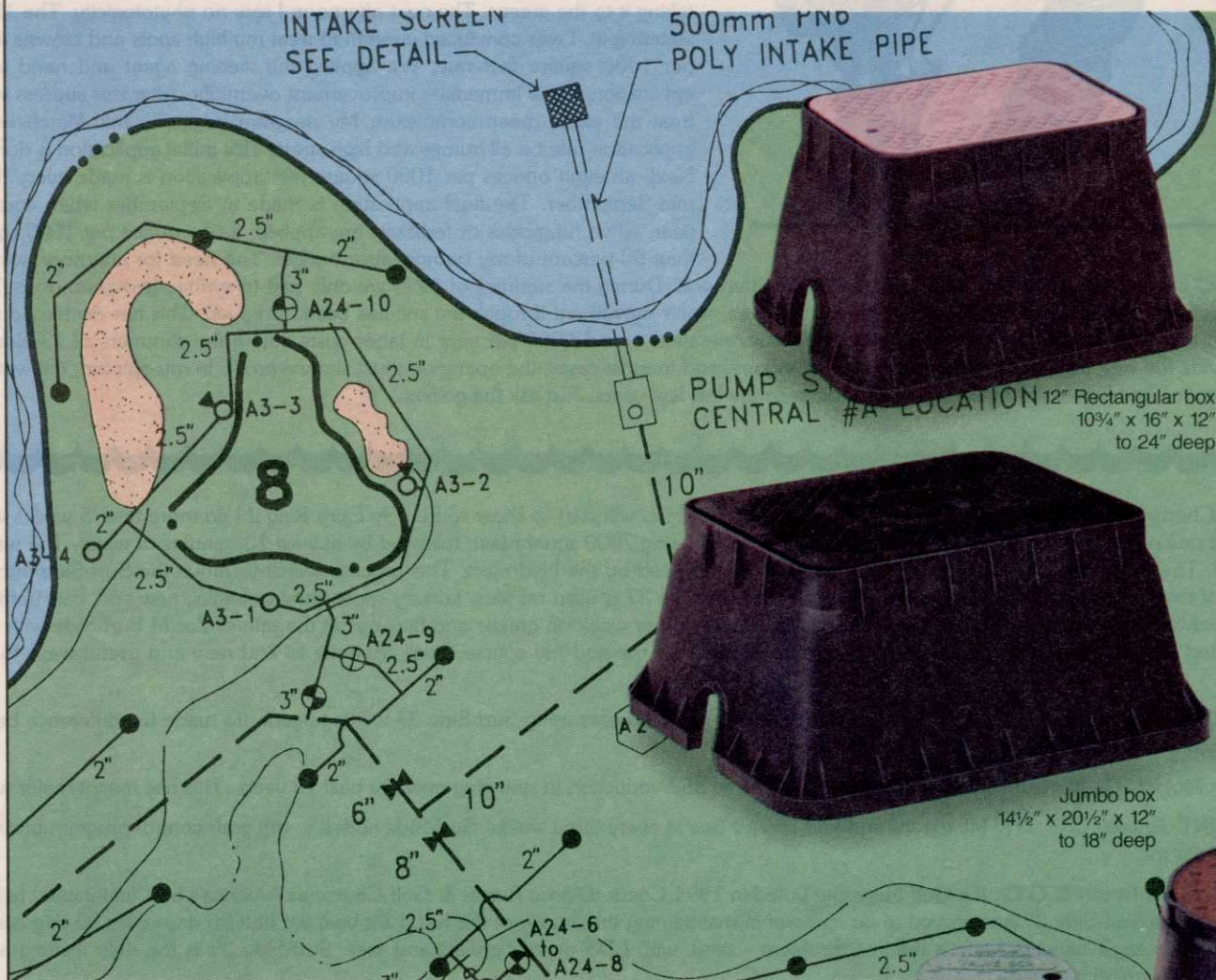
This month's front-page story, by Peter Blais, on a recent National Golf Foundation study shows how far we have to go in this area (see page 1).

My opinion? Television and its on-air personalities must take the lead. The chief executive of a major mower manufacturer passed on the following tidbit to me: The folks down at Augusta National have stopped cross-striping their fairways, opting instead for a single phalanx of mowers cutting the fairways in huge swaths. Apparently, golfers have already started badgering superintendents to abandon striping in favor of the "new" Augusta look.

This is how impressionable golfers (especially private club members) can be. There's no way to reach them and make a real impact without insistent, repeated input from Johnny Miller, Ken Venturi, Jack Whitaker and the like.

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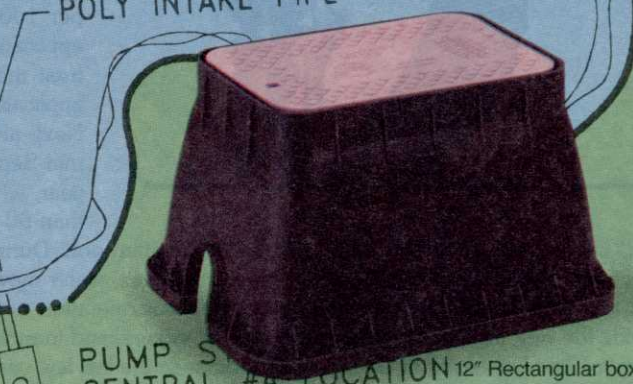
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