

Pelican Bay undertakes greens work

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Golfers will experience larger greens and more consistent putting surfaces when a \$260,000 greens improvement project at Pelican Bay Country Club's Members Course here is completed later this year.

The project, supervised by International Golf Management (IGM) of Lakeland, is slated for completion around Labor Day. All greens at the 18-hole course are being reconfigured and enlarged, and most bunkers and sandtraps are being changed, according to Jerry Broome, IGM's regional manager at Pelican Bay.

Broome said Pelican Bay's outstanding characteristics are its roominess and the "sense of

tranquility" golfers feel when they play either of the two courses.

A specialist in providing golf course maintenance services on a contract basis, IGM is also overseeing a \$700,000 golf course upgrade at The Palms, one of five courses it maintains at the sprawling Palm-Aire Spa and Resort in Pompano Beach.

Under this project, IGM is in charge of redesigning and rebuilding the 18-hole course's greens, bunkers, select tees and fairways, as well as major irrigation and drainage improvements. This is the first face-lift for the Robert von Hagge-designed course since it opened in 1959. Work was scheduled for completion by the end of July.

Leslie: Labs checking in none too early

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always look for the green lining."

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How important is the accreditation for soil-testing laboratories? (See story, page 15) Mark Flock, Agriculture Division director for Brookside Laboratories, said: "The problem is, you have laboratories doing supposedly the same test, but with differences in the way they have it set up. You'd have a blender, or golf course builder get three different results [from tests sent to three labs] because the procedures were dif-

ferent. One lab was doing a percolation test by using a vacuum and sucking the water through. Another was letting it gravity-flow through. Both are valid scientific methods, but the interpretation might be dramatically different. One guy has 40 inches per hour and the other 10 inches, and they both say it's okay. Maybe they both were okay, but it was very confusing."

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Be forward-looking and stop bad-mouthing the research on biological-control agents. That's the message from forward-looking superintendent Dan Dinelli of North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill., a key contact in our page 1 story on biologicals.

"People tend to still term biologicals 'snake oil' — even somewhat in the scientific community," said Dinelli. "No one really debates what these organisms can do in the lab. But the big question is, can it work in the real world? To me, that's sad because we're finally at the point where we're making some breakthroughs. EcoSoil is one of them. Another is Gary Harman [of Cornell University] hybridizing *Trichoderma* to become a really aggressive strain over and above native strains... I have no interest in selling these products. But I have a big interest in hoping that this direction continues to be explored."

"We have a lot more to learn with these pioneers — [EcoSoil's] BioJect and *Trichoderma* — learning their shortcomings and how to use them. That's all in the growing pains, but why bad-mouth them and shoot that direction down? In the same breath, those scientists will give directions for treating seed [with endophytes], and that's been widely accepted now. It's accepted only because it's been around longer. Yet it is really biological control — and successful biological control."

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No, it was not new to the game of golf, though it might be for other sports. After disqualifying himself from the Greater Hartford Open for playing with an improperly stamped ball, Greg Norman was asked why he would do such a thing.

"Look," he said, "if you cheat once, you cheat not on yourself but on life. You have to get that message across. Kids might see that, and when they get themselves into that kind of situation in the future, maybe they'll say, 'Hey, remember what Greg Norman did.' And that's great."

"We need to honor [the game]," he added. "What I did, any other player would have done, or at least I hope they would. I think it's just bred down through the generations. We police our own game."

The entire industry can be proud of this type of reputation for honesty.

to stand on wheels.

