

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY 1996 • \$4.50

INSIDE

Jack Speaks

A GCN exclusive: Jack Nicklaus explains why his firm has targeted public-access projects 19

We Have a Winner!

Senior players have named Chester Valley Golf Club the best maintained course on tour 36

Changing Course

Golf Course Expo and its education conference, "Public Golf for Profit," are moving to Chicago 94



THE 'BOOM BOOM' APPROACH TO DESIGN

Fred Couples (left) and Gene Bates are collaborating on a unique daily-fee project in California. See page 64.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Researcher urges, 'More carbon in root zones' 33
USGA agronomists look back, eye future 21,42
The Bubble Level: Wunderkind course tool 44

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Golf still benefiting from Indian land & gaming ... 3
Builder survey: Market steaming into future 57
Bobby Weed, Ray Floyd join design forces 65

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Golf Enterprises reportedly on the block 73
What to do with military golfers? 76
Bent to Bermuda: Desert managers switch 82

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Hueber returns, with a new product line 83
Asia-Pacific trade shows in transition 86
Expanded new product showcase 88-90

Piece of the pie

More and more designers trade fees for ownership slice

By PETER BLAIS

With new course financing still difficult to obtain in some cases, architects and builders are increasingly willing to take an ownership interest in a project, either as part of the original development team or in exchange for all or part of their fees.

Michael Hurdzan, P.B. Dye and Bob Cupp are among the architects/owners. Landscapes Unlimited President William Kubly is probably the most active builder/owner.

"The main reason we're willing to get involved is that golf is a good business," explained Hurdzan, who owns part of three golf facilities. "If it were a bad one, we wouldn't do it."

Professionally, Hurdzan believes ownership increases an architect's credibility with clients by providing insights into golf

Continued on page 78

Progress at EPA? Maybe

By HAL PHILLIPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "They have a new way of handling data that has sped up the entire process," said AgrEvo's George Raymond. "Turn-around times on a number of submissions have dropped from 18 months to six."

Added American Cyanamid's John Thomas: "When they heard the arguments we posed regarding increased safety, they accelerated their review process and put us on the fast track for registration."

Could these people be talking about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)? Amazing as it may seem to golf industry veterans familiar with the lengthy, multimillion-dollar registration process, yes.

Continued on page 85



DESTINATION: ORLANDO

SPECIAL GCSAA SECTION

- Comprehensive show & conference schedules
- Updates on bylaws, candidates
- Profiles of award winners
- Helpful party hints
- Speakers, show entertainment and more!

COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 23



Arthur Miller

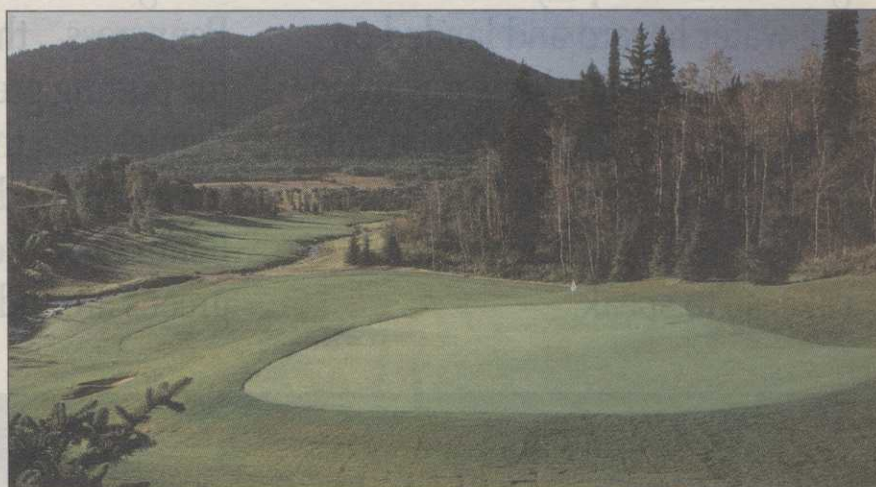
Environmental debate assumes center stage

By J. BARRY MOTHES

ORLANDO — It's 8 a.m. Friday at your golf course. Pithium is raging. A shot gun start member-guest golf tourney is set to start in 30 minutes. As golf course superintendent, you decide to go with a quick pesticide treatment. At a post-tourney barbecue, several golfers complain of headaches and vomiting. Do you tell them about the morning pesticide application?

The above scenario was a quick off-the-cuff creation by Dr. Frank Rossi, a turf professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But it's exactly the kind of thing Harvard law professor and frequent TV legal commentator Arthur Miller can be expected to spring on a panel of golf industry and environmental experts at this year's Environmental General Session panel at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Conference and Show.

Continued on page 27



The stunning Maroon Creek GC in Aspen, Colo. — one of the projects which earned Landscapes Unlimited and its president, Bill Kubly (below), Golf Course News Builder of the Year honors.

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE...

Landscapes named GCN's Builder of the Year for 1995

By MARK LESLIE

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Perfect 10. No one has come so close to achieving it as did the 1995 Builder of the Year — Landscapes Unlimited, Inc.

In Golf Course News' annual survey of developers and architects, Landscapes, which lost the crown last year to Paul Clute & Associates, regained the title. In doing so, Landscapes averaged 9.72 on a 10-point scale in balloting of its 1995 clients — the highest average ever in the 7-year survey. Eleven clients, judging in the eight categories, gave Land-

scapes 10s in 70 of a possible 88 votes.

Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield, Ill., which won Best Builder the first three years of the survey before relinquishing the title to Landscapes in 1992 and 1993, finished second with an average of 9.25.

Following Landscapes and Wadsworth in the voting were, in order, Niebur Golf of Colorado Springs, Colo., with a 9.12 average; Clute of Hartland, Mich. (9.08); and Fairway Construction of Temecula, Calif. (8.74).

Continued on page 37



Phil Arnold photo

Environmental General Session

Continued from page 1

Miller has built a reputation for generating exciting, heated discussions on issues ranging from AIDS and health care to the ethical implications of finding a \$20 bill on the sidewalk. On Feb. 8, he'll turn his Socratic skills to the golf course industry and the environment at the GCSAA's Environmental General Session. The silver-haired professor will steer, prod and provoke a panel of golf course superintendents, turfgrass specialists, horticulture professors

and leaders of several environmental groups to explore the relationship between golf course maintenance and development and the environment.

Miller's presence at this year's Environmental General Session should be one of the highlights of the GCSAA's annual conference and show.

"I've seen him fill two and a half hours without anyone in the audience moving," said Cynthia Kelly, a GCSAA liaison speaking for Dave Searis, a certified superintendent from Blue Hills

Country Club in Kandas City, Mo. Searis chairs the GCSAA's Government Relations Committee which developed this year's program. "He won't let one person monopolize a discussion."

This year's Environmental General Session was moved to an evening slot, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The idea was to give the scheduled 90-minute session a higher profile and a larger potential audience. It seems to have worked. More than 2,000 people have already signed up to attend the panel session on Feb. 8, at the Orange County Convention Center, according to the GCSAA.

Miller will use what is known as the Socratic method to get the diverse panel talking, which means the discussion should be spontaneous, unrehearsed and emotional. He will generate a scenario or scenarios — a developer wants to build a new 18-hole golf course on land that includes sensitive wetlands, for example — and let the panelists go at it.

"We're looking for things that are interesting and controversial," said Searis of the GCSAA. "We don't want to just have our members preaching things that people want to hear. We want to

hear the other sides. We want to educate superintendents about what other people are thinking. The whole idea is that superintendents are able to take back information from these conferences to help them deal with real-life situations on their own golf courses."

Miller will be working with a panel that features a healthy cross-section of interests and opinions about golf courses and the environment. Veteran, certified superintendents like Tim Hiers of Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla., and Peter Leuzinger of The Ivanhoe Club in Mundelin, Ill., will share a stage with Mark Massara of the Sierra Club, horticulture professor Frank Rossi of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a representative of a chemical company, Curt Spaulding of the Rhode Island-based Save the Bay organization, and Todd Miller of the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Is there hope for better understanding and more agreement between the golf course industry and environmental groups? In a way that will satisfy the interests of both?

"I think the golf and environmental process is making some constructive inroads," said Spaulding of Save the Bay. "So I think the dialogue, so far, has been instructive. Do I think there's been a significant change in the field, so that golf course developers and clubs have changed practices based on this dialogue and education? No, I don't think we've accomplished that yet."

Rossi has been outspoken about pesticide use in the turf industry. He's currently working with fellow panelist Pam Porter of the Wisconsin Environmental Decade on a grant program to eliminate lawn care pesticide use in the Great Lakes Basin. Rossi said he thinks some superintendents have become more sensitive to the use and handling of pesticides in the past several years. But he said there is still much more that can be done on issues like chemical pesticide mixing, loading, re-entry and exposure.

"I don't think the golf course industry or superintendents have communicated their message very well," Rossi said. "Golfers know very little about a golf course's affect on the environment."

"And when we had a summer like the one we just had in the midwest with no rain and extended heat, everything goes out the window with these guys [superintendents]."

Rossi said he wishes a golfer, maybe even a professional tour golfer, were on the panel also.

"I don't know exactly where Arthur Miller is going to take this," said Rossi. "He's a very complex guy and I'm sure he's going to challenge all of us. My hope is that he's going to do his homework."



Rounding out Toro's Reelmaster® family are, from left, the lightweight but powerful 5300-D and 5100-D, plus the 4500-D, another proven performer.

Like the new Reelmaster® 6700-D, the first riding mower with seven hydraulically driven reels. And its cousin, Reelmaster® 6500-D, is engineered to take on thick, tough turf throughout the year.

Want a lightweight? Reelmaster® 5300-D and 5100-D are

light on their feet, but down to earth for precision performance.

Want maximum productivity and power? Reelmaster® 4500-D is your choice. Or perhaps another member of the family.

The Toro Reelmaster family. Born of our longtime partnership

with golf course superintendents. To create what you want most. Fairways of stunning beauty and peak playability.

Family values we share.



Helping You Put Quality Into Play.®

For more details, contact your Toro Distributor:

1-800-803-8676
ext. 152

CIRCLE #115/GCSAA BOOTH #1843