

BRIEFS



E-Z-GOLYMPICS IN 1996

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) have announced that E-Z-GO Textron has become an official sponsor of the 1996 Olympic Games. Joining sister divisions Bell Helicopter and Cessna Aircraft Co., E-Z-GO will provide golf cars and personnel/cargo carriers for behind-the-scenes logistical support. "Since E-Z-GO is a Georgia-based company, we are especially proud to be able to play a part in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games," said E-Z-GO President L.T. Walden.

THORLEY TO LEAD BAYER T&O

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Trevor Thorley has been named director of specialty products for the agriculture division of Bayer Corp., replacing the retired Allen Haws. Thorley joined Bayer in the United Kingdom in 1981 as a sales rep, serving in various sales and marketing roles there prior to his United States transfer in 1992. In his new position, Thorley will also serve on the governing board of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), the specialty chemical trade association.



Trevor Thorley

ONE BILLION AND COUNTING...

DENVER, Colo. — The Watersaver Co., Inc. has produced its one billionth square foot of flexible geomembranes, according to Jim Miller, manager of lining operations at the firm. Watersaver, which fabricates liners for lakes, landfills and potable water reservoirs, is "the first company in the United States to reach this achievement fabricating non-crystalline liners and floating covers," said Stan Slifer, Watersaver national sales manager.

SHEPARD JOINS CIBA TECH STAFF

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products has hired Dr. Dennis P. Shepard as a technical support specialist. Shepard, who holds a doctorate in crop science, spent the past three years as an assistant professor with the Louisiana State University department of horticulture. From 1978-85, he worked as a golf course superintendent. He will work from his Overland Park, Kan., office.



Dennis Shepard

Marketing coups increase Ransomes' visibility

● Firm partners with GCSAA at Golf Asia

By HAL PHILLIPS

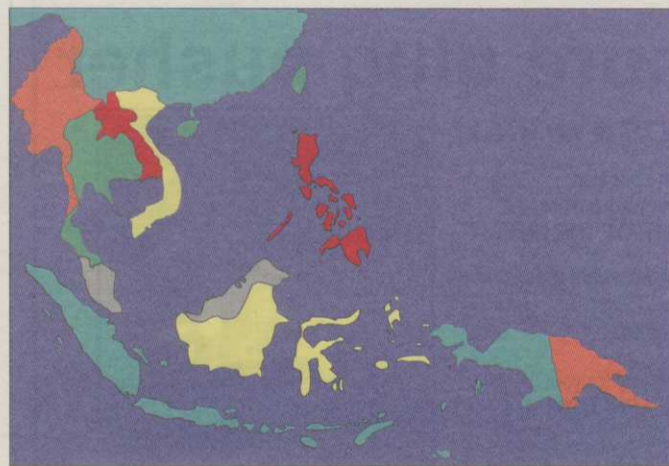
SINGAPORE — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has taken its corporate sponsor strategy abroad.

GCSAA, which has aggressively pursued corporate sponsorships in connection with its domestic trade show and conference, has signed a three-year agreement with Ransomes Cushman Ryan to stage the Golf Asia '96 turfgrass seminar programs at the Golf Asia '96 International Golf Exhibition and Conferences, scheduled to take place here March 25-31.

Golf Course News Asia-Pacific, sister publication of *Golf Course News*, is the official trade publication of Golf Asia '96.

The conference program features development and design content, in addition to course maintenance seminars administered by GCSAA. Ransomes, a consistent exhibitor at the Golf Asia since its inception, will assist the association in formula-

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● Pebble Beach signs exclusive turf deal

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The Pebble Beach Company has selected Ransomes as its exclusive supplier of turf maintenance equipment. The three-year rolling agreement with the Pebble Beach states that all new equipment for its golf courses and ground maintenance will come from the Ransomes Cushman Ryan product lines.

Pebble Beach considered the leading turf maintenance companies before arriving at their decision, said Ted Horton, Vice President of Resource Management for Pebble Beach.

"Ransomes regained our attention early this year when after the torrential rain we had experienced in California, their fairway mowers enabled us to get our course into tournament condition prior to the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am," said Horton. "During our consideration of potential suppliers, we were impressed not only by their total range of equipment, but also by the commitment of their management to support-

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Vigoro absorbed by IMC Global

CHICAGO — IMC Global Inc. (NYSE:IGL) and The Vigoro Corp. (NYSE:VGR) have signed a definitive agreement for a merger which will create a leading supplier of crop nutrients serving the global agriculture industry and having complementary retail distribution capabilities. The new company will retain the IMC Global name and be headquartered in the Chicago area.

Under terms of the agreement, each Vigoro shareholder will receive 0.8 shares of IMC stock, assuming IMC's stock price remains between \$61.875 and \$80.00. The 0.8 ratio is subject to proportional adjustment down to 0.75 so that the maximum exchange value for Vigoro stock will remain at \$64.00 if IMC stock trades between \$80.00 and \$85.333. Similarly, the ratio will adjust proportionately up to 0.85 so that the minimum exchange value for Vigoro stock will remain at \$49.50 if IMC stock trades between \$58.235 and \$61.875. The exchange ratios and per share amounts will be adjusted to reflect IMC's previously announced 2-for-1 stock split.

The transaction, which will be a tax-free exchange and be accounted for as a pooling-of-interests, has been approved by the boards of directors of both companies, is subject to approval by the shareholders of both companies and necessary regulatory approvals. The merger is expected to be completed early this year.

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Changes in Environmental Steward format

ORLANDO — Together with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the four sponsors of the Environmental Steward Award have announced format changes for the 1995-96 program.

Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird's Golf Division, Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. and Lebanon Turf Products will present the award during the Environmental General Session at the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show Feb. 11, 1996 here at the Orange County Convention Center. In addition, according to GCSAA officials, the Environmental General Session now

is sponsored by Ciba, Rain Bird, Jacobsen and Lebanon.

"GCSAA's Environmental Steward Award program provides an outstanding opportunity to recognize our members who have implemented progressive and effective environmental programs," said Gary Grigg, CGCS, president of GCSAA. "By combining this program with Environmental General Session, we will increase the exposure of the award winners not only within our own association, but also on a national basis as well. We would also like to thank the four sponsors for supporting the program and promoting

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NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

The Keeyn Co. has introduced a versatile golf bag rack. According to Keeyn's Richard Thompson, the Vail-based firm is the only North American supplier of specific golf bag racks. Said Thompson: "Not only does the rack handle both pro and standard bags, but it can also be used to control pedestrian and golf cart traffic." These lightweight racks are maintenance-free and available in custom colors or a galvanized finish. They're stable on both turf and hard surfaces and are available in free standing or wall-mounted versions. The 8-foot rack holds 14 bags and a 5-foot rack can handle eight. For more information, call 800-260-7599. For more new products, see page 42.

Rain Bird promotes Bednarski, hires Liron

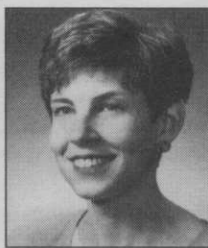
Rain Bird's Golf Division has announced the promotion of Janet Bednarski to satellite controller product manager. Mindy Donenfeld Liron was recently hired as rotor brand manager.

Bednarski is responsible for all aspects of the field satellite product line including quality control, new product development and product enhancements. Rain Bird's line of field satellites interact with the Maxi central computer control system which monitors climate conditions and calculates precise irrigation needs. Prior to her promotion, Bednarski was marketing program manager for the Golf Division.

Liron's new responsibilities include the development, marketing and management of Rain Bird's line of impact and



Janet Bednarski



Mindy Liron

gear drive rotors.

Prior to joining Rain Bird, Liron was an independent marketing consultant. Her background also includes brand management and marketing positions with HMG Europe, L'Eggs Products Inc., Pfizer and Baxter. From 1985 to 1987, she was a project engineer for General Motors.

HINTZE MOVES UP AT SANDOZ

DES PLAINES, Ill. — Gene D. Hintze has been named the turf & ornamental business manager for Sandoz Agro Inc.'s Specialty Business Unit. Hintze will be responsible for establishing the overall direction, planning, implementing, monitoring and analyzing of marketing efforts for the turf and ornamental markets. He joined Sandoz in June 1994 as marketing services manager for the Specialty Products Business Unit. Prior, he was an account supervisor at Bader Rutter & Associates in Brookfield, Wis., and a sales manager at American Cyanamid in Wayne, N.J.

Steward Awards

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our member superintendents as stewards of the environment."

The event sponsors will conduct the fourth annual Environmental Steward Award presentation at the beginning of the environmental General Session. A reception honoring the Environmental Steward Award winners will follow immediately. Previously, the Environmental Steward Award presentation was conducted as a program separate from the GCSAA Show.

In addition, videos featuring the Environmental Steward Award Program and this year's winners will be produced. They will be available to superintendents interested in learning more about the program and the environmental practices conducted by the winners.

"These format changes are designed to increase the visibility of the Environmental Steward Award," say the award sponsors in a joint statement. "We feel the award is important recognition of both golf course superintendents and the work they conduct."

In 1994-95, 31 golf course superintendents received Environmental Steward Awards, created to recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their work to protect and enhance their local environments. In the first three years of the program, Environmental Steward Award sponsors have contributed more than \$50,000 to The GCSAA Foundation.

Vigoro merger

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Vigoro has granted IMC an option to acquire 19.9 percent of its stock upon the occurrence of certain events. Great American Management and Investment, Inc. (NASDAQ:GAMI), Vigoro's largest shareholder, has agreed to vote the approximately 20 percent of Vigoro's shares owned by it in favor of the merger.

If IMC stock trades above \$85.333, IMC can reassess completion of the merger or consummate the merger at a 0.75 exchange ratio. Similarly, if IMC stock trades below \$58.235, Vigoro can reassess completion of the merger or consummate the merger at a 0.85 exchange ratio.

"This strategic merger will further our objective of better serving the growing world market for our products," said Wendell F. Bueche, chairman and chief executive officer of IMC. "The strength derived by the combination of these complementary companies will allow the new company to compete more effectively in the global crop nutrient marketplace, with the new IMC as the most efficient producer of potash and concentrated phosphates."

"This is a very meaningful day for my partner, Jay Proops, and me as co-founders of Vigoro," said Joseph P. Sullivan, chairman of Vigoro. "This merger will allow us to reach the goal we set 11 years ago to build a company which will provide our customers with the best possible products and services while becoming the low-cost producer and distributor."

Wendell F. Bueche will be chairman and chief executive officer of the combined company. Joseph P. Sullivan will become chairman of the executive committee of the combined companies' board of directors, with responsibility for board oversight of the merger.

THE GLEANER: a core plug pusher



MODEL JP

SPECIFICATIONS

1. Two section blade will follow the contour of any golf green or tee.
2. Three-inch foot pad coming off blade helps catch and push plugs off greens and tees.
3. Unit will not damage green because of articulation of blades and foot pad area on bottom.
4. Blade width is 72 inches.
5. All heavy gauge metal.
6. Weight is 70 pounds.

SAVES TIME, LABOR & MONEY!

1. Go from a 4-man to a 2-man operation; one riding the mower with the plug-pusher, the other picking up plugs IN HALF THE TIME!
 2. Easy to mount and dismount from your greensmower.
 3. Buy one and keep it 'til you retire.
 4. Savings in time and labor will pay for your new plug pusher WITH ONE AERATION!
- ★ You can remove the plugs from a 7,500 sq. ft. green in about 20 minutes.
 - ★ There is no other product on the market that can remove the plugs from the green quicker and cleaner than THE GLEANER core-plug pusher.
 - ★ There is no cheaper product in the industry to remove your plugs from the green or tees. One use and it pays for itself!
 - ★ Other core-plug removal equipment might take two hours to install. Model TP installs in five minutes.
 - ★ If your mower breaks down, it only takes 5-7 minutes to be up and mowing again with your backup greensmower!



MODEL TP

MO TP \$550.00

MO JP \$590.00

From manufacturer to you!

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Order from your TORO Distributor

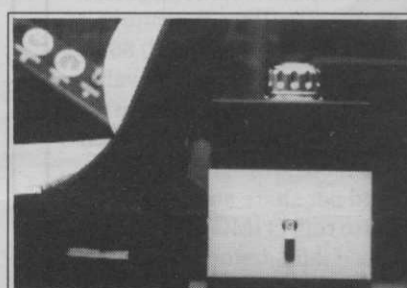


Don't let this happen to your green!!

CLAIMS:

1. Alarm sounds with a loss of only **three to five ounces** of oil.
2. Uses a uniquely patented floating chamber system
3. Indicates when oil pump has air leak (aeration of pump) on suction side of pump. Air in oil causes float to drop on contact points.
4. Easily bolted or clamped into your hydraulic system.
5. Allows for pitch and roll of greens.
6. Comes fully equipped to mount onto your mower.

NEW MODELS:
Just bolt or clamp onto mower
*Protect your greens
from Hydraulic oil damage*



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