

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Winter hangover lingers in Midwest

Crown damage, desiccation rampant

By MARK LESLIE

Superintendents from Minnesota and Michigan to Iowa and Illinois were up against the wall this spring, their courses belted with desiccation, crown damage and direct low-temperature kill that set season openings back weeks.

"Instead of having March, April, May, we're having March, March, March," said Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill., president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). "Harsh winter kill seems endemic from Colorado through Kansas, Iowa and areas like that."

"When we first started

greening up in late April — which is very late for us — all the high spots came out green and all the low spots were dead stone-cold dormant," said Dick Stuntz of Alvarado Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., attributing damage to a snowmelt that froze again. "Guys with ryegrass fairways lost it. For those of us with zoysiagrass, the loss isn't large but it will be a terribly slow recovery."

While Jerry Faubel of Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club was "very fortunate and escaped damage" because he added drainage in key areas last year, the former GCSAA president said: "Courses throughout

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Jacksonville restoration still in limbo

By HAL PHILLIPS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — An extremely complicated turf war has developed here concerning property that used to be a golf course, and may be again. Officials at the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) in Tallahassee will decide this month whether the city of Jacksonville will retain funds to restore a golf course on a controversial urban parcel known as Blue Cypress.

Once a privately owned golf facility called University Golf & Country Club, the Blue Cypress land was

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Survey: Benefits on the rise

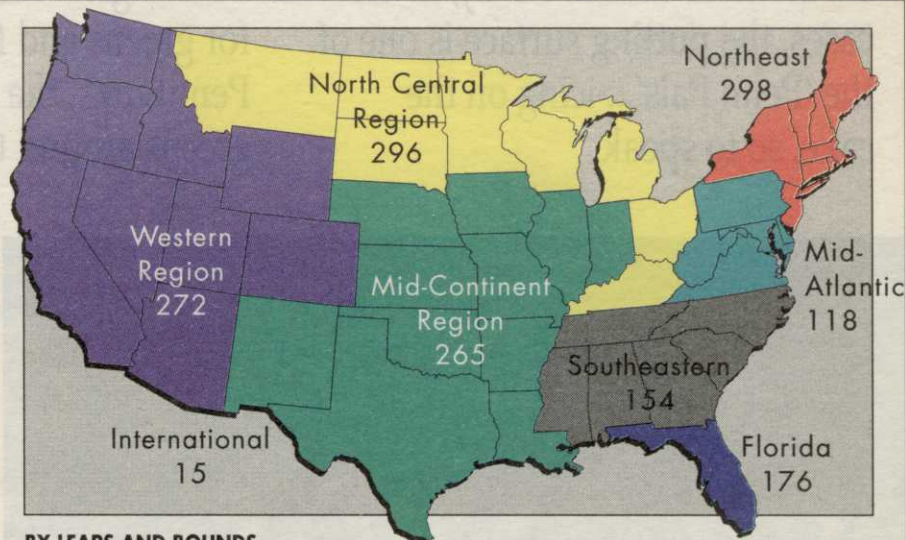
By TERRY BUCHEN

Since this decade began, I have been taking a random survey of superintendents regarding the fringe benefits they receive. I have some interesting results to report.

The first question I usually ask is whether they benefit, in both wages and fringe benefits, as a result of their most recent job change. The answer is an overwhelming "yes". Most supers believe they are underpaid and the only way to improve themselves professionally is to make a job change for more money and benefits.

Everyone willing to share the "before/after" comparison of their most old/new jobs enhanced their total package significantly. The average tenure of a super prior to the 1980s was 10 to 12 years. Today a super will stay 4 to 5 years until a better opportunity

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BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Just five years old, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, as administered by the New York State Audubon Society, has experienced astounding growth. For an update on one of golf's most striking environmental success stories, see page 15.

Palmer Mgmt. has grand expansion plans

By PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management, operator of 17 courses nationwide, plans to eventually bring as many as 500 courses under its management wing through a variety of mergers, acquisitions, and other arrangements, according to company President Peter Nanula.

Palmer Golf recently launched its campaign by reaching an agreement with Pennsylvania-based Toll Brothers Inc., a leading developer of luxury homes, to operate courses at Toll Brothers' developments and jointly acquire troubled resi-

dential golf communities nationwide.

Palmer-managed Bay Hill here also hosted a summit meeting in March when the heads of 15 management companies with portfolios ranging from five to 30 golf facilities discussed the topic of consolidation within the management industry. The recent acquisition of 43-course Golf Enterprises Inc. by National Golf Properties, the real estate investment trust established by the founders of giant American Golf Corp., was also a major topic.

Nanula told the *Orange County Busi-*

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