

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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More graduates chasing fewer jobs?

Assistant positions plentiful; head jobs in short supply

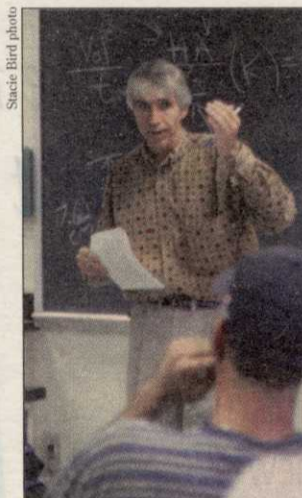
By PETER BLAIS

The demand for assistant superintendents remains strong, which bodes well for the turf school students set to graduate this spring who will fill many of those positions. However, even in the face of a record 468 new course openings in 1995, making the leap from assistant to head superintendent or retaining the top maintenance post remains a challenging proposition.

"We have heard about many more assistant jobs than we have graduates to fill them," said John 'Trey' Rogers, associate professor at Michigan State University. "The only people who seem to be having problems are those who have restricted themselves to a certain geographic area."

Faculty at Ohio State and Pennsylvania State universities echoed Rogers' senti-

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PSU's Dr. Charles Mancino, asst. professor of turfgrass science.

TURF SCHOOL REPORT

- How's the job market for mechanics? p. 11
- Complete listing of 2-year & 4-year turf programs, p. 20

As turf grads grow in number, so do worries of saturation

By J. BARRY MOTHES

The number of graduates from collegiate turfgrass programs this year will again be higher than last year. That, along with an increase in two-year degree and certificate programs, has fueled a strong perception there may be too many turfgrass graduates heading into the job market.

"I think there might be a bit of an overload," said William Torello, a professor of turfgrass management at the University of Massachusetts for the past 15 years. "I think there is a saturation level and I think we're real near it — if not at it."

"But almost 100 percent of our people do get placed. They may not all be assistant superintendents right away, but they get work. The golf course industry is certainly becoming loaded with trained people."

The Golf Course Superintendents As-

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New player emerges in group buying

By LOU PRATO

ELLICOTT CITY, Md.— A new nationwide buying cooperative aimed at getting major price breaks for golf course owners and superintendents on everything from chemicals to maintenance equipment is seeking its first charter members in the East.

National Turf Cooperative, Inc. (NTC), based here near Baltimore, expects to have at least 250 members signed up when it starts buying seeds, fertilizer, and other such goods from manufacturers and suppliers in October of 1996. NTC will concentrate initially on buying products necessary for the development and maintenance of golf courses.

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Temporary clubhouses don't have to be unsightly trailers sitting starkly in parking lots. To wit, this clubhouse facility at Hamilton Golf Club in Fishers, Ind.

Pre-fab clubhouses keep priorities on course

By PETER BLAIS

Golf developers are heeding the advice of course designers and installing temporary clubhouses, allowing the course to establish a reputation and generate revenue before building a first-class clubhouse facility. While the idea might seem a bit self-serving since course architects are paid for the course they design rather than the clubhouse that borders it, few would argue that it is the course rather than the clubhouse that first attracts players to a golf facility.

"Getting the course right and waiting on the permanent clubhouse is a con-

cept I endorse," said course architect David Horn of Architerra PC, a course design firm in Catasauqua, Pa. "You can get a good, prefab clubhouse for \$100,000 or less to get you through the first few years until the cash flow is sufficient to build a permanent one."

In fact, if done right, a prefab clubhouse can be attractive and may suffice much longer than a developer may initially think. Horn said he has sent many clients to see the supposedly temporary facility at Center Valley (Pa.) Club just south of Bethlehem, Pa.

Geoffrey Cornish-designed Center

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