

## Massive bank restoration project at Sand Creek CC a model to follow

**C**HESTERTON, Ind. — Lake Erie Land Co., the parent company of Sand Creek Country Club here, has begun a creek bank restoration project of unprecedented scale.

Sand Creek, which runs north through the golf course and residential development to Lake Billington, has suffered severe erosion and silt build-up in Lake Billington. The section of stream to be restored includes both

sides of approximately 3,700 feet of stream. The goal of the restoration is to halt the erosion, while recreating spawning grounds for such fish as salmon and steelhead as well as a habitat for bird life.

The project is part of a larger flood-control process that also

includes addition of detention ponds in the development's fourth phase as well as in the club's newly built Marsh Course that will prevent channelization of the creek. Lake Erie is working with Robert Wolfe of J.F. New & Associates, a senior wetlands ecologist.

According to Wolfe, in the past the creek had been dredged, making it more of a ditch. Another goal of the restoration will include restoring the creek with the addition of bends and other features designed to restore it to a natural stream.

A variety of approaches will be required in the restoration process. Most sections of the creek bank will be re-sloped. This process includes creating a stepped slope initially maintained by wood forms and a burlap covering. In addition, native vegetation will be planted along restored areas, including native grasses, woody shrubs and trees and wildflowers. The root systems from these plants will create a natural system that maintains the restored banks. Specific plants to be used in the restoration include sycamores, willows, pin oak, prairie cordgrass and more.

In other sections of Sand Creek's banks—where a 1:1 slope is required—a special mesh material called Geogrid will be used to stabilize the banks during the revegetation process. Geogrid is biodegradable fabric made from coconut fiber that will halt erosion while the vegetation takes root. In the instances where Sand Creek's covered bridges cross the creek, riprap will be applied, using large stones to stabilize the creek bank. In addition, structure will be built into the creek, including pools, gravel beds and dams that will help to control the depth of the creek.

State and federal groups will witness the process for its potential application to other creek banks within the state.

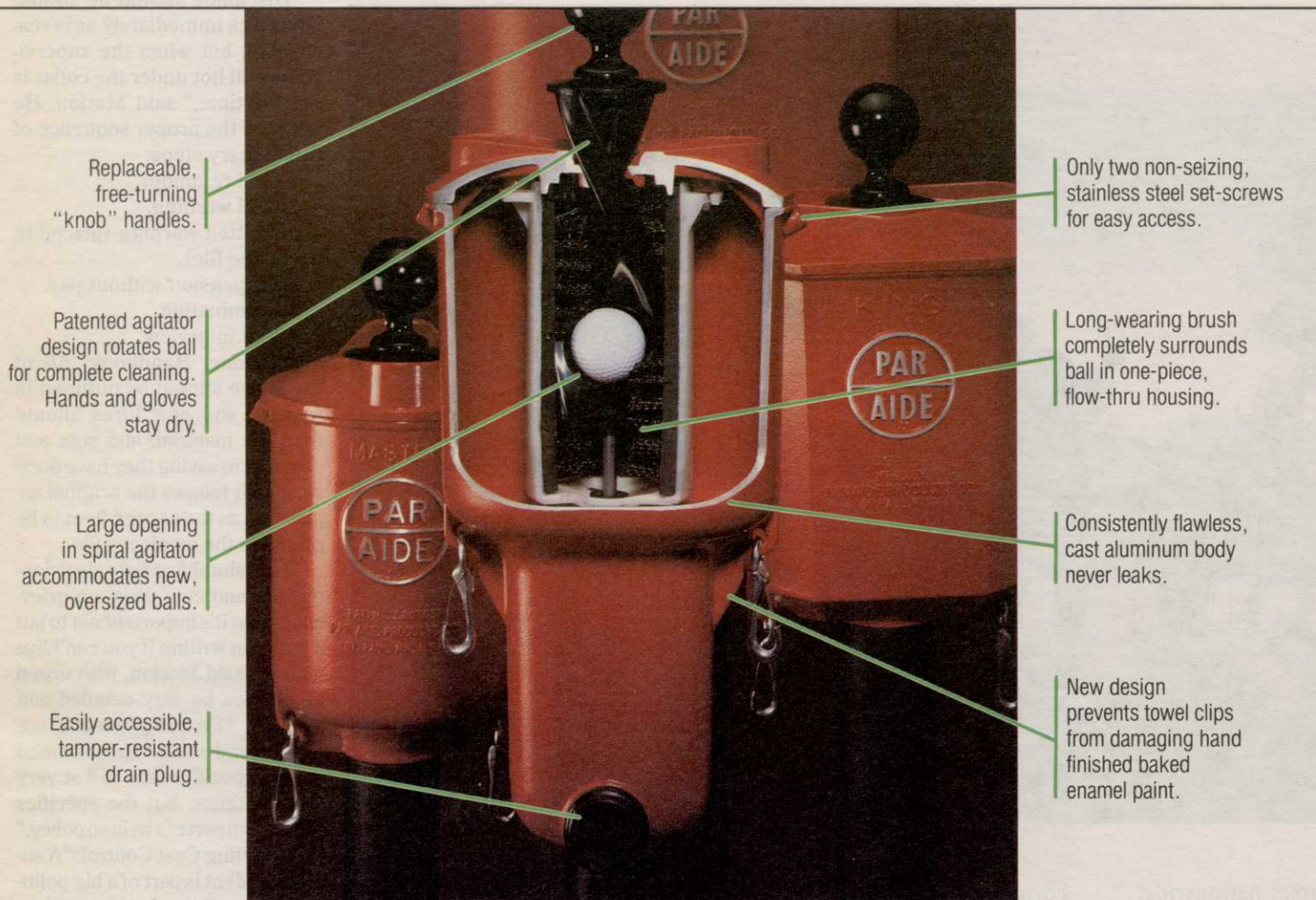
### Rocky Mt. chapter elects Doug Jones

**AURORA, Colo.** — Doug Jones of the City of Grand Junction Golf Courses has been elected president of the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association (RMGCSA), which last year surpassed the 700-member mark. The election took place Oct. 7 at Valley Country Club here.

Jones, a certified golf course superintendent, is joined on the RMGCSA board by Vice President Dave Brown of Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder and Secretary-Treasurer Don Tolson, a certified golf course superintendent at Fox Hollow Golf Course in Lakewood. All will serve one-year terms.

Elected to two-year terms on the board of directors were Michael Brennan, a certified golf course superintendent at Pine Creek Golf Club in Colorado Springs, Lee Terry at Walkingstick Golf Club and Jim Wilkins of Westwoods Golf Club in Evergreen. They join George Stowell of Dos Rios in Gunnison, who is serving the second year of his two-year term.

"We're trying to improve relations between pros and superintendents," Jones said. To that end, the pro-superintendent-club manager tournament has been reinstated "and it should be an annual event now," he added.



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