

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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New USGA service targets construction

By PETER BLAIS

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section will launch its new Construction Education Program next month with Mid-Continent Regional Director Jim Moore as director. Moore is developing materials, web site and seminar programs that will be available at minimal charge to developers, superintendents, course owners, club managers, golf professionals and others involved in building golf projects.



Jim Moore

"We know that many of the physical problems golf courses experience after opening occur because of things that were or weren't done when the course was originally built," Moore explained. "We want to be involved up front providing good information for

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Super Casey Crittenden at newly certified Beatrice (Neb.) CC.

Audubon
beat goes on
See page 20

NTEP funding survives; Morris credits lobbying

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The embattled National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) received good news from Congress in August when the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed an agri-

cultural appropriations bill that included — even added to — NTEP funding.

NTEP operates as an independent agent under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but the USDA had proposed redirecting its entire NTEP funding to other research.

Citing effective lobbying from the \$30-billion turfgrass industry, NTEP National Director Kevin Morris said lawmakers actually increased the funding \$5,000 to \$55,000.

"We got a tremendous response from the letter I sent out [asking for industry support]," Morris said. "The Turfgrass Producers International and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America lobbied on our behalf at the Congressional level. It pushed the key congressmen. And that was really helpful."

Happy at the turn of events, Morris is nonetheless

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WATERWORLD EAST

Man-made water features rival their natural counterparts at the Clyde Johnston-designed River Landing Country Club, a newly-opened club north of Wilmington, N.C. For story, see page 34.

Pebble Beach courses seek solutions to salty effluent

By J. BARRY MOTHES

MONTEREY, Calif. — Relief may be on the way for anxious superintendents at seven Monterey Peninsula golf courses.

Since last fall, the group has struggled with discoloration, wilting and disease

on their greens caused by a higher concentration of salt in the reclaimed water now being used as part of a highly publicized recycled-water project. Putting surfaces at the seven, high-profile sites are annual bluegrass (*poa annua*), which has proved to be the best turf to cope with the peninsula's cool, foggy climate. But *poa annua* is also very sensitive to salt.

A definitive course of action is expected to be taken by the end of this month, after an engineer-

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Nowhere is this impact more evident than in customer service where upscale, daily-fee facilities operated by hospitality-trained professionals have upped the ante on their privately run, public-access competitors.

"What golf management companies have recognized is that we're in the hospitality business — like hotels are in the hospitality business," said Gregg Gagliardi, general manager and PGA pro at Lansbrook Golf Club in Palm Harbor, Fla. "The golf industry has never been known as a very high-service business,

Continued on page 44

Priority One: Putting the customer first

By HAL PHILLIPS

CHICAGO — While management companies own or operate only 5 percent of the nation's golf course stock, their impact is felt throughout the industry.



Ewoldt certified in environmental specialty

CHESTERTON, Ind. — Don Ewoldt, director of grounds at Sand Creek Country Club here, has earned an environmental management specialist certificate from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for completing a specialization program for Employee Safety and Right-To-Know. Ewoldt had previously earned specializations in Integrated Plant Management, Underground Storage Tanks, and Water Quality and Application.

GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of golf course maintenance and the increasingly complex training needs of golf course su-

perintendents by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program (EMP). Due to increasing demands regarding employee safety and right-to-know issues, course work in this area was designed to strengthen understanding of employee training requirements to meet the standards implemented by regulatory agencies for safety in the work environment.

Superintendents may choose to complete one or more of the EMP specializations, each of which is composed of a series of continuing education seminars.

USGA to educate developers

Continued from page 1

new projects so we can help developers and others make good decisions before construction begins."

Moore emphasized the Construction Education Program is far different from the ill-fated TRACS program, which was first proposed several years ago but never got off the ground.

Critics viewed TRACS as a quality-control program that would have made Green Section agronomists critical overseers of

an architect's and builder's work. The two groups were unhappy about the USGA assuming that role and TRACS never saw the light of day.

The Construction Education Program, on the other hand, is intended to be a resource that any interested party can tap into before starting construction, allowing them to make informed choices regarding the entire construction process, Moore explained.

"One of the biggest problems for anyone doing a construction project is simply getting in touch with people capable of doing the job," Moore said. "The web site we're developing, for instance, will have a resources page with the Golf Course Builders Association of America's membership list. Anyone who accesses that page can get information about a particular builder and then link to the builder's web site, if one exists. Links are included for architects, blenders, suppliers, formulators, etc."

Moore believes the most important aspect of the program, however, will be the seminars, which will be available at a minimal charge to any golf association or group. While organizations like the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America give occasional lectures on course construction, "and do a good job of it," Moore said, "when you're talking about things like USGA-spec greens, we'd like to see a USGA official there to discuss it."

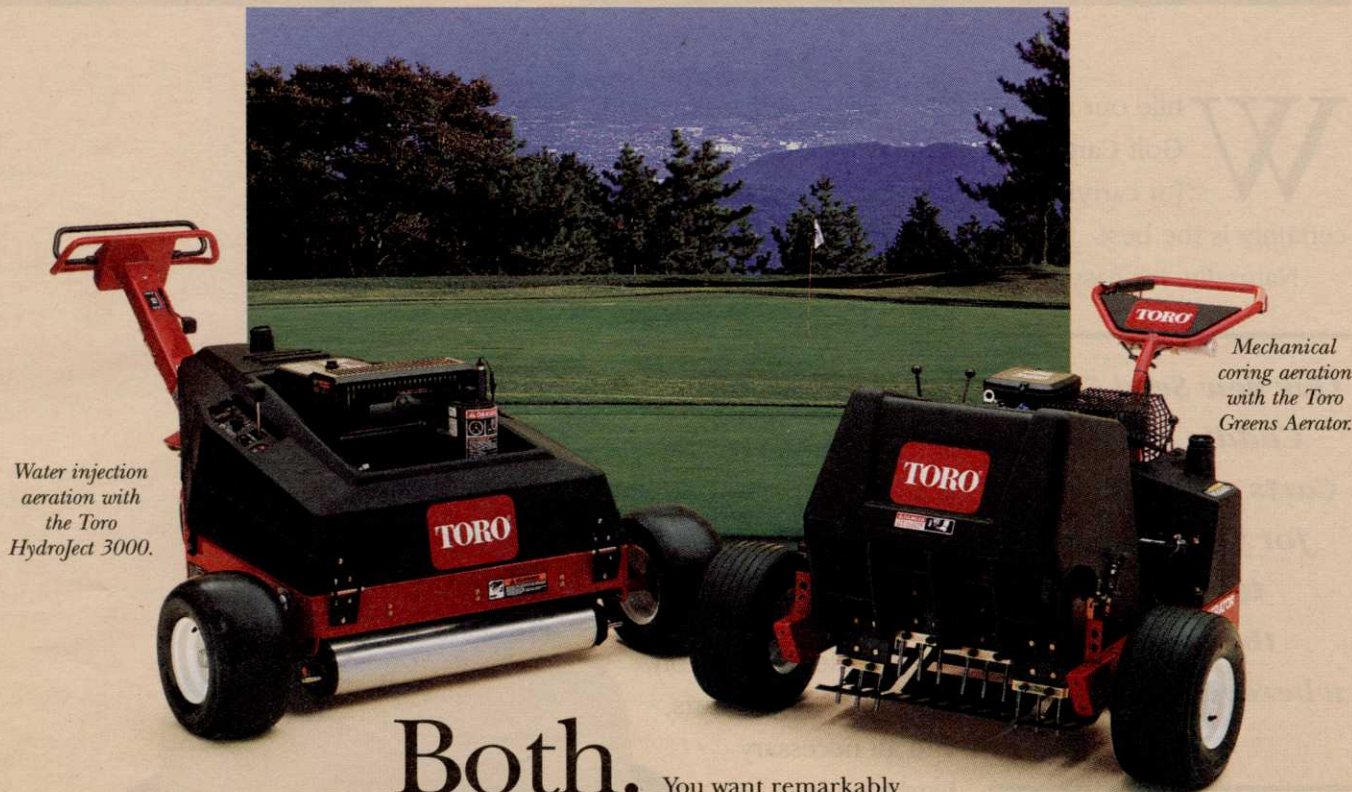
"We don't see ourselves as being in competition with the GCSAA or anyone else. A lot of this information simply isn't out there. Say someone wanted to rebuild a bunker at his course. We'd be able to provide five or more case studies on how that job was handled elsewhere. We can do the same thing for building new tees, installing irrigation systems, rebuilding greens or whatever."

Moore is perhaps the most knowledgeable Green Section staffer regarding course construction. A graduate of Texas A&M's agronomy school, Moore worked on many construction projects during his seven years as a head superintendent and has consulted at hundreds of courses during his 12 years on the Green Section staff.

"They [USGA] were looking for someone with a combination of talents to do this job," Moore said. "They wanted someone who loves to talk in front of a group of people, was computer literate and had a lot of experience in the construction area."

Paul Vermuelen will replace Moore as Mid-Continent regional director and Brian Maloy of Arlington, Texas, will be the new agronomist, covering Moore's former area.

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