

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4
APRIL 1997 • \$5.50

INSIDE

Public Golf Forum

The industry's annual conference focusing on public-access golf scheduled for Chicago in October 3

Consolidation Games

Management firms continue to grow nationwide. See our company chart and special section 43-52



NEW GRASS IN THE WILDERNESS

Assistant superintendent Charlie Riger spreads out PF-11 sprigs on a green at Wilderness Country Club. PF-11 is one of two Bermudagrasses that superintendent Paul Frank has discovered on the Florida course. See *Super Focus* on page 14.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Rossi: IPM will expand with knowledge 13
TPC emphasizes safety at Vegas facility 17
'Speed bump' on greens: Life in the fast lane 20

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Norman's march on Atlanta culminates at TPC 31
Architects society to honor Sarazen 33
Dasher strikes out on his own 40

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Legacy Management seeks owner input 43
Back to Sales School with Prof. Alfonso 44
Vanity fare: Rest rooms change with the times ... 45

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

No soft-pedaling: Spike biz gets complicated 53
What's new in the marketplace? 58-59

Stressed Out!

Superintendents and their turf living too close to the edge, say researchers

By MARK LESLIE

MONTREAL — Declaring that "pre-stress conditioning" will be the new buzz word in turfgrass management, Dr. Joseph DiPaola told Canadian superintendents here they should develop long-term agronomic plans for their golf courses.

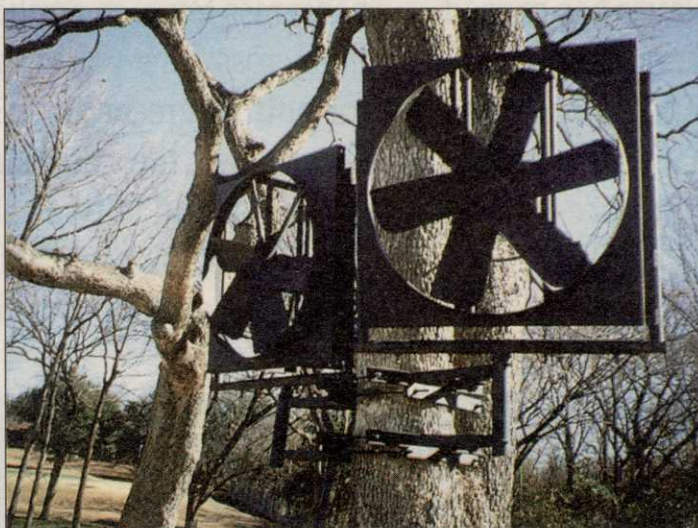
Speaking at the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, DiPaola said: "Our job is very simply to grow tomorrow's turf today. We have to be in a position of putting plants in place for next month, for next summer, well in advance of stress..."

"The heads-up is that we are going to be hearing more about pre-stress conditioning... We don't have all the answers right now. But we've got better answers today than we had five or 10 years ago. We can

Continued on page 24

BIG FANS OF ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION

New fan technology continues to improve its effectiveness and utility. See stories, page 13.



Course taking shape atop Montana Superfund site

By MARK LESLIE

ANACONDA, Mont. — It's a legend before its own time, designed by a legend in his own time. Old Works Golf Course won't

open until May 31, yet it has already made its mark: A Superfund cleanup site, which Jack Nicklaus called "one of the ugliest properties I've ever seen," transformed into a golf course that builder Chip Roe lauded as "breathtaking."

The former copper mine closed more than 90 years ago, but left behind a legacy of arsenic over its 250 acres. Turning it from a moonscape-like wasteland into a safe golf course

Continued on page 34

Rolling Greens Photography



QA &A HIGH-PROFILE DEBUT

After considerable ballyhoo, *The Sanctuary*—the first solo project from architect Jim Engh—opens next month in Castle Rock, Colo. Engh spoke with GCN about the project, his career and design philosophies. See page 31.

GolfSouth finds partner and funding source in ClubLink

By HAL PHILLIPS

GREENVILLE, S.C.—To compete for today's course operations contracts, it takes more than for-profit management credentials. It takes deep pockets.

The pockets at GolfSouth LLC just got deeper follow-

ing its alliance with Canada's only publicly owned golf course company, ClubLink. ClubLink and the founders of GolfSouth — N. Barton Tuck, Jr. and Derrell E. Hunter — have agreed the Toronto-based firm will initially fund certain capital for GolfSouth through loans. The pact also gives ClubLink an option to acquire the shares held by Tuck and Hunter in exchange for ClubLink shares.

For ClubLink, which operates six private clubs in Ontario, the alliance means a foothold in the U.S. market. For GolfSouth, it means the ability to compete with the increasing number of management companies which boast built-in funding sources. Among those firms hell-bent on acquisition are Santa Monica, Calif.-based

Continued on page 52



PGA Tour, Deere ink 3-tiered deal

By HAL PHILLIPS

MOLINE, Ill — In a deal that impacts three distinct segments of the golf industry, John Deere has reached an unprecedented nine-year agreement with the PGA Tour to provide turf equipment to the Tournament Players Club (TPC) network of courses, assume title sponsorship of the Quad City Classic and provide 385 acres for a new TPC course development here.

The nine-year partnership — comprising three consecutive 3-year leases — was announced at an April 2 news conference at Deere's world headquarters.

Other golf industry corporations have associated themselves with professional tour events, including The Scott Company's sponsorship of The Tradition,

Continued on page 55

Metamorphosis: Nicklaus, Roe turn Superfund site into course

Continued from page 1

presented immense technical and engineering problems — problems tangled in a web of legal hassles, extraordinary safety procedures and a sense of (as Roe said) “doing something for the children.”

“It has transformed this whole piece of property,” said Old Works GC superintendent Fred Soller Jr. “Plus, the scope of the entire project has attracted a lot of interest from the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] and scrutiny from people around the country waiting to see if it will fly.”

Indeed, has any project drawn so much attention from so many varied groups? The federal and state EPAs had representatives on site every day during construction. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Justice, environmentalists of every ilk, sportsmen, townspeople... they all kept close tabs on the work.

“There are 100-year-old pictures that show not one blade of grass was growing on that 200 acres,” said Kirk Welsh, director of field operations for North America for Nicklaus Design.

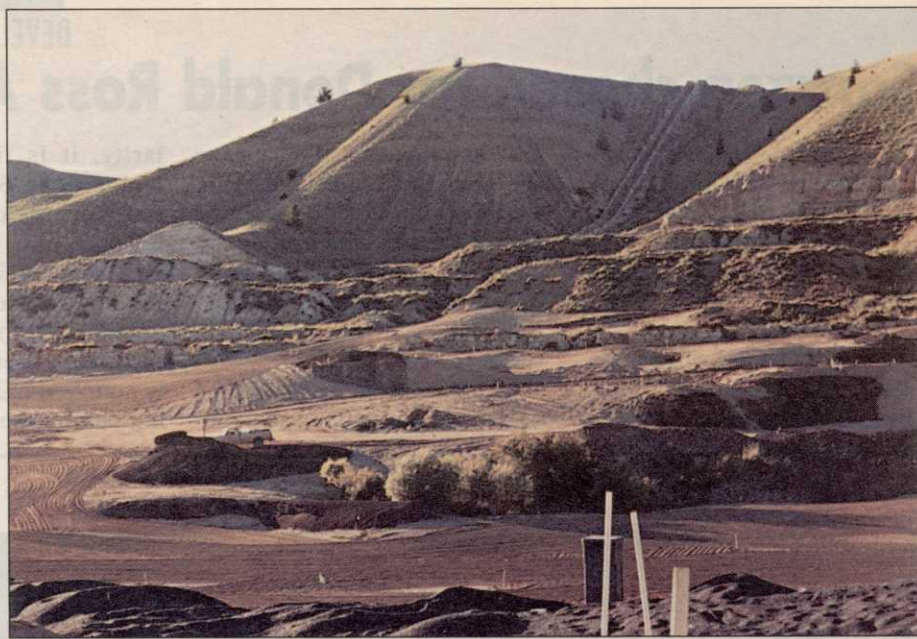
Soller confirmed the deadness of the property in his initial contact with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. He listed “none” under “existing species.” Yet, today there are moose, elk, deer, bluebirds... “You name it, it’s amazing,” said Welsh.

Twenty-one holes of bentgrass tees and greens, fescue-bent fairways and fine fescue roughs are entering final stages of grow-in in preparation for the May 21 opening and Nicklaus’ personal inaugural round sometime in July.

“When grass started turning green people were driving off the road,” said Sandy Stash, general manager for the Montana Division of Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO). ARCO bought the old mine from Anaconda Minerals Co. in 1977 and closed it down in 1980. Later, the federal government formed the Superfund and mandated that companies clean up toxic sites around the country. ARCO, not Anaconda Minerals, was stuck with the costs.

Superfund, Stash said, is “a you caught it you clean it law.”

Faced with a \$60 million cleanup bill,



Jack Nicklaus called Old Works Golf Course, with its mining flues and ovens, a golf museum.

ARCO sought a better way out. Grabbing hold of an off-the-cuff suggestion of a golf course from the then-county manager, the company began several years of negotiations with the federal EPA. The struggle, she said, was convincing the state, EPA and Department of Justice that this was a good idea.

“Once they bought into the concept they were a wonderful partner,” Stash said.

ARCO spent about \$15 million building

Old Works. It will be turned over to the County of Deer Lodge and operated by the local golf authority board.

Approvals aside, building a golf course on a smelting site, with its ovens and flues, was a chore that consumed most of Tom Roe & Son Construction’s time for nearly three years.

Some parts of the work took twice as long as normal — two weeks instead of

Continued on next page

Spreads More, Costs Less

Now you can topdress and spread organic materials with one very affordable machine

The mid-sized Millcreek Topdresser/Spreader is more versatile than greens-only topdressers, 1/3 the price of large-area topdressers. Starting under \$6000,* it’s a no-nonsense, non-hydraulic workhorse that’s easy to operate, and as reliable as they come.

Now you can topdress, plus spread compost, disperse clippings, fill bunkers, break and disperse aeration plugs, apply lime, wood chips and more - all with one affordable machine. More and more superintendents are finding the smaller Model 50 ideal for tees and greens because it has just 14.6 psi. The spread pattern adjusts from 3’ to 10.’ As one delighted superintendent says, “There’s nothing else like it.”

No question. Dollar for dollar, the Millcreek Topdresser/Spreader is your best value for all-around spreading versatility. You’ll wonder how you ever got along without it.

Topdresses and spreads all kinds of organic material. Two PTO models, from 1 to 2 cu. yd.



Millcreek’s patented “PowerBrush” action and adjustable directional fins enable you to spread almost any flowable material in paths from 3’ to 10’ wide. A single operator needs no tools for safe, easy adjustments. PTO or engine-drive. 2 cu. yd. capacity.

*Plus freight and set up.

Call today for the name of the dealer nearest you.



1-800-879-6507
FAX: (717) 355-2879
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505



The overseeder you can’t afford to overlook.

You’ve probably heard about the Verti-Seed® overseeders because they are the only ones that cut the soil, open the groove, sow the seed and close the groove all in one simple operation. You can also use it to implant a selection of granular materials.

Now with two models to choose from — the original and the wider 48 inch 1204 — you can choose the working width that exactly suits your needs. With the closest spacing in the market — 1 1/2 inches — you have maximum flexibility. It’s really a whole new concept in overseeding that has proven itself in many ways following recent harsh winters. Sow and play right away. Ask your dealer for a demonstration today.



VERTI-DRAIN®
Works like a pitchfork, only better.

Emrex, Inc., Box 1349, Kingston, PA 18704 (717) 288-9360

Old Works

Continued from previous page

one to build a green, for instance.

The course was shaped, lined, capped and reshaped, and finally seeded or sodded.

First, Soller explained, sub-drainage was installed. Roe capped this with 2 inches of crushed limestone as a buffer zone between the subgrade and the cap. An 18-inch layer of heavy clay material was then spread over the whole site, and, on top of that, a sand-loam material in which compost was incorporated.

Roe's crews spread 60-mil PVC liner under the bunkers, greens, tees and the site's two lakes.

Special care was taken with the greens. Herringbone drainage was installed. The liner was cut and fit down in the drainage, with the intent that no water will penetrate. Engineers felt that the gravel layer of the greens might puncture the liner, so a 3/8-inch felt material was laid over the liner. Only then were the normal U.S. Golf Association-spec greens built — minus only the choker layer.

The materials used? The subgrade took 600,000 cubic yards of material, while trucks hauled in 550,000 cubic yards of heavy clay and 150,000 cubic yards for the growth cap, said Soller.

Chip Roe estimated that there were 500,000 square feet of liner under one of the two manmade lakes and 200,000 square feet under the other.

The water supply, Soller said, comes from on-site wells and from water captured by the lining material. The front nine drains into a lake on the 5th hole. When that overflows, it feeds into the second lake on the back nine, which serves as the irrigation pond.

Perhaps most eye-catching of all the facets of the course is the jet-black sand in the bunkers. Created decades ago when water was pumped into the hot slag from the mining operation, the sand, Nicklaus said, is the best material he has ever hit out of in his life.

"Thomas Turf Labs tested it out beautifully," Soller confirmed, "and it gives the course a really unique appearance."

A number of waste bunkers (called "low-maintenance bunkers" on this Superfund site) give the course aesthetic flash as well.

Through it all, Nicklaus has carried the mining theme through to the finished product. Old flues and ovens provide a fascinating backdrop to the fairways, greens and tees.

"The idea," Nicklaus said, "was to put up signs at each hole to give a brief history for people to understand what's there... the historic period, how it was used, what it was used for, for people to read as they go. It's like a museum."

The result is a Nicklaus design that sits halfway between Glacier and Yellowstone national parks,

with a \$20 green fee.

The project, Nicklaus said, will lead to many jobs, plus income from hotels, restaurants and other businesses. And it saves ARCO \$15 million to \$20 million over the option of the Superfund cleanup.

"We have been very, very vocal," said ARCO's Stash, "that it has been a benefit to the community as well as saved us money over what the government could

have chosen."

"This was massive," Chip Roe said. "We're real proud of it. It's something our kids could look at. That's a reason we did it. You're making a mark. You tried to help the environment. That's what's nice about a golf course — and this one in particular.

"Tom's real proud. It was a dream of a lifetime. I said, 'We should quit. We did the biggest and the best.'"



Golf course builder Tom Roe stands at a teebox overlooking a portion of the former Anaconda Mining Co. property, which is now Old Works Golf Course.

Elegant embroidery and Standard Golf quality at affordable prices!

For decades, the worldwide golf industry has turned to Standard Golf for the highest quality flag values in the business. Now you can look to us for *superior embroidery*, too!

Using only the finest materials and UV-resistant, color-fast threads, we can translate your full-color logo or design into beautifully embroidered nylon flags—at prices guaranteed to make you smile. What a terrific way to dress-up your course. They make great pro shop souvenirs, too. For all the details, contact your nearby Standard Golf distributor.

**WHAT MORE
COULD YOU
ASK FOR
IN A TERRIFIC
NYLON FLAG?**



**STANDARD
GOLF COMPANY**

STANDARD GOLF COMPANY
P.O. Box 68
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA USA 50613-0068
319-266-2638 FAX 319-266-9627