

## Hercules CC

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a good one.

"I wrote a two-page letter to all of our members explaining that run-off is the result of negligence," Snyder said. "I explained to them that we properly apply the products used on the course and, therefore, run-off is not a problem for us." Snyder credits the low water solubility of pre-emergence herbicide, which kept the product from moving, even on slopes and hillsides.

Snyder communicates regularly with members.

He writes a column for the course newsletter on maintenance that includes a lawn-care tip, and puts weekly notices on a bulletin board

"Following the winter of 1994, we lost 30 acres of fairway grass to ice damage," he said. "I used the bulletin board to explain to our golfers how we were going to re-establish the grass. This let them know what we were doing and how their cooperation and patience would help."

According to Snyder, taking a chance and winning, gives more courage to try something new the next time. You have also improved your golf course and your career.

## Zebra mussels, other topics due

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Terry Bastian of Waterflow, a North Reading, Mass., ecological design firm that consults on Northeast courses, is speaking at the 2nd annual Northeast Conference on Nonindigenous Aquatic Species here.

The spread of zebra mussels, hydrilla, water chestnut and similar vegetation is a concern of

scientists, environmentalists and superintendents as they struggle with keeping their water features alive and beautiful.

Bastian's lecture, "Loosing Loostrife by Fire" details his work with fire management at the Sagamore Spring Golf Course in Lynnfield, Mass. The goal was to burn the wetland and keep it in a sedge meadow stage of succession, killing the speckled alder, poison sumac and white pine bushes that restricted air flow to the 15th green, exacerbating fungal problems. The burn worked and the green responded very well, being the healthiest green the next season.

"What I had hoped to do was lessen the fungicide and pesticide use with a practice that was used here until the 1970s. What was a pleasant surprise was that this technique severely affected the exotic purple loostrife population that was squeezing out the native plants," Bastian said.

## Research update

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tures. He wants to introduce that gene into bentgrass and possibly ryegrass.

Last year was the first year of the three-year study.

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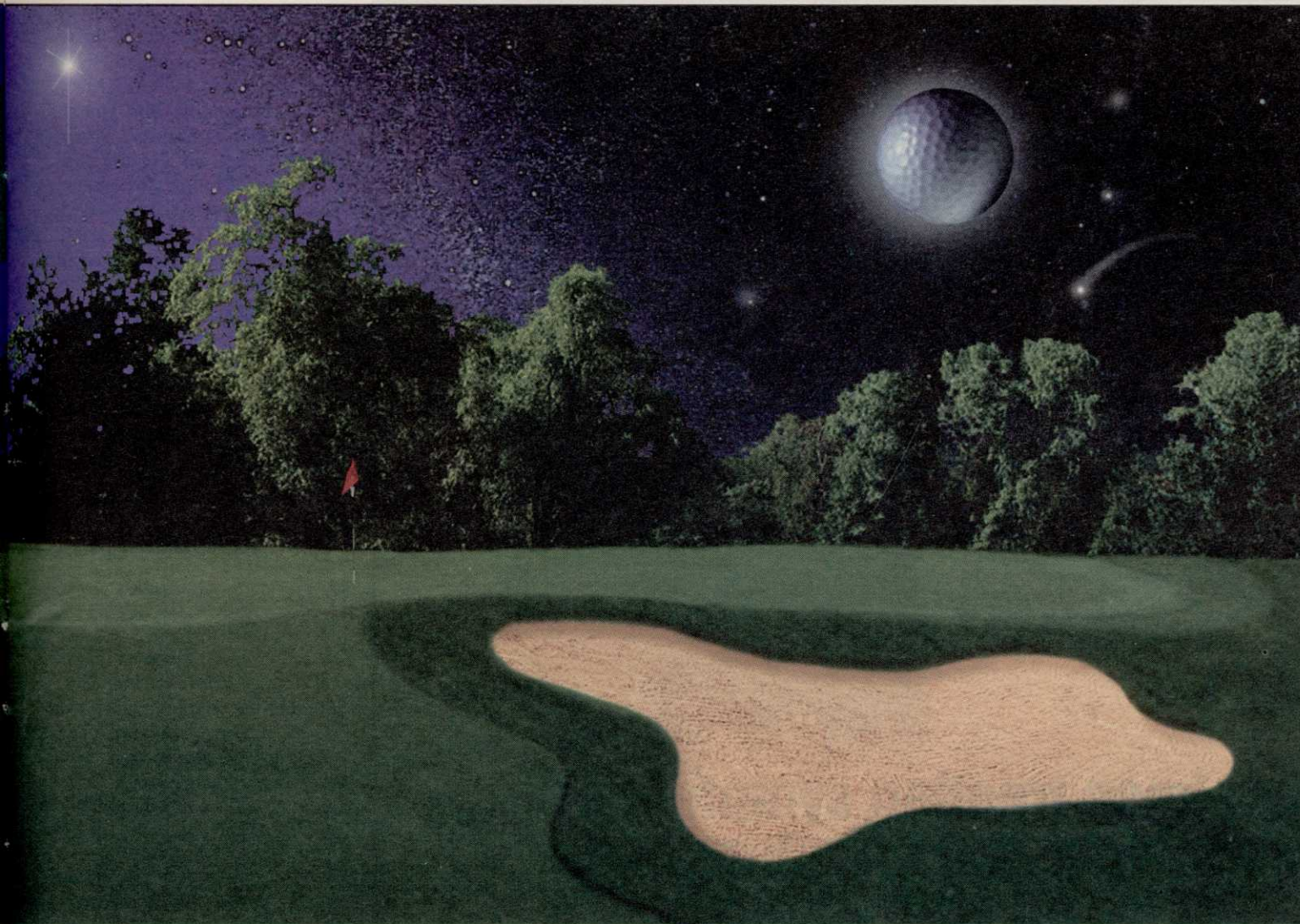
In other research:

- At the Laval University, PhD student Julie Dionne and Dr. Yves Desjardins have studied winter covers, finding that -10 degrees Celsius is "the critical minimum temperature where poa annua starts to sustain damage," Yamada said. "If you are in a very severe low-temperature climate and do not have any insulating covers, be it snow or other, you are in danger of sustaining damage just from low temperature."

- At Olds College researchers saw the trend for poa annua to deharder faster in the spring than bentgrass, explaining why it is more susceptible to early-spring damage.

- At the University of Manitoba scientists are investigating use of native species of perennial grasses and their potential use on golf courses and other settings as low-maintenance turf. They are establishing plots of buffalograss, side-oats grama, inland desert salt grass, tufted hair grass, Canada bluegrass, prairie junegrass, fowl bluegrass, alkalai and other non-traditional types of grasses. This year they will cut them at 7/10, 1-1/2 and 2-1/2 inches to see if they can be used on golf course roughs in very low-maintenance areas without irrigation.

"They will also be selecting for drought-tolerance as well as salt-tolerance," Yamada said.



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