

Software combines maps, database to customize

By PETER BLAIS

PORTLAND, Maine — A former assistant superintendent is ready to hit the market with a customized computer software application designed to help superintendents better manage their facilities.

The Golf Course Information System™ provides geographic mapping capabilities coupled with an organized database of all pertinent golf course management information in an easy-to-use Windows™ point-and-click environment.

"The system allows the superintendent to map his course and then use an historical database to spot trends," said Director of Sales and Marketing Peter Forester of Forester Associates Ltd., the Portland-based program developer.

For example, dollar spot was a yearly problem at The Gleneagles Golf Course at The Equinox in Manchester, Vt., where Forester worked as assistant superintendent for three years following his graduation from the University of Maine. An extensive scouting regime determined the exact locations of dollar spot outbreaks. The club then treated only those areas where the outbreak regularly occurred rather than the entire area, eventually reducing the treatment area from 10.45 acres to 2.74 acres while maintaining a healthy turf.

In addition to the course layout, the system allows the superintendent to map such features as irrigation heads, specific locations and varieties of trees, diseased areas, and recommended daily maintenance routes and schedules. It can also store historic data such as daily temperature highs and lows, rainfall and humidity levels. This information can be laid over course maps to help predict potential trouble spots. The software can also store photos and videos as well as text and tables.

The software costs from \$1,200 to \$1,500, Forester said. The major cost variable is the mapping. Using aerial photos, Global Positioning System readings and/or CADD drawings, Forester will map an entire course in 40 to 80 man-hours. That cost is in addition to the software package.

Forester said the company has targeted a couple groups. One is management companies. The management firm's individual courses could e-mail their information into a central office and share that among the various facilities. Forester said he would also like to work with environ-

mental associations, believing they may endorse the product since GCIS can help significantly reduce chemical applications.

For more information contact Forester Associates Ltd., 305 Commercial Street, Suite 503, Portland, ME 04101; 207-871-8659.

Design, construction seminar is scheduled

DELHI, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association, SUNY Delhi College of Technology and local golf course superintendent associations will sponsor a golf course design and construction seminar at SUNY Delhi on Aug. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sessions will include: "Bunker Design — Avoid the Traps," by Ron Forse of Forse Golf Course Design and Consulting of Uniontown, Pa; "Proper

Sand Selection and Tips from Experts," by superintendents Scott Dodson of Park Country Club of Buffalo and Joe Hahn of Country Club of Rochester. There will be a total of 1.5 DEC credits available for attendees.

New for this year is a special session for golf course mechanics. Hymie Williams of The Toro Co. will share information on sprayer calibration, maintenance and repair, and Brian Bridger of Foley United will present in-season reel mower sharpening techniques.

An afternoon shotgun tournament on the new 18-hole Delhi College Golf Course is planned.

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