

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

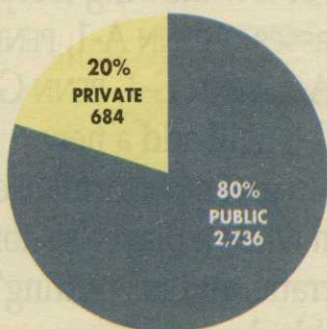
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A half-day session on biological controls, led by Dr. Eric Nelson, will highlight PGF's second day 54

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Yes. A sure-fire folk remedy that works wonders on your pond algae 18

TOTAL GOLF COURSE OPENINGS BY TYPE: 1986-1996



Source: National Golf Foundation

PUBLIC GOLF ROLLS ON

After 1990, new golf course openings began to pick up steam. Public golf, specifically daily-fee golf, contributed most to the upsurge in golf course development. See page 3 for more stats on the growing public golf arena.

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Toro, G&H ready for day in court

By M. LEVANS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn./LOS ANGELES — The battle between the Toro Company and Grizzle & Hunter Plastic Inc. — which has raged since December 1995 — will be tried by a jury on September 23.

Through the trial, Toro is seeking an injunction against Grizzle & Hunter that would permanently bar the manufacturer from producing its Bear Irrigation replacement sprinkler products.

In December 1995, Toro accused Grizzle & Hunter's top executives of stealing trade secrets related to the sprinkler conversion assembly — the guts of the sprinkler head. Grizzle & Hunter, a company spearheaded by Glendale Grizzle, an ex-Toro employee of 28 years, has been marketing a univer-

sal conversion assembly that can replace worn out Toro and Rain Bird sprinkler assemblies.

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COMING HOME

The 9th and 18th greens at Greystone Golf Club in Walworth, N.Y. This Craig Schreiner creation opened in June. See Q&A page 33.

Widow's Walk places environment first

By MARK LESLIE

SCITUATE, Mass. — When Palmer Course Design Co. finishes rebuilding The Presidio in San Francisco, the country will be bracketed by its first two "environmental demonstration project" golf courses. The first, Widow's Walk Golf Course, located on an old gravel pit and dump site in this coastal Massachusetts community, opened for play on June 28, to the delight of

golfers and environmentalists alike.

"I don't think any golf course has had more publicity than this one. That's because of what it is and

what it represents," said Dr. Michael Hurdzan who, with lead designer Bill Kerman and input from various environmental

Continued on page 23

Casper to keynote Public Golf Forum

By M. LESLIE

OAK BROOK HILLS, Ill. — Hall of Fame golfer Billy Casper, who has followed his playing career by operating golf course design and management companies, will keynote the 1997 Public Golf Forum here on Oct. 27.

The only national conference and show targeted to the owners, managers, developers and superintendents of public-access golf facilities, the *Golf Course News*-sponsored Public Golf Forum will be held Oct. 27-28 at Oak Brook Hills

Continued on page 50



The legendary Billy Casper

Whitbread takes lead

By PETER BLAIS

WARWICKSHIRE, England — This fall the European golfing community will turn its eyes to Whitbread Hotel Co.'s Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel & Country Club, site of the final European Tour stop before this September's much-anticipated Ryder Cup.

"We're hoping a number of the European team players will play in the One 2 One British Masters," said Whitbread Marketing Director Janet Matthews.

While the golfing public's attention will be fixed on the Warwickshire facility this September, the golf industry's gaze has turned with increasing

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A FINE FINISH

Kyle Phillips liked this course so much he moved there. The 18th at Granite Bay (Calif.) Golf Club is an example of Phillips' work with RTJII. See story on Phillips' new solo career, page 33.

Widow's Walk

Continued from page 1

groups, designed the course.

"We recognize, both as environmentalists and golf people, that we are all passengers on Space Ship Earth and that we need to conserve the resources we have here," Hurdzan said at a media opening. "This is an enormous attempt to try to put together an exciting, playable, fun, affordable, maintainable golf course using 50 percent of the water, fertilizer, pesticides and fossil fuel that a normal golf course would use."

"You're now sitting on an area that was barren," said Scituate Board of Selectmen Chairman Joe Norton. "It was an area that nothing grew on, nothing lived on and certainly no one enjoyed."

Hurdzan cited others who worked on the project, especially habitat planner Bill Burbank of Abbellire Inc. in Worcester and East Sandwich; Roy Parker and Lou Haines of Soils Management Technologies of Arvada, Colo., who contributed Profile porous ceramic and humates; Scotts Co., which contributed all the turfgrass seed and initial fertilizer as well as coconut core used on some of the greens; and Kerman, "the senior designer who handled all the details."

Time — and studies conducted by Terry Bastion of the ecological design firm Waterflowers in North Reading — will tell the impact of the golf course on the wetlands and habitat on the 118-acre property. But all stops were pulled in its development.

- G-1 bentgrass, a new variety that uses half the water of others, was used on the greens.

- Fairways and roughs were planted with Victory II and Banner II creeping fescue grass, which are disease-resistant, insect tolerant and need less fertility than others.

- Cart paths are built with recycled asphalt.

- Carpet was recycled for use in sod-face-type sand bunkers.

- The Smart Rain and Toro Sitepro computer-programmed systems operate the irrigation, optimizing water and chemical applications.

The golf industry is particularly interested in findings from the greens construction. Three different drainage systems were built on each of three different types of greens. One drainage system is the typical U.S. Golf Association herringbone-type pattern. Another is a flat drain tile (ADS Advantage) system that is laid on the subgrade rather than trenched. The third is no drainage except a "smile" drain at the low point where the water will leave the green.

With each of those three types of drainage are three types of green:

- a USGA-specified green with a 12-inch root-zone layer, intermediate layer, if required, and pea gravel layer;

- a California Method green, which is a 12-inch profile of 100-percent sand on the subgrade with a micronutrient package in the top 2 to 3 inches of the green; and

- a native sandy loam green, using the best available soil from the site as the greens matrix.

A leachate collection pit is installed at every green to provide water samples for

Bastion.

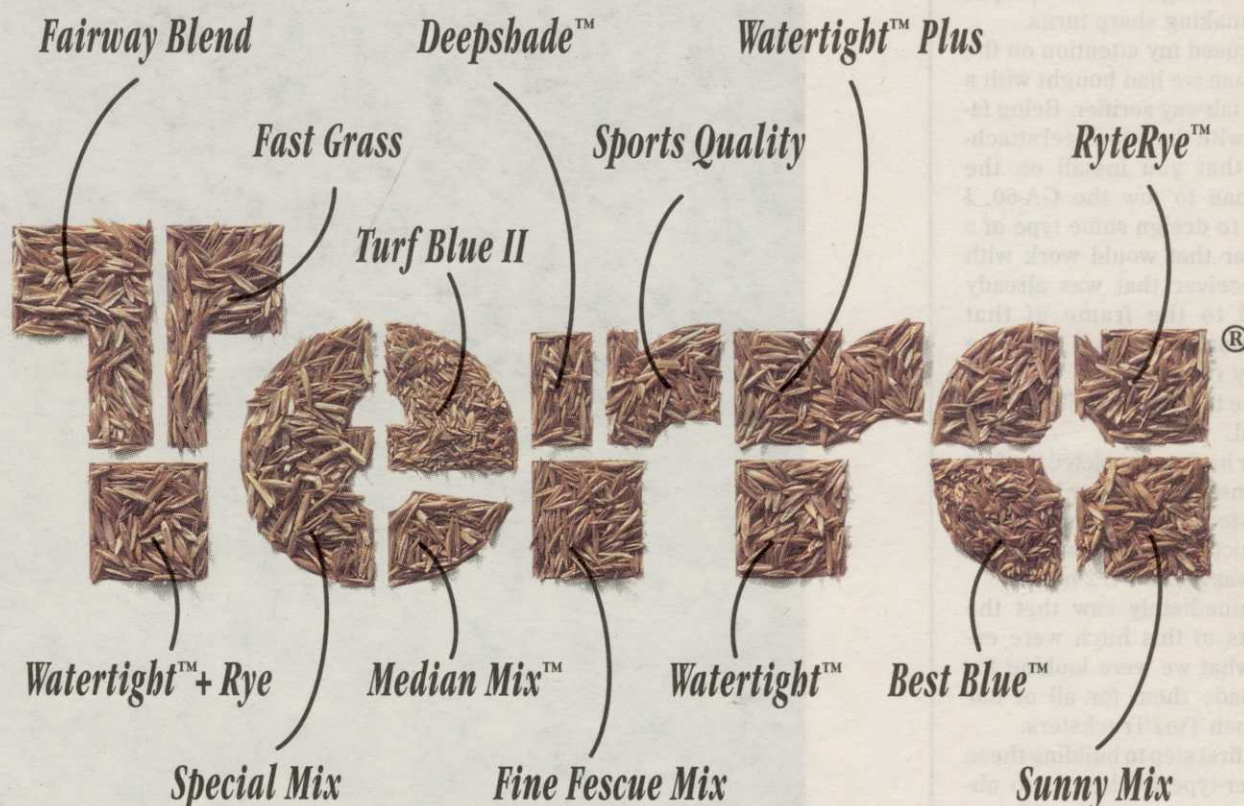
"The habitat planning was as important as the golf course," Hurdzan said. "We tried to leave the natural vegetation. There are wonderful communities of plants out here that have adapted over the years and we wanted to leave that. That is the look and feel we want."

Little did anyone know when Boston Sand and Gravel Co. mined away this land to build Logan Airport that, years later, it would be rebeautified — and a living laboratory as well.

"We in Scituate are thrilled," said Norton.



A golfer tees off over a pond 80 feet below on the par-4 17th hole, which exemplifies the ecological character of Widow's Walk Golf Course.



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