

## A bad-drainage fix

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superintendent's crew works with us, removing spoils and returning sod strips to the channels."

"The cost isn't bad," said Zoller, "not when you consider that golf courses have done serious drainage work on fairways, removing sod, taking out 6 to 8 inches of soil and capping them with sand. That can run into \$200,000 a fairway. With this method, they are charging \$12,000 to \$15,000 an acre. You might have a couple acres on a medium-sized, par-4 fairway. It at least bears some trial before deciding against it."

"It's vast savings," said Lansdale, "plus the down time is a big, big issue with some people. We go in with our system and then recommend a diligent aerification program to address the space (that native soil) between the channels. You aerify it to get the water percolating into the channels. You can come close to a sand-based green by disturbing and working with the soil."

While the tee and fairway application is easy because the 2-inch strips of sod are not replaced (the turf is left to heal on its own), Zoller said superintendents should realize that on putting green projects, their crews are responsible for putting sod strips back in after the Sand Channels are made.

"We ended up with eight to 10 people on the green for four days straight as they were doing the work," he said. "Those people are almost all working at putting the 2-inch-wide sod strips back in the ground. The application is only as good as your sodders are. I figured there were over 3 miles of 2-inch sod strip on one green. So basically the finished product isn't going to have as much to do with them [Sand Channel Greens] as it is with your crew and their ability to do a good sodding job."

"I was real proud of my guys. It's back-breaking work and very repetitive for four days."

Each green takes four days to complete and, the fifth day, it is back in play.

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Lansdale also pointed out that old golf courses wanting to maintain the character of their green designs are possible clients. "You have a classic design and don't want to disrupt it. You put in our system and end up with drainage," he said.

"In the last year we've done four Alister Mackenzie courses," Lansdale said, among them Green Hills, which did two greens, Montecino Country Club in Santa Barbara, and Pasatiempo Golf Course in Santa Cruz.

For superintendent Dean Gump at Pasatiempo the work was *deja vu*. He had 11 greens done in 1988 with the old vibratory system, then

four greens in 1995 with the Sand Channel method.

"The Sand Channel method seems to be performing much better than the old system," Gump said. "We had double the rainfall this year, and those four greens were better than the others on the course."

"The beauty of our system is return customers," like Pasatiempo, Lansdale said. "We are at a 70-percent return rate."

## Wisconsin GCSA elects Kienert to rule in 1997

The 250-member Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association (WGCSA) has re-elected its slate of officers, headed by President Mark A. Kienert of Bull's Eye Country Club in Wisconsin Rapids.

Vice president is Scott H. Schaller of North Shore CC in Menasha, while Kristopher J. Pinkerton of Oshkosh CC is treasurer and David A. Brandenburg of Rolling Meadows

GC in Fond du Lac is secretary.

Elected to two-year terms as directors were David E. Smith of Abbey Springs GC in Fontana and Gary Tanko of Sentryworld in Stevens Point.

Other current board members are Past President Mike Semler of Bishops Bay CC in Middleton, Andrew Kronwall of Lake Geneva CC and Charles Shaw of Nagawaukee GC in Pewaukee.

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