

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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OLD TOM & MORE

Ben Crenshaw will receive the GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award next month in Las Vegas. But there is so much more on the docket: Tournaments, elections, seminars... For a preview, see pages 27-30.

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New wetlands regs impact development

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has changed a wetlands permitting regulation that will affect commercial and residential developers across the board.

Ten percent of golf course projects built the last few years would have been affected by the new parameters had they been in effect, according to Dr. Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. of Wheaton, Md.

The regulation is Nation Wide Permit (NWP) 26, which is routinely re-issued every few years. In recent years, it has allowed projects

affecting 1 to 10 acres of isolated wetlands or stream headwaters. People could impact as much as 1 acre of wetlands without seeking permits. Under the new parameters, which went into effect in December, the 10-acre maximum of wetlands that a development can affect has been reduced to 3 acres and the 1 "free" acre

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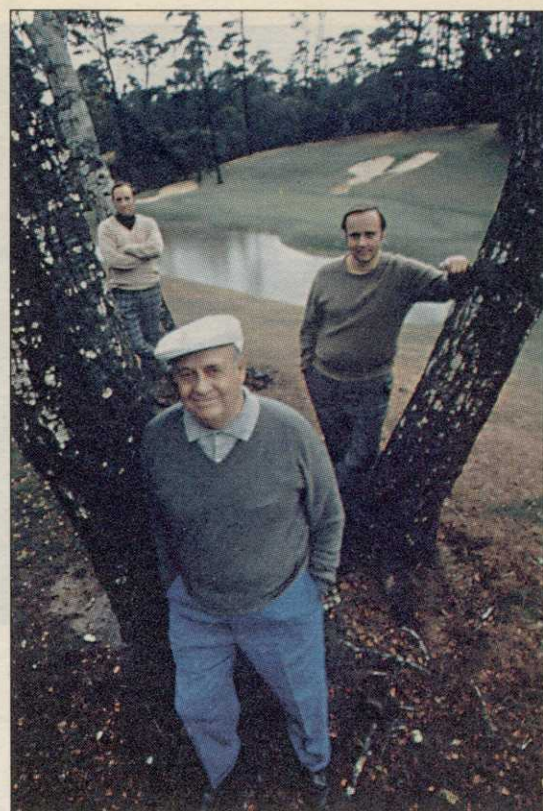
Pesticide-free courses not in the cards?

By MARK LESLIE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Faced with the rigors of foot traffic and golfer demands for low cutting heights, consistent ball lie and roll, superintendents' attempts to be pesticide-free are futile, according to a panel of scientists.

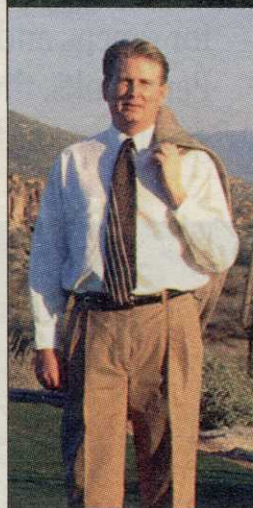
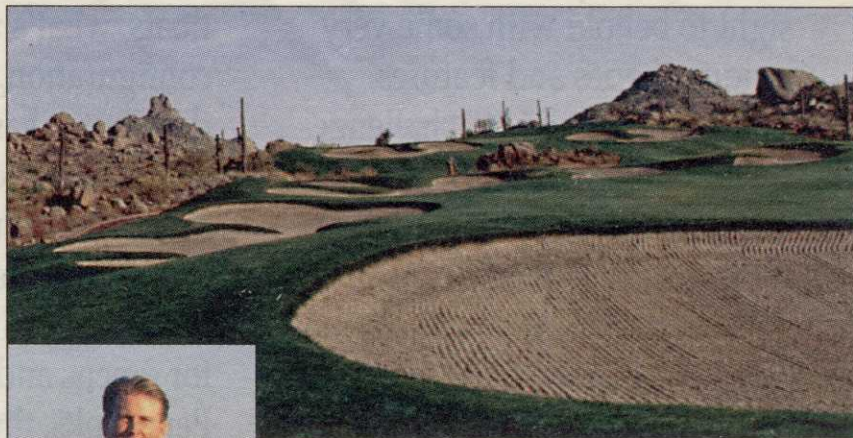
Speaking here at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Show & Conference, Drs. Dave Shetlar and Joe Rimelspach of Ohio State University and Dr. Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services concluded that, with a handful of exceptions, no golf course is pesticide-free.

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A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Jones Boys — sons Rees (left) and Bobby flanking dad Trent at Spyglass in the 1960s — are perhaps the best-known examples of design legacies. While the Jones Clan has been honored as the NGF's Family of the Year (p. 11), course architecture is filled with father-son teams. See story p. 35.



Above: The 18th hole at Troon North's Pinnacle Course. Inset: Troon Chairman Dana Garmany.

Newly capitalized Troon Golf targets upscale daily-fee market

By PETER BLAIS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Formation of a new partnership between Scottsdale-based Troon Golf Management and Starwood Capital Group LLC of Greenwich, Conn., should help Troon expand its golf course management portfolio and acquire additional properties.

"We're looking at the East and Midwest," said Troon Golf President and Chief Executive Officer Dana Garmany. We'll probably double our size to about 20 properties in the next 12 months."

Troon Golf's new partner, Starwood, is a 50-50 partner with Goldman Sachs in Westin Hotels. It also

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McGinnis: Supers need more credit, support

By PETER BLAIS

PEORIA, Ariz. — Getting course owners and club members to appreciate the contributions of their superintendents will be the primary goal of new Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Paul McGinnis.

"Superintendents simply don't receive the support and credit they deserve," said the head superintendent at Moon Valley Country Club here, who will assume the GCSAA presidency at the association's annual meeting in Las Vegas this February.

"We have quotes from Ben Crenshaw, Tom Watson and Rees Jones testifying to the superintendent's importance. But the word hasn't gotten out enough, yet. We're planning educational seminars for owners and green chairmen at both the annual meeting and at regional seminars around the country.

"We'll continue to use *Newsline* [the GCSAA newsletter], which is mailed to

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Golf Course Marketplace

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New wetlands regs

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has been cut to one-third of an acre.

"One-third of an acre is next to nothing — a few cart path crossings," said Ron Boyd, president of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. in Williamsburg, Va. "This puts more people into the permit process. It will mean a lot more permitting and paperwork for the Corps... It also affects mitigation requirements, so more time and cost are involved there."

Williamsburg Environmental has consulted on golf projects where it has tried to keep the wetlands impact under an acre, "so that it would only entail field verification and the project is off and running," Boyd said. "Now if you're at an acre you have to go through the permit process. It may add three to six months to the process."

Several states already require state-level permitting for properties affecting under an acre of wetlands. In those states, developers must deal with both the Corps of Engineers and the particular state agency.