

# 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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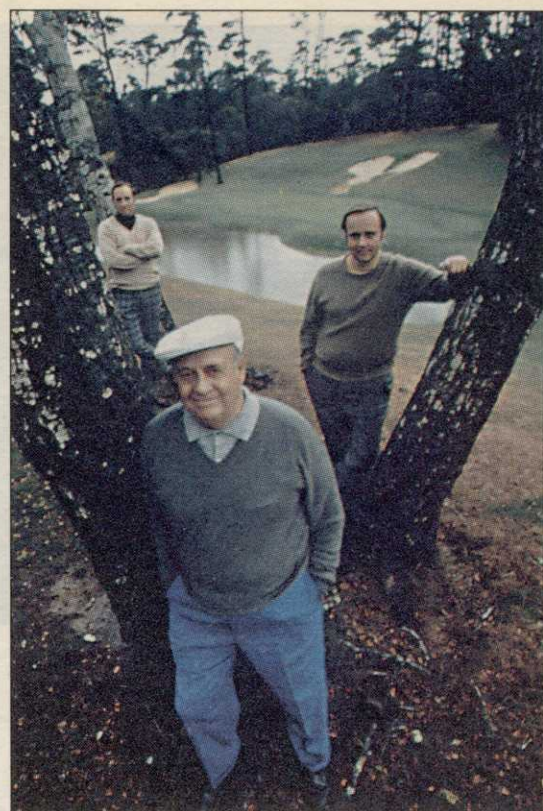
## Pesticide-free courses not in the cards?

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.

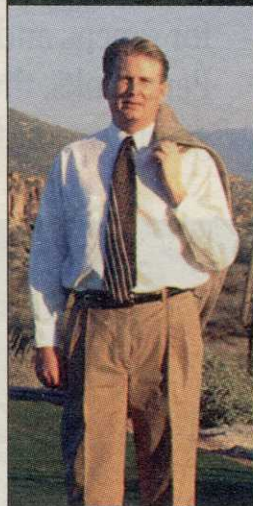
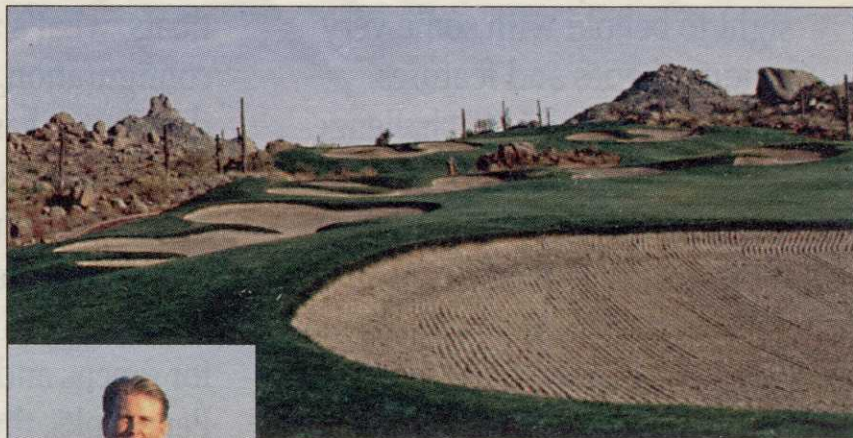
Speaking here at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Show & Conference, Drs. Dave Shetlar and Joe Rimelspach of Ohio State University and Dr. Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services concluded that, with a handful of exceptions, no golf course is pesticide-free.

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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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## Pesticide-free

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Squaw Creek in California and Applewood in Colorado are both pesticide-free, and the price they pay is extraordinary labor ex-

penses for such duties as hand-picking weeds and at times heavy turf damage from disease, said Cohen.

"The bottom line," said Shetlar, "is that it is almost impossible to operate a golf course pesticide-free. But you can dramatically reduce the level of pesticide, the amounts of pesticides ... and the kinds of pesticides you use that might increase environmental risk."

To go pesticide-free, Rimelspach said, "we would have to re-

duce management standards."

Some superintendents, Cohen said, think they don't use pesticides, not knowing the full definition: any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest ... or as a plant regular or defoliant. Many people don't realize that plant growth regulators are pesticides. Pheromones, insect growth regulators, salts of fatty acids, Bt and herbicides all fit the definition, he said.

Cohen said if a turfgrass is

grown in quickly and kept healthy, the need for pesticides is minimized. He cited one superintendent who used no herbicides on his course for the first four years.

Cohen suggested that superintendents have risk assessments done at their courses, evaluating chemicals and the probability of harm or of exceeding some action level. These assessments consider toxicity and exposure (because "the dose makes the poison") and evaluate pesticide mobility of the chemical in water, persistence,

human and aquatic toxicity, runoff, erosion and other factors.

During construction, Cohen recommended: creating wetlands, moving golf holes, tilting or berming fairways to funnel drainage to certain areas, building greens to U.S. Golf Association specifications, installing catch basins for leachate from greens, and upgrading irrigation systems.

The three scientists recommended a variety of methods and materials that can reduce a golf course's toxic level:

- Although Bts have not worked well on cutworms and moderately well on sod webworms, new Bt materials have given excellent control of both. Condor Bt has provided the best control.

"But," Shetlar warned, "although Bt is a biological control, it is identified by EPA as a pesticide, so don't promise to be pesticide-free if you use it."

- Raise mowing heights.
- Reduce fertilization of areas near bodies of water.

- Judiciously and heavily use potassium, especially sulfate of potassium (for less burn).

- Hang the spray boom out over the edge of the green or tee and spray the fringe area when applying pesticides. Black cutworms do not originate in greens and tees, but wander there when they reach 1/2 inch in size.

When using this strategy, beware of sod webworms because they have appeared in tests in the absence of cutworms.

- Cruiser and Savior Nema nematodes effectively control surface insects. They are not considered pesticides and are not regulated.

"We are not convinced that parasitic nematodes are good for white grub control," Shetlar said.

- Use the traditional organophosphates, which are neurotoxins.

- Use botanical insecticides as insect growth regulators. They have very low use rates.

- For white grub control, the biological Mocap 10G works well at a rate of 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

- Top dressing helps control dollar spot, red thread and snow mold.

"Our goal," said Rimelspach, "is to use compost materials with other medium — like sand or peat — to minimize pesticides on greens right from the beginning."

"One of the biggest problems with compost is that there is often little consistency in the product. There are some fabulous composted materials and there are some that are practically toxic waste. I caution using them on a continual basis unless you have extremely high confidence in the consistency and quality of that material."

While the goal of pesticide-free golf courses appears most often unattainable, the chemical industry's advances in reducing amounts of active ingredient bode well for the future.

As an example Shetlar said: "Our standard pesticides are used at multiple pounds of active ingredient per acre. As Merit has come along we have been able to drop that down to .3 pound per acre."

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