

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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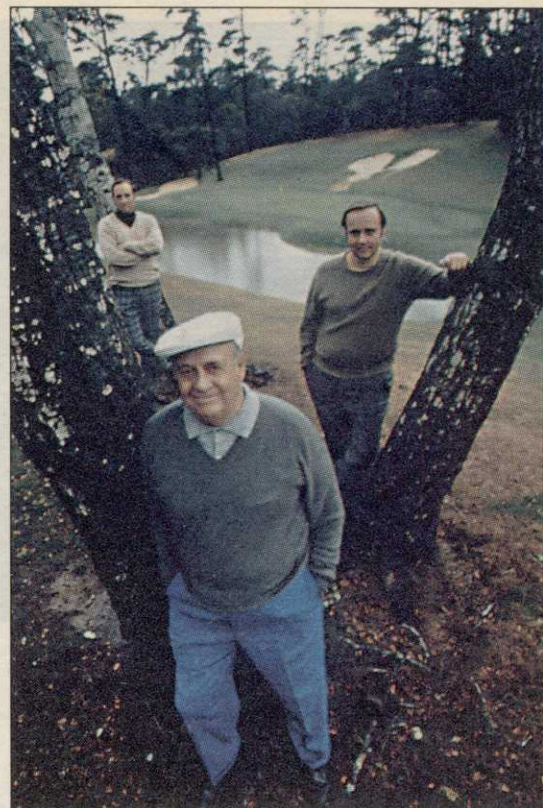
Pesticide-free courses not in the cards?

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.

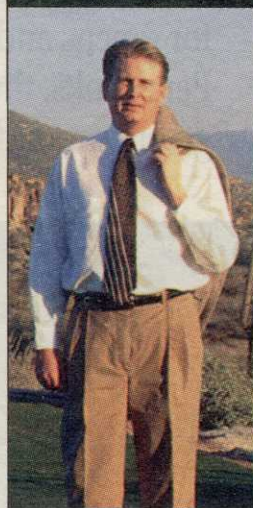
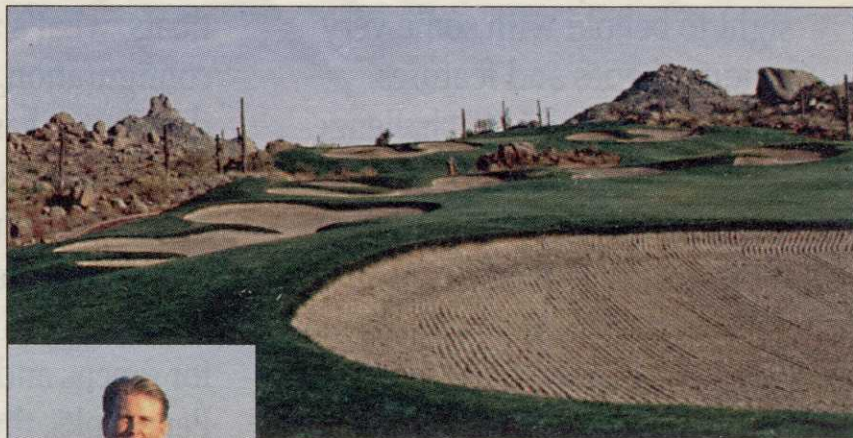
Speaking here at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Show & Conference, Drs. Dave Shetlar and Joe Rimelspach of Ohio State University and Dr. Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services concluded that, with a handful of exceptions, no golf course is pesticide-free.

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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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Appreciation, credit for supers are GCSAA goals

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owners and club presidents. We hope our superintendents will supply us the names of the key people at their clubs so we can educate them as well."

McGinnis, a 19-year GCSAA member and director since 1992, sees himself as a bridge between the chaotic times the association experienced four years ago and the relative calm of today.

"I was one of the first of the new group of board members who helped change

the association's direction," he recalled. "Last summer we had some productive meetings with the Professional Golfers Association. We barely spoke five years ago. We may have different points of view, but we realize that we are in this golf industry together. We told [GCSAA Chief Executive Officer] Steve Mona and [Chief Operating Officer] Joe O'Brien to improve our relations with the allied groups and they've done a great job."

In addition to the officer and board of

director elections, the membership will vote on a proposed 20-percent dues increase and several bylaw changes at the annual meeting.

The dues increase would raise annual fees from \$210 to \$250 for classes A, B and C-V (a newly proposed assistant's designation) and \$125 for Class C (assistant) superintendents. Delegates at September's chapter relations meeting endorsed the idea of a dues increase and the chapter relations committee for-

warded that recommendation to the board.

"After seeing the financial figures and considering how we've increased programs, educational sessions and public relations efforts, without raising dues, they [chapter delegates] decided it was time for the membership to step to the plate," the incoming president said. "It's been six years since we've had a dues increase. According to one study, most associations get 20 to 21 percent of their revenues from dues. We're around 17 percent right now."

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

One amendment would waive the dues requirement for Class AA (retired members), which currently stands at \$15.96 per year. It would remove the requirement that a member be 55 to qualify for AA Life status, instead requiring the retired member either be a former board member or voting member for 25 years. There are 441 life members meaning the amendment would reduce revenues by \$7,000 annually.

"Retired members have basically paid that amount to stay on our insurance rolls," McGinnis said. "The feeling is these people have put in their time and given their service and we ought to give them something back."

The proposed new C-V class of assistant superintendent mentioned earlier would have the same privileges (including the right to vote in elections but not the right to hold office) as head superintendents and be required to pay the same dues. Currently assistants pay half what a head superintendent pays.

To qualify for the voluntary Class C-V status an assistant would have to have at least three years experience and be employed as an assistant. The Class C title would continue to be an option for assistants who would pay half dues, but not be allowed to vote or hold office. The membership will vote on this proposed bylaws amendment at the annual meeting.

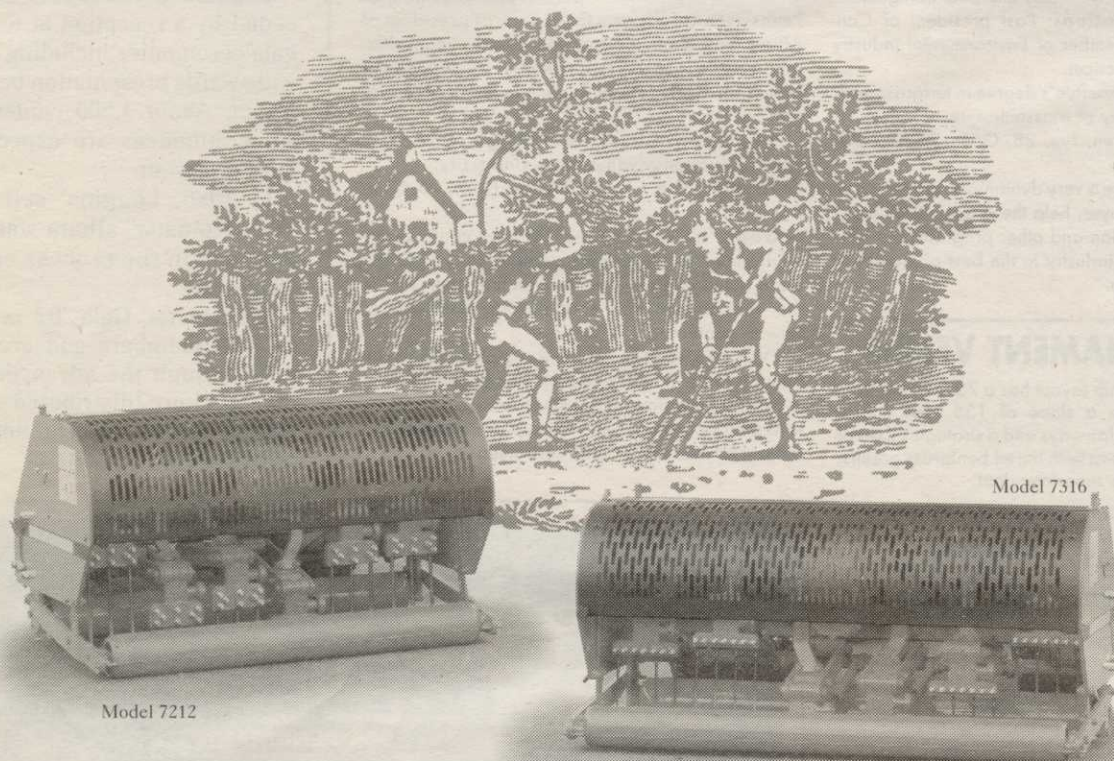
"The C-V designation recognizes there are assistants who want to remain in that position and want the right to vote," McGinnis said. "These people are very valuable to their courses and the GCSAA."

REAFFILIATION AGREEMENTS

Another topic likely to be discussed at the annual meeting, although no vote is in order, is the progress of the new chapter reaffiliation agreement. McGinnis said 60 percent of the chapters had met all their reaffiliation obligations as of mid-December and he expected 90 percent to be on board by the March 31 probation deadline.

"Many of the chapters have their annual meetings in December, so we expect to field many reaffiliation applications in the next couple of months," McGinnis said. "Only 10 or 12 chapters have indicated they won't stay with GCSAA and most of those are turfgrass [rather than superintendent] associations. Many of those who haven't reaffiliated yet are in the process of doing so or simply got a late start."

McGinnis said members of several smaller chapters, including the Mohawk Valley and Rio Bravo GCSAs, could end up joining larger chapters. "I don't think we'll lose anybody because of the reaffiliation agreements," the incoming president said. "We expect to have between 90 and 95 [there are currently 103] chapters when the dust settles."



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