

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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### THEY WIELD A DEVIL'S PAINTBRUSH

Superintendent Ken Wright with assistant superintendent Scott Clayworth at Devil's Paintbrush in Caledon, Ontario, Canada. See page 20 for Super Focus.

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## OSHA pushes case for ergonomics

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Arguing that ergonomics is the solution, not the problem, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) ergonomics coordinator defended the agency's work to define guidelines for the workplace.

"Our Congressional mandate is to prevent injury and illness in the workplace," said Nancy Adams. "The way the debate gets framed, ergonomics is the problem. But it's not. It's an intervention strategy to prevent the injury from happening, by good engineering, good process design, fitting the job to the worker and not the worker to the job. You can't do that as one-size-fits-all."

OSHA's push into the realm of ergonomics is not new. The first ergonomist joined the agency in 1979, and talks with labor, trade associations and professional organizations began in the early 1980s. But the business

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## Golf Trust adds \$79M. to the kitty

CHARLESTON, S.C., — Golf Trust of America Inc. has signed a commitment with Troon Golf of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Starwood Capital Group LLC of Greenwich, Conn., to loan the two businesses \$69.9 million and a subsequent \$9.0 million to buy two golf resorts.

The resorts include Innisbrook Resort, a 63-hole golf and conference facility near Tampa, Fla., and the Tamarron Resort, an 18-hole golf and conference facility near Durango, Colo.

The acquisition will be made by TM Golf Host, a partnership between Troon and Starwood.

The assets in the merger transaction will include the golf courses, the resort operation assets and developed and undeveloped land, but will exclude the hotels which are individu-

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### CARVED ON THE STONE

Bay Harbor Golf Club has taken shape on a five-mile stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline in northern Michigan. It sits on the former site of a cement factory and a quarry that produced sand and gravel. Eighteen holes are ready, nine more will see limited play this fall. See story page 39.

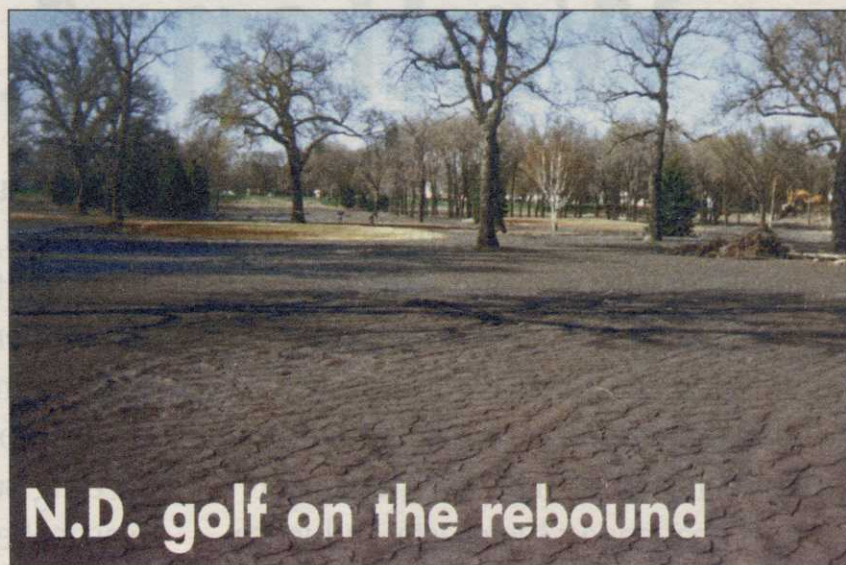
## Irri-Tech on board with Smart Rain

By M. LEVANS

KOMOKA, Ontario, Canada — Irri-Tech Distribution Inc. is the latest on Smart Rain Corp.'s growing list of distributors for its new irrigation control system package that allows superintendents head-by-head sprinkler control.

Irri-Tech — a three-person division that Blue Jay Sprinkler Co. started specifically to accommodate the Smart Rain business — will be the exclusive distributor for Ontario, Western Canada and Northern Michigan.

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## N.D. golf on the rebound

By BOB SPIWAK

GRAND FORKS, N.D., — The Red River has receded into its banks after cataclysmic flooding this spring, but golf courses in the Red River Valley are still struggling to get back to normal.

In the Grand Forks area alone, damage estimates are around \$8 billion, and not one golf course is fully operating 18 holes again. Courses are still tallying up the damage with Federal

Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) — not only for facilities but lost revenues in an area where an estimated 80 percent of the population plays golf.

At Lincoln Park, a municipal facility run by the Grand Forks Park District, superintendent Steve Mullally said 60 acres of the 18-hole course will have to be reseeded, and nine of the holes

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## OSHA

Continued from page 1

and industry communities got concerned when, in 1992, an "Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" targeted such items as:

- Lifting or carrying anything weighing 25 pounds without assistance more than once during a workshift.

- Using vibrating tools, which

would include weed-eaters, for more than two hours.

- Working in awkward positions (such as kneeling, stooping or squatting) for more than two hours.

- Performing the same motions every few seconds.

"That's called labor," quipped one superintendent regarding the 25-pound limit. "The standard weight [for bags for vari-

ous products] is 50 and 80 pounds."

Various other chores on a golf course maintenance crew could be affected by proposed new regulations. But Adams said, "Old draft proposals are not relevant.

"Clearly the information we collected, in terms of baseline data for exposures and that sort of thing ... will all be used as we move forward to try to figure out

how to address the issue from a regulatory perspective. But the approach we will take hasn't been determined yet."

Adams said OSHA will conduct a series of conferences with "stakeholders" around the country to gather their input and concerns on effective practices of ergonomics. The next will be held Sept. 23 outside Buffalo, N.Y. The specifics will be an-

nounced from OSHA's 10 regional headquarters and through its site on the OSHA web page: <http://www.osha.gov>.

The first session, in January, drew more than 1,000 people.

"The clear running thread of everything presented," Adams recalled, "was that OSHA should proceed with a programmatic approach."

Adams defined "programmatic" as having a program that contains "top-management commitment to deal with the issue; employee involvement in the cost-effective solutions to problems they have; training and education; job analysis; and some type of intervention, whether it's engineering controls, rotation, job modification, tools, etc., and medical management.

"If they have a process in which all these things are dealt with, they're addressing ergonomics from a programmatic standpoint. It's not any one thing, but a process."

Asked whether new regulations might include such parameters as the 25-pound limit of 1992, Adams said: "I don't know that in the foreseeable short term we will have enough information to pick specific triggers like that. We may be able to say that there is a range of triggers.

"The issue can get so skewed when people get down to an individual's capacities to do a specific job. Maybe in our lifetime there will be science or technologies to allow us to say you can do this amount or that amount, but we're not there. Until then, there need to be boundaries. Those boundaries need to be flexible enough, in terms of industries and operations, to allow the process to continue. But they also need to be defined enough so that we try to limit the number of people who get hurt."

Adams thought those in the golf industry should look upon ergonomics as a cost- and man-hour-saving issue.

"Folks who have successfully dealt with this," she said, "lowered their compensation rates, lowered their injury and illness rates, and lowered the severity of the injuries when they indeed still had some injuries."

Most important, she said, is that "this is not a one-time process. Dealing with ergonomics is never-ending. The easily recognizable things you fix quickly. Other things you don't see right away. With others, you might fix one thing and unwittingly create another; or you trade one stress for another one.

"Some liken it to the song *Hotel California*. You can check out but you can never leave. But it's clear the investment up front, while it seems cost-intensive, in the long term pays and pays and pays for itself."



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