

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 7
JULY 1997 • \$5.50

INSIDE

Seed Update: Buffaloes & Blues

Researchers report great strides toward golf course quality in both turfgrasses. 34-38

Up, Up and Away

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) takes GPS technology to new heights on the golf course. 25



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.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Mega-vacuum removes bunker sand 17
A blower for a smokeless society 24
Volunteers rain down upon Congressional 30

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Q&A with the up and coming Stephen Kay 39
Citizens give \$2.2M. for county track 42
LACC's South Course facelift complete 44

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Paula Eger ascends GSG's career ladder 49
Positive first impressions equal profit 49
Landauer/Horwath to sell Asian-owned projects ... 50

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

RohMid's Mach 2 gets the nod from the EPA 57
Toro/Hardie announce new facility strategy 57
Monitor your pump station without a PLC 57

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

Continued on page 53

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-

Continued on page 50



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.

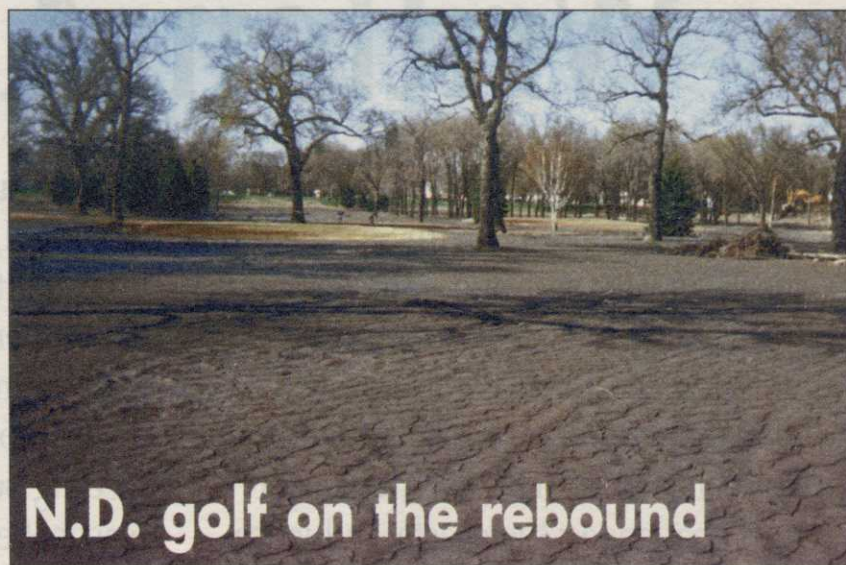
Irri-Tech on board with Smart Rain

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.

Continued on page 60



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

Continued on page 13

CETCO consolidates in Fairmount

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. — Colloid Environment Technologies Co. (CETCO), a producer of pond and other liners, moved the manufacturing of its Bentomat line from its Villa Rica, Ga., plant to its Fairmount, Ga., facility. "This is the consolidation

of two plants that were running individually within 100 miles of each other," said Rick Roeser, CETCO's director of marketing. Once the move is complete, CETCO said it will integrate new laminating technology, better utilize manpower and tighten inventory.

Oglebay takes Kurtz's Sports Turf

CLEVELAND — The Industrial Sands Group of Oglebay Norton Company has acquired the Sports Turf Division of Kurtz Bros., Inc. of Independence, Ohio. Oglebay Norton said it will continue to operate the division as a separate business unit under the name Kurtz Sports Turf Services,



a supplier of sand and organic blended materials to golf courses in Ohio and neighboring states, for a period of time.

According to R. Thomas Green, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer of Oglebay Norton, "This acquisition is important to our con-

tinuing focus on sand-related businesses as sand is a substantial component of many of the blended products sold by Kurtz Sports Turf."

Oglebay Norton's other interests include Great Lakes marine transportation, the mining and marketing of industrial sands, and the manufacture and marketing of metallurgical products and related materials used in steelmaking.

RegalCrown™

"The Plant Growth Stimulator"

Develop a turfgrass root system that grows deeper and is more dense for your golf course with RegalCrown®. Healthy growing turfgrass requires a root mass that can endure the stress of hot summer weather and winter desiccation with the added pressure of turf traffic.

RegalCrown® provides excellent root development to minimize turfgrass stress and pressure. The result is healthy, fine quality turfgrass.



"For the lion's share of quality turfgrass"



REGAL CHEMICAL COMPANY / P.O. BOX 900 / ALPHARETTA, GA 30239 / 1-800-621-5208

CIRCLE #137

Smart Rain/Irri

continued from page 1

"We came upon Smart Rain by accident," said Joe Carter, Irri's vice president of sales and marketing. "I sold a pumping system to the City of London's River Road Course and one of their suppliers introduced us to the technology," said Carter. "We hadn't seen anything like it before."

The Smart Rain system (see GCN Feb, page 19) is a network of 6" and 12" soil probes that sense soil conditions of an entire course in real time. Data collected include soil temp, water content and fertilizer levels at every probe location, allowing a superintendent the ability to manage a course head-by-head and water where necessary through a software module called Smart Watering.

Through Smart Rain's software package, a superintendent can see a 3D layout of every sprinkler head, as well as color-coded turf conditions, on an office-based computer. Head-by-head watering can be controlled from there.

"We have about a dozen distributors lined up but unsigned at this point," said Jim Simonini, vice president at Smart Rain. The company started its distributor training program at the beginning of June.

According to Simonini, distribution locations are on the brink of being confirmed in Denver and Pittsburgh in the U.S. The company already has Australian and South African distributors on line.

Beta-test sites included Mount Bruno Country Club outside Montreal and Michael Hurdzan's Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate, Mass.

Smart Rain sensors will be ready to hit the market by July 1.

Carter hopes that Irri's initial marketing investment in the system will pay off. "We've been involved for about a year," said Carter. "We knew it was going to take some time to make some money. But we're committed and we hope to gain more distribution area in time and prove we can handle it," he said.