

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-

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.

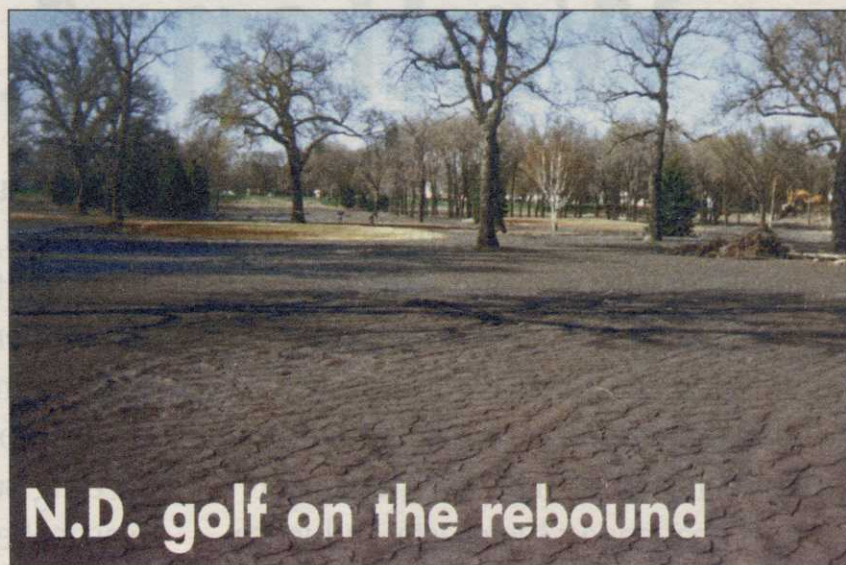
Irri-Tech on board with Smart Rain

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

N.D. floods

Continued from page 1

may be lost to either a diversion ditch or a new dike. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is deciding the path to take, but in either case, the course will be reduced to nine holes and a new 18 built elsewhere. By a stroke of good fortune, the land for 18 holes had already been purchased.

Mullally, as others, spoke of the high level of stress in the Grand Forks community.

"The people need diversion from their troubles and we're working as hard as we can to get them a place to play golf," he said. Reseeding will cost about \$60,000. Revenue loss is estimated at \$200,000 and it will cost at least \$500,000 to replace the destroyed clubhouse.

The north-flowing Red River is the dividing line of North Dakota and Minnesota, and is joined at Grand Forks by Red Lake River. The land is flat, comprised of rich, black soil. At normal flow, the Red runs at around 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs.) At the peak of the flood, it was gauged at 150,000 cfs and ran 31 feet higher than normal. Millions of tons of water brought with it uncountable tons of fine silt, which choked the land when the river returned to its banks — silt so fine that when it dried, it hardened like concrete.

Mark Lindberg, superintendent at Edgewood Golf Course in Fargo, is having a hard time dealing with the dried silt. In an effort to reseed through an inch of the hardpan, his aeration equipment is suffering.

"We're doing a lot of welding and repair on equipment," he said. The turf is gone from the course which was under water for 40 days. He is attempting to aerify it and then re-seed with a slit seeder. The hardened silt does not wash away under high-pressure hoses. Breaking through, or removing the silt, is the only way to deal with the problem.

At Lincoln Park, which had more than four times the amount of silt, Mullally plans to break up the silt layer and haul it off in trucks, some 2,400 cubic yards. Then, he said, it will be harrowed and a box-scraper will be used crosswise on the fairways to take out the remainder. Then the earth will be rototilled to 2 inches and reseeded.

The flooding was not the only problem. When it was certain the water would rise, Lindberg and his crew hastened to erect the driving range net while there was still vehicular access to the poles. Once the net was up, a blizzard hit and was followed by a sleet storm which destroyed the entire netting system.

Grand Forks Country Club was under water for 20 days. Superintendent Mark Bergstrom figures at least \$250,000 damage was done there.

The course lost five fairways, and has been re-configured to a nine-hole venue. The day before the flood reached its peak, Bergstrom and crew boated to the maintenance shop and emptied the chemical building, put-

ting the materials on a tarp and moving it and the equipment to a green on higher ground. He had everything moveable on the floor put on shelving 18 inches off the floor. The waters rose to 17 inches.

At Edgewood, Lindberg had the fertilizer shed sandbagged, which saved the contents.

Despite billions of dollars in damages, the cost to the human

psyche has been phenomenal, and probably longer-lasting. Bob Leach, owner of the Golf Center driving range in Grand Forks, said his business is better than ever. He attributed this to people coming to combat stress and take their minds off their troubles as well as to possibly relieve some aggression.

Without a trace of self-sympathy, he said: "We live in a 52-

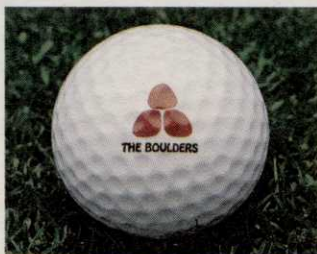
year-old house which never had a drop of water in it through past floods until this year. It completely flooded the basement and we had 4 inches in the upper level." (Many Dakotans center their living in finished basements, especially during the windy, sub-zero winters.)

"The water was 8 feet higher than ever before in history,"

Continued on next page



Grand National
Auburn/Opelika, AL



The Boulders Resort
Carefree, AZ



Grayhawk Golf Club
Scottsdale, AZ



Four Seasons Resort Aviara
Carlsbad, CA



Keystone Ranch Golf Course
Keystone Resort, CO



Jupiter Hills Club
Jupiter, FL



Lake Nona Club
Orlando, FL



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Williamsburg, MI

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Floods

Continued from previous page

Leach said. "You look out on the [collection] berms around this town — there are 17,000 washers and dryers, 17,000 hot-water heaters, 17,000 furnaces, as many electrical services and some people are still without electricity."

But, he noted, "Golf is still alive and well here in North Dakota." Leach has regripped "thou-

sands and thousands of clubs this year," as they were recovered from homes after the flood.

Because FEMA will not allow relocation in a flood plain, which was virtually all the area this spring, Leach estimated that 15 percent of the population (about 80,000) will have to relocate.

What he finds rewarding is the manner in which people have been helping others: "There they

are, working 15 hours a day assisting someone else when their own homes have been destroyed, or their businesses were flooded, then burned in the fire [which destroyed half of downtown Grand Forks]," he said.

"Maybe," Leach added, "it's because there are so many Norwegians here. They're tough and resilient — and they look out for others."



Grand Fork, N.D.'s Lincoln Park GC, where all 18 holes were flooded.



The Wilds Golf Club
Prior Lake, MN



Interlachen Country Club
Edina, MN



Carmel Country Club
Charlotte, NC



Newton Country Club
Newton, NJ



Monroe Golf Club
Pittsford, NY



Bent Creek Country Club
Lancaster, PA



The Dunes Golf & Beach Club
Myrtle Beach, SC



Long Cove Club
Hilton Head Island, SC

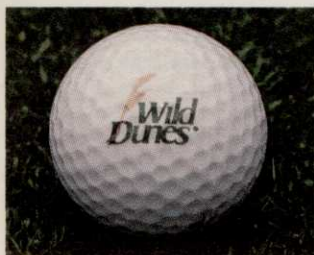
Toledo golf market widens

TOLEDO, Ohio — The fast-improving Toledo public golf scene will gain a new player with the scheduled opening of The Legacy early this month.

The Legacy, designed by Arthur Hills, is an upscale, daily-fee, layout just over the Ohio-Michigan line near Ottawa Lake, Mich. The Legacy will be the area's highest-priced course, with an 18-hole round costing \$30 on week-days and \$35 weekends.

Golfers will get to play the only true island green around, a par-3 measuring anywhere from 96 to 155 yards with a 6,700-square-foot, humpbacked surface.

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GCSAA says 'It's gotta be the shoes'

BROCKTON, Mass. — Etonic Worldwide has signed a three-year partnership agreement with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) that makes Etonic's Dri-Lite Series golf shoes the official "superintendent's shoe."

"Clearly there is a synergy between Etonic and GCSAA," said Bill Kirkendall, Etonic Worldwide's president. "By working in conjunction with the people responsible for maintaining golf courses nationwide, Etonic will gain input that will allow the company to produce golf shoes that are best suited for today's golf courses."

Corrections

An article in the June issue incorrectly reported the location of the new \$230 million Kingdom of the Evergreen Forest golf resort being planned by Illinois developer Bryan Clayton. The development would be located in Poynette, Wis.

In the story on Pursell Industries Inc. on page 54 of the June issue, the correct name of the company's controlled-released fertilizer technology is Polyon.