

Colleagues coalesce at Congressional, come to the aid of super, U.S. Open

By TERRY BUCHEN

Paul R. Latshaw, superintendent at Congressional Country Club, has been a leader and trendsetter since his college days at Penn State. He still is and will probably be the only superintendent on the planet to host The Masters, PGA Championship and U.S. Open. One of his many innovations was to mow all of the fairways at Congressional during this year's U.S. Open with walk-behind greensmowers ... but more on that later.

One of Latshaw's proudest moments came during the Saturday telecast on NBC, in the midst of a rain delay. Johnny Miller said there were many superintendents on staff that

would help get the course playable quite fast after the rain stopped. Then Dick Engberg echoed Miller's sentiments, saying many superintendents stood ready to help, especially in shoveling sand and readying the bunkers for play to resume.

Every superintendent in the world probably got goose bumps listening to these long-overdue compliments that gave our profession more exposure than witnessed in a long time.

Miller's many compliments about the "perfect playing

conditions" and the overall condition of the course, along with a thank-you to Latshaw for a job well done made all of us in the trenches feel great. "We had 50 regular employees and 75 volunteers, many of whom

were superintendents and assistants from around the world," said Latshaw. "And these supers and assistants weren't supervising or anything like that. They were doing the actual mowing and attention-to-detail work, or as we called

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Battery life

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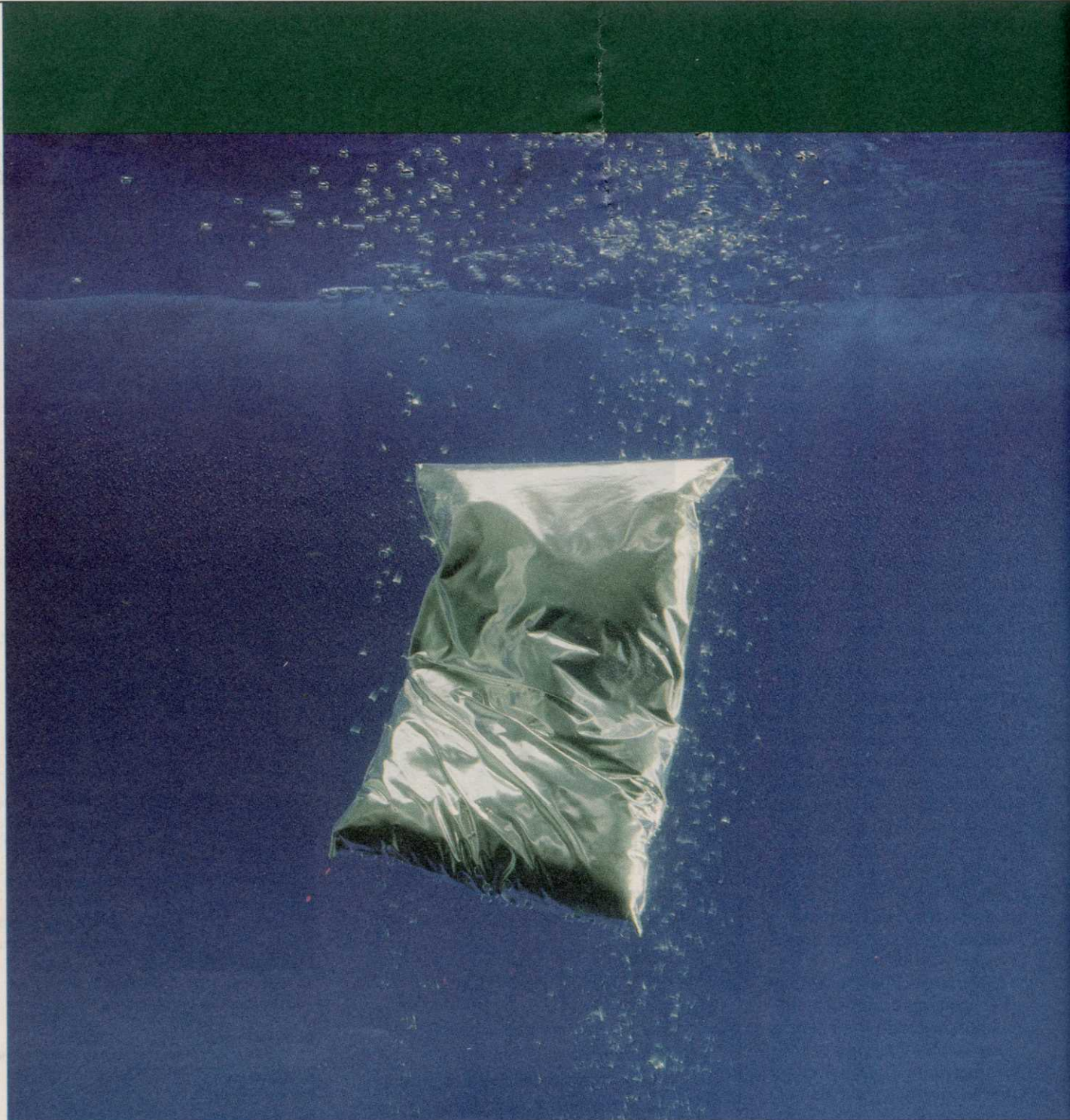
The PowerPulse Battery Maintenance Systems in 12-, 24- 36- and 48-volt obtain their power for desulfation from the battery itself. PulseTech also offers both a solar cell-powered Solargizer Solar Charger and normally-powered Pulse Charger that both charge and desulfate the battery.

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Making batteries last longer not only saves money, it also helps protect the environment. Since batteries last longer, there will be less contamination by battery lead and sulfuric dumped from discarded batteries.



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Marriott cites Mountain Shadows' super Kovacs

Otto Kovacs, superintendent at Marriott's Mountain Shadows Resort and Golf Club, has been named Marriott Golf's Golf Course Superintendent of the Year.

Kovacs won the award for a consistently well-maintained golf course and hotel grounds, a sound team work environment, significant cost-saving programs, and for receiving a perfect score two straight years on Marriott's

annual associate opinion survey.

"All of us at Marriott Golf applaud Otto's achievement," said Claye Atcheson, vice president-operations for Marriott Golf. "No one is more deserving. His leadership and dedication to promoting an ecologically-sound environment is an inspiration to everyone."

Kovacs is a member of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of the Southwest. Marriott's Mountain Shadows Resort and Golf Club, along with the 16 other facilities in Marriott's golf portfolio, is a participant in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses.

Congressional

Continued from previous page it, the 'Latshaw Weight Reduction Plan.'

"Steve Glossinger, super at Caves Valley Golf Club, brought the same 12-person bunker crew that he used at last year's Open when he was at Oakland Hills Country Club. They left at 4 a.m. each day for the one-hour drive for our 5 a.m. start.

"Steve even brought an assistant along to help with the excellent bunker maintenance, which I thank them all dearly for. No one can do bunkers like they do."

Latshaw also singled out Matt Shaffer, superintendent at The Country Club, near Cleveland, "whom I leaned on heavily during the entire week and who made everything run smooth."

He cited Scoot Armstrong, Gary Dempsey, Bruce Kemp and Garry Smith from Australia; Tony Taylor from Thailand; Louis Bettencourt, Tom Cassat, John Gabbeitt, Steve Glossinger, John Haley, Dave Horton, Ray Nash, Paul Ramina, Bob Shaffer and John Zimmers from Ohio, and Tom Wait.

"I was talking with [Atlantic City Country Club superintendent] Dick Bator regarding using walk-behind greensmowers on fairways for our respective USGA Championships," Latshaw said. "We mowed our No. 2 fairway, a par-3, entirely with a walk-behind greensmower for our media day, about three weeks before the championship. Buzz Taylor said he really like it, so we mowed No. 17 fairway the same way, cross-cutting it perpendicular to the play of the hole, and we were very pleased with that as well.

"Tim Moraghan, championship agronomist for the USGA, and I were concerned about the triplex greensmowers being used on fairways turning into and knocking over the grass in the primary rough when they made their turns. So we decided to mow all of the fairways each morning, beginning the full week before the championship, with walk-behind greensmowers. And we mowed the fairways after play, during championship week, with triplexes each day, effectively double-cutting fairways each day."

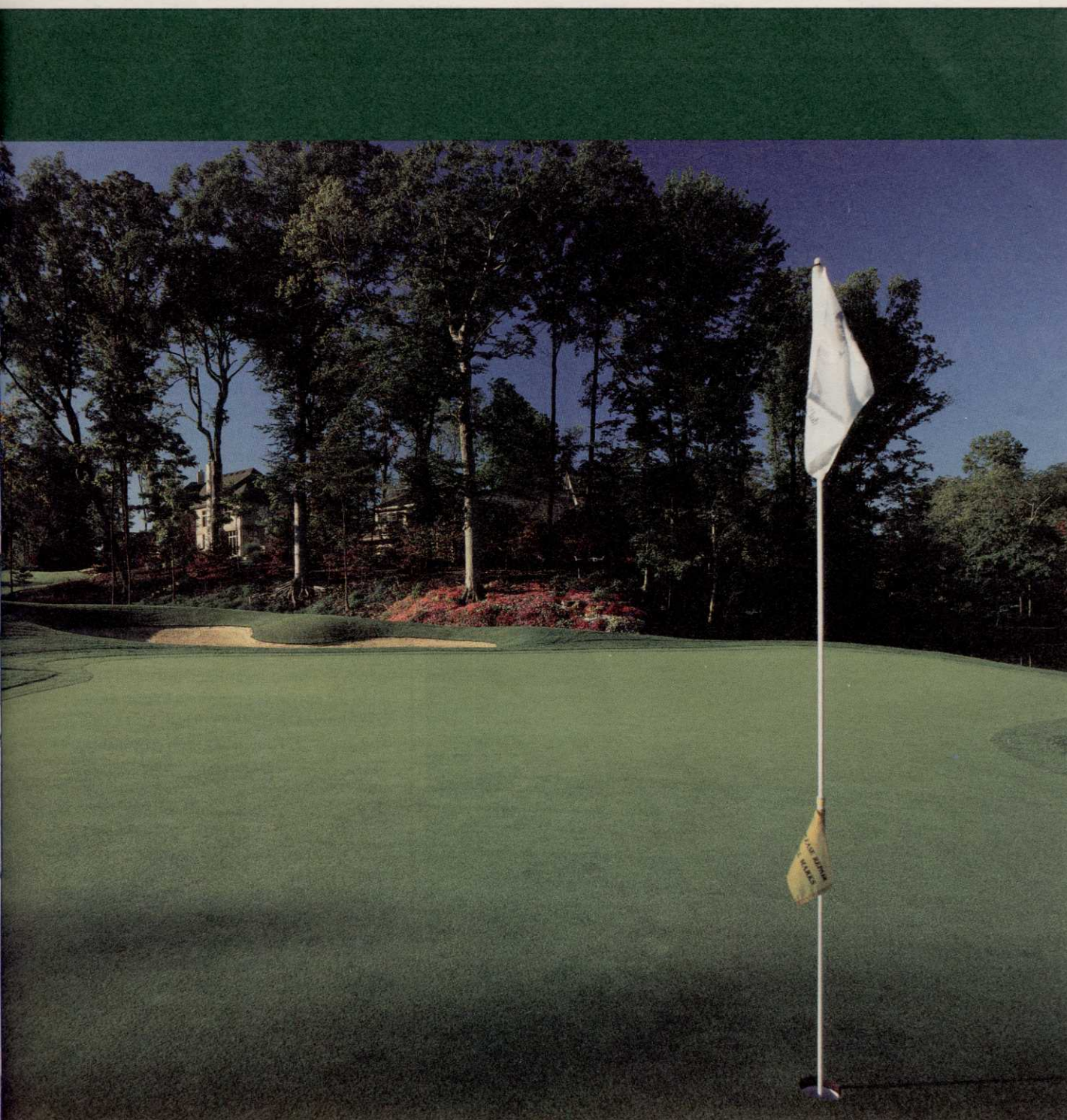
The crew used 24 walk-behind greensmowers and 24 local volunteers to mow fairways each morning, beginning at 5:30 and finishing up at 8:30.

"We caught the clippings, put them on tarps, then they were picked-up and thrown into manure spreaders," Latshaw said.

The walk-behind greensmowers, with solid rollers, set at .360 (triplex greensmowers using rollers were set at .400 for the afternoon mowing). After initially mowing the fairways with two walk-behind mowers, they used six mowers on the par-5s; four mowers on the par-4s and three persons mowing the par-3s and collars.

"The results," Latshaw said, "were excellent."

"We have a very close-knit industry of which we all should be very proud of," he added.



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