

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

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Supers have long sought turf testing under golf course maintenance conditions. The time is now ..... 17

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### FLOCKING TOGETHER

Birds of a feather: PGA Tour star Tom Lehman (right) will team with former Tour player John Fought on a course design project in Arizona. For story, see page 37.

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## Stress tests bear fruit

Super-dwarf Bermudas gain favor

By MARK LESLIE

BELTSVILLE, Md. — Turfgrass breeders are concentrating more on warm-season varieties than cool-season types and their work is bearing fruit, some of it extraordinary, according to the national director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

Advances are being reported on the zoysiagrass and seeded Bermudagrass fronts, yet vegetative Bermuda may prove the greatest immediate impact on golf courses, said NTEP's Kevin Morris. "Even though bentgrass is the ultimate in quality in the



FOR A SPECIAL SECTION ON SUMMER STRESS, "BEATING THE HEAT," TURN TO PAGES 30-34.



The Fazio Course at Barton Creek Golf and Conference Center in Austin, Texas, has already converted to a stress-tolerant super-dwarf Bermudagrass.

South, as some of the newer Bermudas come out that rival the bents in texture, people will move away from the bents in stressful areas," Morris predicted.

"There's a chance we have something practically as good as bent is in the North," said U.S. Golf Association Green Section National Director Jim Snow. "The goal is to get a

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## Operations biz has new Player: Gary

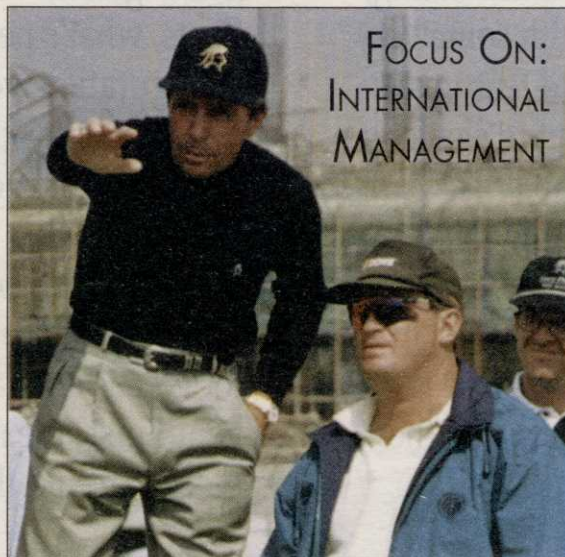
By HAL PHILLIPS

SINGAPORE — Not content with its considerable presence in the design, golf academy and club-manufacturing markets, The Gary Player Group has entered the course operations business, touting a full-service ability to develop, manage and brand its member clubs.

Unveiled here at Golf Asia '97, Gary Player Management Services (GPMS) has already signed its first club, Verdemar Golf Club, a Philippine project still in the early stages of development. However, don't read too much into the GPMS decision to launch in Asia-Pacific, where its sister course-design and academy divisions are better established, compared to the U.S.

"It's our full intention to be global," said GPMS Managing Director Mark

Continued on page 46



FOCUS ON:  
INTERNATIONAL  
MANAGEMENT



Gary Player (at left) has added facility management to his design and club-making ventures. Above: The New Course at Portmarnock near Dublin, Ireland — one of a growing roster of courses managed by the European PGA Tour. For stories, see pages 43-46.

## Participation rates lag, compared to course supply

By PETER BLAIS

Golf's two main growth indicators, the number of golfers and rounds played, remained relatively flat at 25 million and 477 million, respectively, in 1996, according to a National Golf Foundation (NGF) report.

But while demand continued stagnant, the golf industry continued to increase the course supply at a near-record rate, with 442 courses coming on line last year. Though concerned about this seeming demand/supply imbalance, the NGF and others remain optimistic about golf's future, pegging their hopes on the continued interest of aging Baby Boomers and the newfound interest of their offspring, the so-called Echo Boomers.

"I don't think those numbers are a true indicator of the interest in the game," said Myrtle Beach, S.C. architect/developer Ken Tomlinson, who



NGF's Rick Norton

Continued on page 62

## Golf, ecology look to curb 'Us vs. Them'

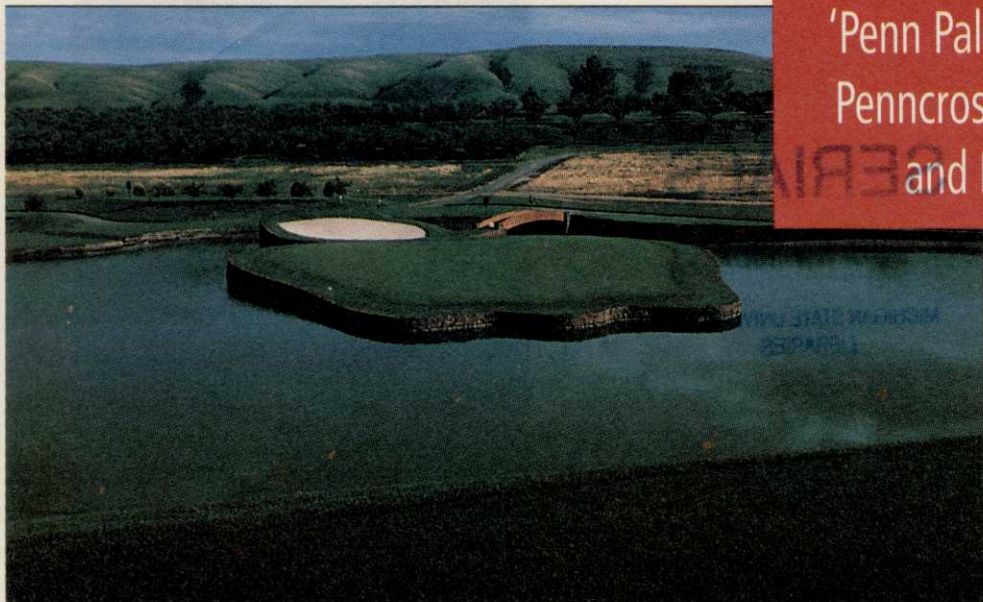
By BILL SUGG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Let's think beyond golf," said Audubon impresario Ron Dodson during last month's day-long symposium, *Golf Environments of the 21st Century: Integrating Wildlife Conservation Into Golf Courses of the Future*, held here at the National Geographic Society (NGS). "Our purpose in creating cooperative sanctuary systems was to create a vehicle that would lead to communication among a whole variety of individuals across the country. We are beginning to see that now. We are

Continued on page 13



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## Granite Golf raises \$100 million in acquisition funds

PHOENIX — Granite Golf Group, Inc. has arranged for \$100 million in forward financing to be used to advance its golf course acquisition and operations management program.

The financing will be provided by Lone Star Opportunity Fund, L.P., a Dallas-based investment fund formed by senior managers of Brazos Fund, L.P., a \$250 million real-estate investment partnership also headquartered in Dallas. Lone Star Opportunity Fund closed on \$400 million in equity commitments in March.

"This funding will give Granite the additional in-depth financial strength required to maximize our investment and management opportunities in the fast-growing golf course industry," said Elliot Lewis, president of Granite Golf Group.

"We are very pleased to have received the financial backing of one of the leading and top-managed investment teams. Their track record in analyzing investment properties and opportunities is excellent. Their property acquisition skills will be a major asset to Granite as we expand. We have identified several attractive properties and conducted our initial analysis of their investment potential as additions to our portfolio of golf properties."

John P. Grayken, managing general partner of Lone Star Opportunity Fund, L.P., and Brazos Fund, L.P., said of Granite Golf Group, "They have identified significant shifts in the golf course industry and know how to exploit these opportunities."

Granite — through its Golf Trust Management subsidiary — currently operates Eagle Trace Golf Club (GC) in Clearwater, Minn.; GC at Cypress Head in Port Orange, Fla.; Schalamar Creek G&CC in Lakeland, Fla.; Spruce Creek Country Club in Daytona Beach, Fla.; and River Bend GC in Ormond Beach, Fla.

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## Golfer contracts hepatitis from licking weed killer off golf balls

LONDON (Reuters) — Licking your golf ball clean may be more than just an unappealing habit — it can lead to liver disease, an Irish expert warned recently.

One golfer who preferred using his tongue to a wet cloth developed hepatitis when he licked strong weed-killers off his ball, Dr. Connor Burke of James Connolly Memorial Hospital in Dublin reported.

Writing in the British Medical Association's journal *Gut*, Burke described the case of a 65-year-old golfer who developed the liver disease even though he was a non-drinker and

had no other risk factors for hepatitis.

The patient finally admitted he habitually licked his golf ball clean before teeing off — evidently a common practice to make it go faster. It turned out his golf course used the exfoliant Agent Orange to control weeds.

Once he stopped licking his ball, his symptoms cleared up but came back when, skeptical of the diagnosis, he started licking his ball again, Burke wrote.

The golfer now carries a damp cloth with which to clean his balls.

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## IN BRIEF

**RYE, N.Y.** — The Friends of Whitby Castle are campaigning for approval of a June 17 referendum to borrow \$5.4 million to renovate the historic castle, which is located on the grounds of the 18-hole, municipal Rye Golf Club. The plan calls for restoring Whitby Castle, demolishing an addition to it built in the 1920s and improving the golf club, which was built in 1921. The stone castle is situated near the golf club's parking lot and was part of a rambling estate that predates the course.

•••

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** — The list of public courses in San Jose is about to shrink by one. Thunderbird Golf & Country Club, a modest and affordable par-61 layout particularly popular with senior citizens, will shut down this month so condominiums can be built on the 55-acre property. "It's a sad situation that they're closing this place up," Thunderbird General Manager Paul Lopes told the *San Jose Mercury News*. "This is the last course in San Jose where you can play without reserving a tee time."

## Toughest track draws players

By PETER BLAIS

**OAHU, Hawaii** — As they have nationwide, rounds have been pretty steady at Koolau Golf Course, located in the heavily forested Windward Side foothills of this Hawaiian island, according to Director of Golf Ed Kegayama [see NGF Golfer Participation story on page 1].

But among the 90 to 100 golfers who daily play the "toughest course in the nation" have been a number of celebrities drawn to Koolau's breathtaking scenery and 162 slope rating, the highest ever recorded by the United States Golf Association, according to course operator Billy Casper Golf Management.

Recent visitors to Koolau, Kegayama said, have included actors Richard Dreyfuss and Adam Sandler (Happy Gilmore), former PGA Tour Commissioner Dean Beman, professional golfers Isao Aoki and Scott Simpson, and scheduled to arrive in July, Olympic figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi.

What attracts them are the numerous jungle-filled ravines and forced carries that account for the difficulty of the Dick Nugent/Jack Tuthill design, which is located tight against the Koolau Mountains rising several thousand feet above the course.

The temperatures at Koolau average 5



Hawaii's Koolau Golf Course, perhaps the toughest in the nation.

to 10 degrees cooler than in nearby Honolulu, making it cool enough for bentgrass greens. Koolau is the only course on Oahu, and one of only two layouts in the entire state, with the cool-season turf putting surfaces, Kegayama said. The bentgrass greens also benefit from the 100 inches of rain that fall annually at Koolau, making artificial irrigation an infrequent occurrence.

"The course is designed to drain well," the golf director said. "Because it's tucked in the mountains on the island's north side, it gets direct sunlight from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., which also helps keep temperatures cool."

Koolau's superintendent is experiment-

ing with paspalum grasses on several tee boxes, Kegayama added.

Koolau was originally developed by Japan's Minami Group Inc. as an exclusive private club with memberships selling for \$250,000, Kegayama explained. But the Japanese economy soured about the time the course opened in 1991 and the bank eventually foreclosed on the \$104 million property, which includes a 125,000-square-foot clubhouse.

Casper took over management of Koolau and is operating it as a daily-fee facility with green fees ranging from \$45 to \$90. The course is expected to sell at auction later this year.

# WHAT YOU NEED IS A WAY TO STAND OUT.







Billboard along Florida highway emphasizes turfgrass' importance.

## FTGA seeks to increase turfgrass awareness

ORLANDO, Fla. — In an effort to create awareness of one of Florida's most precious natural resources, the Florida Turfgrass Association has launched an aggressive advertising and public relations campaign.

The campaign began in mid-April with five billboards erected throughout the state in Pinellas, Orange, Pasco, St. Lucie and Brevard counties. The messages read "Can You Imagine Your Life With-

out Turfgrass? A Reminder from the Florida Turfgrass Association," along with the FTGA's toll-free number and an image of a swing set sitting on concrete pavement.

Turfgrass absorbs gaseous pollutants and returns pure oxygen back into the environment. Approximately 2,500 square feet of lawn will release enough oxygen for a family of four. Additionally, turfgrass helps to modify temperature; upgrades air quality, helping to control allergies;

acts as a fire barrier; and reduces undesirable noise by 20 to 30 percent.

The turfgrass industry also plays a vital role in Florida's economy. More than 4.4 million acres of turfgrass exist in the state, employing approximately 185,000 workers annually and generating close to \$15 billion in expenditures and value-added impact.

"We're trying to get the message to people across the state that turfgrass is a natural resource and that we need to work together to preserve it, as we do all our natural resources," said FTGA President Roy Bates. "Most people think of athletic fields and golf courses when they think of turfgrass, but all naturally grown grass is turfgrass, including home lawns."

Established in 1952, the Florida Turfgrass Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to education and the preservation of environmental resources. FTGA directs its efforts toward increasing awareness of the fundamental importance of the turfgrass industry. The FTGA, with cooperative funding from the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, is represented through lobbying efforts on behalf of the turf industries' interests in Tallahassee. FTGA keeps its members abreast of all issues pertaining to the turfgrass industry.

For more information contact 800-882-6721.

## Mount St. Helens eruption benefits Washington track?

KELSO, Wash. — The tragedy wrought by the eruption of Mount St. Helens in May 1980 has been turned into at least one positive in this small city near the Washington-Oregon border.

The public, 18-hole Three Rivers Golf Course, designed by Robert Muir Graves, enjoys an unusual distinction among area golf courses: it's the fastest-draining layout around during and after rain and has become particularly popular during the winter season, when other courses are too soggy to play. The reason the drainage is so good goes back to the Mount St. Helens eruption.

The site where the course was built in the early 1980s was covered in some 3 million cubic yards of silt and dredgings from nearby rivers that included sand and ash from the eruption. The fill runs from 2 to 20 feet deep over the course, and, as it turns out, drains extremely well.

The flip side, of course, is that the excellent drainage requires more summer irrigation. The course uses close to a million gallons a day (from the Cowlitz River) when the summer heat hits, which is about twice as much as any other course uses, according to golf course superintendent Walt Stender.

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## Nicklaus to design private Tenn. links...

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Jack Nicklaus will design a private, 18-hole course on a 600-acre tract in Shelby County known as Spring Creek Ranch for world-renowned Memphis-based eye surgeon Dr. David Meyer.

Nicklaus and Meyer reportedly met in Arizona where Nicklaus was hunting and Meyer backpacking. The planned site is farmland that has been in Meyer's family for 20 years. Meyer had been considering a golf course for years. The course, called Spring Creek, will be designed, built and managed by Nicklaus. Developers hope it will become one of the state's top courses.

Nicklaus has become involved in recent years with the designing of a four-course system for the Tennessee State Parks that will be known as Bear Trace. But the Spring Creek project with Meyer will be only the second private club Nicklaus has designed in Tennessee. The first was the Richland Country Club in suburban Nashville.

Meyer has already formed steering committees for the project that include some of the 40 founding members and others. Some of Meyer's concepts for the project include a small house reminiscent of older, traditional European golf courses as the entry point to the club, with about four cottages nearby for guest instructors and others

## ... while state park project resumes

JACKSON, Tenn. — Construction on the Jack Nicklaus-designed 18-hole golf course proposed for Chickasaw State Park could resume this summer after a nearly year-long delay.

State representatives said long-awaited construction on the 200-acre facility could begin within the next couple of months, now that officials have identified specific wetlands areas to avoid.

Construction stalled last summer on the 18-hole course due to the discovery of wetlands. Now, the only barrier is for state and federal Environmental Protection Agency officials to reach an agreement on which areas to avoid.

Erskin Bonds of Golf Services Group of Houston, the company building the course, told *The Jackson Sun*: "We are depending on the state to try to settle this with the agency. We're not going to back off of it — we're going to be sure that we get it in down there."

who will participate in some of the club's educational programs, a large practice area, and an environmentally-sensitive approach. Spring Creek plans have already been submitted for review in the Audubon's Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Meyer said he would also like to see the course eventually be a site for top state and national amateur golf events.

## Nevada's Empire Ranch finally dry and ready for play

CARSON CITY, Nev. — After three months of digging out from a New Year's flood, the \$6 million daily-fee Empire Ranch Golf Course has opened all 27 holes.

In early January, the Carson River overflowed its banks and caused more than \$200,000 in damage to growing fairways and greens. The flood submerged the new 27-hole course under 10 to 14 feet of water. Three months were spent

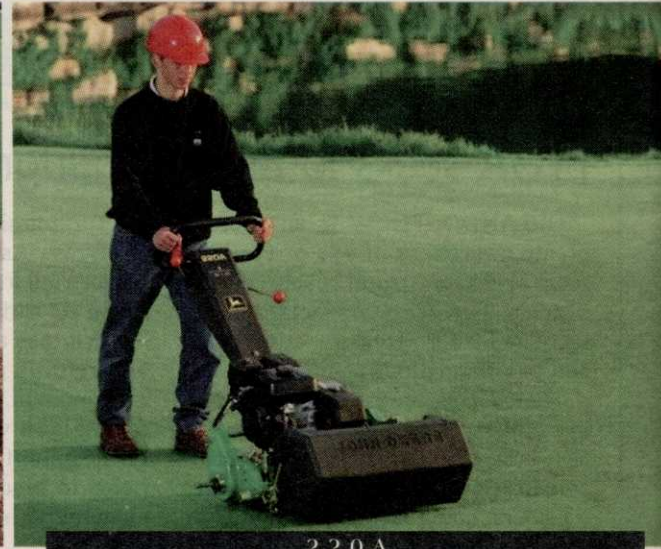
doing little but cleaning up and the work delayed the scheduled opening by 45 days.

Eighteen holes opened in mid-April and the other nine in early May, giving Carson City yet another public-access course. Each of the three nines — named the Sierra, River and Comstock courses — is a par-36 layout.

Empire Ranch Golf Course is part of a 300-acre residential development.



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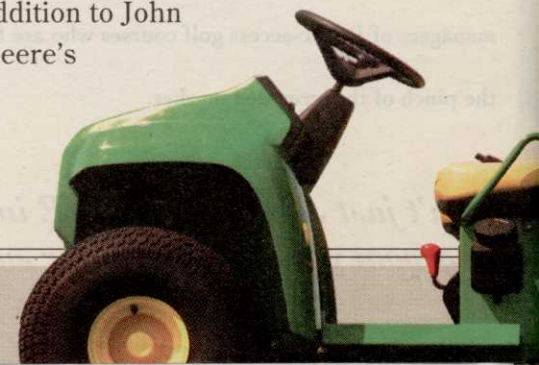
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## San Antonio golf course named historic landmark

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Brackenridge Park Golf Course, the first public layout ever built in Texas and a host site of everything from state junior and city championships to the Texas Open, has been named the first golf course to be admitted to the Texas Registry of Historic Courses, a new program of the Texas Golf Hall of Fame.

Built in 1915 and designed by A.W. Tillinghast, Brackenridge Park has played a long and colorful role in Texas golf history. "Old Brack," as the

course is also known, hosted the first Texas Open in 1922.

PGA veterans like Ben Crenshaw, Bill Rogers, Bruce Lietzke and many others also played Brackenridge Park during their youth at the Texas State Junior Championships.

The newly-created Texas Registry of Historic Courses was created in part by a grant from Reid Lockhart, the Texas-based golf equipment manufacturer.

### CALIFORNIA COURSE STARTS TRIAL CADDIE PROGRAM

TUSTIN, Calif. — Tustin Ranch Golf Club is trying to go where no other public course in Orange County has dared to go, launching a caddie program on a trial basis.

The course initially hired 12 caddies to work weekends, but the response has been so

good the club is now training another round of caddies to run the program on weekdays, too. Golfers are charged \$35 for a caddie on top of the \$105 greens fee. A golfer who chooses to ride a cart or carry his own bag, meanwhile, pays a \$105 greens fee.

## Palmer & Nicklaus may team on course

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The second 18-hole course at the World Golf Village may be designed by an intriguing duo — Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

*The Florida Times-Union* has reported negotiations are ongoing between World Golf Village executives and Palmer and Nicklaus to get the pair to team on the design, with construction to start next year. The two giants of golf have never collaborated on a golf course design.

If a Palmer-Nicklaus team is assembled, it will be the second all-star design team involved in the new project. The World Golf Village's first course featured Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead as design consultants. The course will be named The Squire and the Slammer in their honor. The second course will be located in a river tract of the Saint Johns residential community near the World Golf Village site, about two miles away from the first course.

## Palmer designing in Nicklaus' backyard

DUBLIN, Ohio — Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer spent plenty of years going shoulder to shoulder as golf competitors. Now, as course designers, their creations will be back-to-back in this well-known Ohio golf destination first claimed by Nicklaus in the mid-1970s.

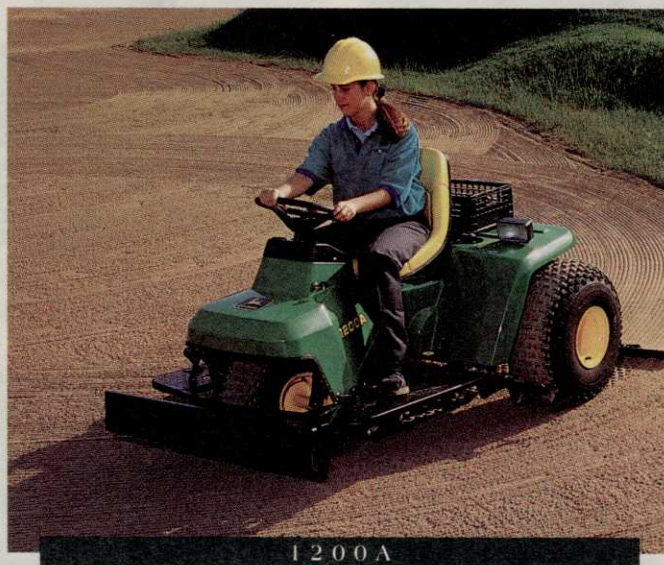
Palmer is designing an 18-hole layout for the private Tartan Fields Club, a new residential golf community that will sit practically next door to Nicklaus' Muirfield Village Golf Club, host to the Memorial Tournament on the PGA Tour each May and a course dear to Nicklaus' heart.

Tartan Fields is scheduled to open for play by spring 1999.

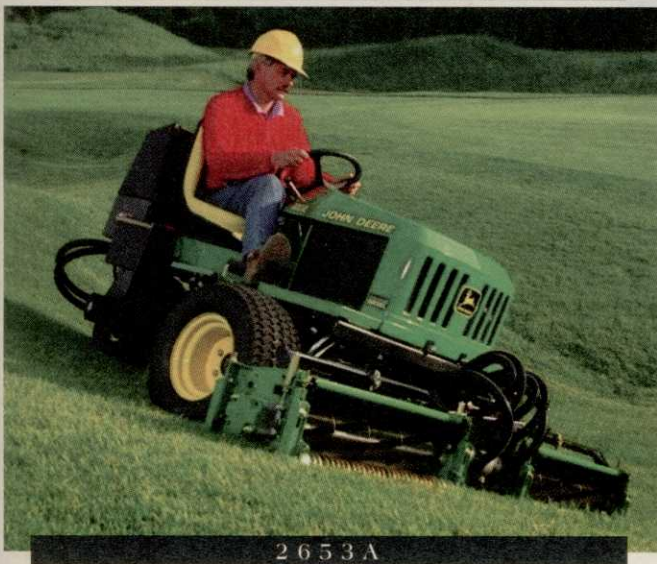
Tom Anderson, president of Tartan Fields and part of the development team along with Northwood Land Corp. of Columbus and Hines-Griffin Co. of Cincinnati, told *The Columbus Dispatch*, "Our goal is for this facility to be one of the best five facilities in central Ohio — and in Columbus that's a big feat."



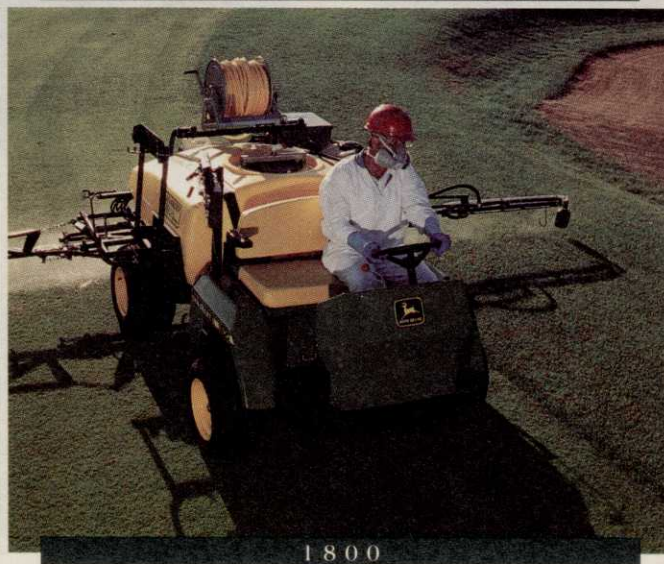
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# San Antonio golf course named historic landmark

SAW ANTONIO, Texas — Historic San Antonio Golf Course, the first public golf course built in Texas and a host site of everything from state and city championships to the Texas Open, has been named the first golf course to be added to the Texas Registry of Historic Landmarks. The newly created Texas Registry of Historic Landmarks was created in part by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Located in Texas, the Texas Open golf tournament was first played in 1912.

The Texas Open, the first public tournament in Texas, was held at the San Antonio Golf Course in 1912. The course was designed by the late Dr. Charles H. Johnson, who also designed the first Texas Open in 1912.

The Texas Open, the first public tournament in Texas, was held at the San Antonio Golf Course in 1912. The course was designed by the late Dr. Charles H. Johnson, who also designed the first Texas Open in 1912.



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## Palmer & Nicklaus may team on course

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The eventual 18-hole course at the World Golf Village may be designed by the legendary duo — Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. The Florida Golf Association reported negotiations are ongoing between World Golf Village executives and Palmer and Nicklaus to get the pair to team on the design, with construction to start next year. The two teams of golf have never collaborated on a golf course design.

The Palmer-Nicklaus team is assembled. It will be the second all-star design team involved in the new project. The World Golf Village's first course featured Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead as design consultants. The course will be named The Legends and the architect in the plan. The 18-hole course will be located in a view from the 20th hole. The World Golf Village, the second two miles away from the first course.

## Palmer designing in Nicklaus' backyard

QUARTER ORLEANS — Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer spent nearly a year ago in the state to discuss a golf course project. Now, as reports indicate, their creation will be built in Palmer's backyard — the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla. Palmer is designing an 18-hole course in the mid-1990s.

Palmer is designing an 18-hole course in the mid-1990s. Palmer is designing an 18-hole course in the mid-1990s. Palmer is designing an 18-hole course in the mid-1990s.





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## Arkansas golf development hot

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The golf boom continues in the Razorback State, with several new courses sprouting in 1997.

- In Little Rock, Eagle Hill Golf and Athletic Club, a new 6,900-yard, par-72 layout, is scheduled to open in 1998. The course's signature hole will be an island green, built in the shape of the state of Arkansas. Other amenities include a clubhouse, pro shop, snack bar, exercise room, junior Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts and basketball and volleyball courts.

- Marion Lakes Golf and Athletic Club is currently under construction in the heart of the Arkansas Delta. The links-style, 6,817-yard, par-72 course is being built on an old bean field. Described as a "family paradise," the facilities include a clubhouse and pro shop, exercise room, junior Olympic size swimming pool, tennis courts and basketball and sand volleyball courts.

- Petit Jean Country Club in Danville, Ark., recently opened with an 18-hole championship course. It offers a 16,000-square-

foot clubhouse, pool and pavilion, driving range, putting green and lakes.

- Mallard Point Country Club is planning to open in the spring of 1998 in Lonoke, Ark. The course is being designed and built by Fairway Golf Course Development. The course will be a daily-fee facility.

## Popular Calgary links to start major facelift this summer

CALGARY, Alberta — The 80-year-old Shaganappi Point Golf Course — the most popular of the city's six city-operated courses — is beginning a \$3.9 million overhaul this summer.

The renovation, which will take place over the next five years, will include a new driving range and clubhouse, 18-hole putting green, routing changes on several holes, new greens

and tees, added water and additional parking.

The designers, GPEC Consulting, say the renovations will make the 27-hole facility one of the premiere public golf complexes in Western Canada. During the renovations, 18 holes will always remain open.

An average 55,000 rounds are played every year at Shaganappi.

## Fort Ben redo nearly finished

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The highly-anticipated renovation of the public Fort Benjamin Harrison Golf Course by Pete Dye is almost complete as a July opening approaches.

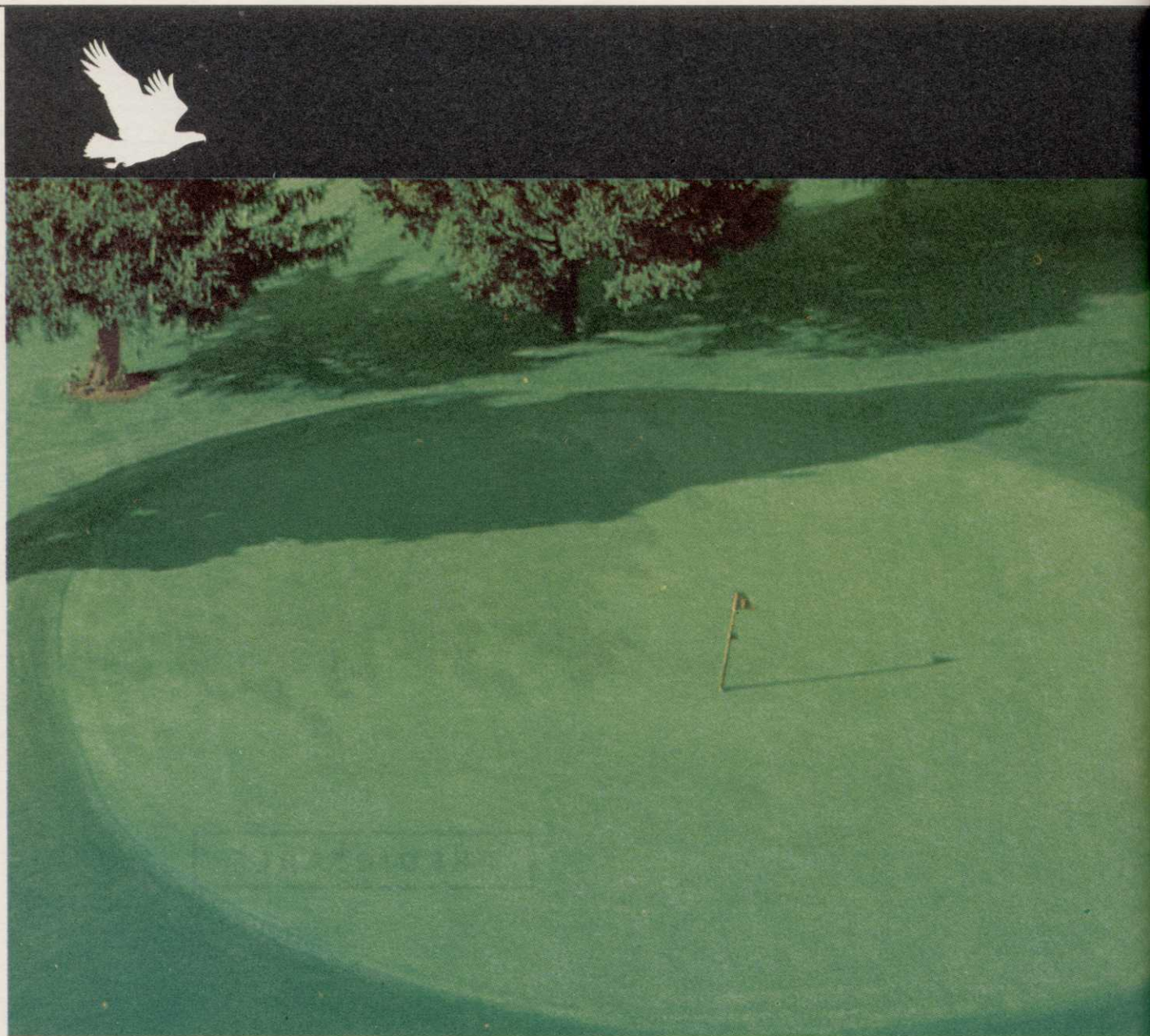
Dye and project manager Tim Liddy opened site lines, widened landing areas, upgraded green sites and bunkering and looked at issues of playability, safety and pace of play. Dye, an Indiana native, donated his architectural fee and he and Liddy will serve as unpaid consultants to the course.

The new "Fort Ben" will be a more expensive round of golf, with greens fees projected in the \$40 to \$50 range, but the improvements have transformed the long underrealized 18-hole gem into a true, first-class beauty.

New Fort Ben head golf professional Scott Larson told the *Indianapolis Star*, "Even before I applied for the job I heard people talking about it, people in the golf business who couldn't wait to see it."

Randy Brehmer is Fort Benjamin Harrison's new superintendent. Brehmer, a former three-term president of the Indiana Golf Course Superintendents Association, was the superintendent for the past five years at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero.

Along with improvements to the golf course, a new driving range is also under construction and a former officers club building and four residences on the property will be rented out as part of golfing packages.



## Put the power of EAGLE

### Superintendents tell why they rely on Eagle to prevent stubborn turf diseases.



**Mike Jones**  
Valley High Country Club  
Elk Grove, CA

"We go into the season with really nice greens," says Mike Jones, superintendent at Valley High Country Club in Elk Grove, CA. "Then about July, the decline starts and it's a constant battle all through September."

Mike's solution was to intensify his preventative fungicide program with Eagle<sup>®</sup> while raising fertility levels.

Mike's experience was no surprise to us. We've been saying all along that Eagle provides dependable, long-lasting protection against 14 major turf diseases — protection unmatched by any other systemic fungicide. Better yet, Eagle is now registered to control summer patch and spring dead patch.



**Rich Hardebeck**  
Eagle Lake Golf Club  
Farmington, MO

### Tackling dollar spot and brown patch

Rich Hardebeck is superintendent at Eagle Lake Golf Club in

Farmington, MO. When he first came to Eagle Lake, he experienced extremely heavy dollar spot on his ryegrass and bluegrass fairways.

"Last year," says Rich, "I applied Eagle preventatively in April and again in September and didn't see dollar spot all summer."



**Dave Anderson**  
Evergreen Country Club  
Haymarket, VA

Dollar spot was also Dave Anderson's problem, as well as brown patch on his ryegrass fairways.



## Texas lawsuit set for February

LAKE JACKSON, Texas — A federal judge has set the Lake Jackson golf course lawsuit for trial in February 1998 after attempts to resolve the year-long case reached an impasse.

Until the environmentalists' lawsuit against the city of Lake Jackson is resolved, the proposed 18-hole golf course re-

mains on indefinite hold.

Environmentalists, led by the Houston Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, filed the lawsuit almost a year ago to stop the golf course being built on city property west of Lake Jackson next to Wilderness Park. They contend that building a course will result in harmful losses of wet-

lands and forest and will adversely affect migratory songbirds and wildlife.

The city contends that it has revised its plan for the course in order to reduce the acres of wetlands affected and that it has made a conscientious effort throughout the process to satisfy environmental concerns. It has also proposed doubling the size of Wilderness Park to more than 1,000 acres to

offset the golf course project. But the two sides have been haggling over the lawsuit for nearly a year without being able to reach a settlement.

According to the *Brazosport Facts* of Clute, Texas, the February 1998 trial will be tried in a maximum of five days, with each side having two-and-a-half days to argue its point. It will not be a jury trial. The judge will decide the case.

## Williams, Gill to renovate Ill. course layout

GRAYSLAKE, Ill. — The Lake County Forest Preserve District plans to renovate and expand the 18-hole Brae Loch Golf Course near Grayslake. Williams, Gill and Associates of River Falls, Wis., developed the master plan for the course renovations.

The proposal includes lengthening the 18-hole layout and improving tee boxes and greens. An adjacent 55 acres of farmland near Center Street, owned by the forest preserve district, will become part of the redesigned golf course. In addition, a golf learning center and driving range eventually will be added. An automated irrigation system is also scheduled to be installed this fall.

The final phase of the plan calls for construction of a nine-hole, executive-length, par-3 course.

Because the 47-year-old municipal layout is a forest preserve golf course, the renovations will be paid from profits from the course. The project, which would proceed as profits allow, could take eight years to complete.

## Fla. priest's golf dream a reality

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — A Catholic priest's dream to build an 18-hole course in a vocational village for troubled youths is materializing with the help of a collection of legendary golfers and architects.

Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Pete Dye and Tom Fazio have all signed on to design a course for Father Leo Armbrust and his Renaissance Village. Armbrust, a Palm Beach County priest and team chaplain for the Miami Dolphins, has been working on the project for seven years.

Nicklaus, Palmer and Player will combine with Dye and Fazio to design the layout. The course and clubhouse operation will help support the medical and psychological treatment of 150 juveniles and provide training in agronomy, landscaping, culinary arts, club management and other jobs.

The site will be chosen this summer, with groundbreaking expected sometime in 1998. The estimated cost of the project is \$5 million.



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Dave is superintendent at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket, VA.

"I used Eagle exclusively on the fairways," he says, "and they were the best fairways I've ever had, especially considering the extreme heat."

"Late in the year," Dave continues, "I alternated Eagle with a contact fungicide to control gray leaf spot and got excellent results overall."

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appreciated its outstanding turf safety, low-use rates and water-soluble packaging.

"I don't have the safety concerns with Eagle that I do with other sterol inhibitors," says Mike Jones. "And rates are so low, I have the flexibility of using it in the fall if I need to."

The flexibility of Eagle is further enhanced by the new extended spray schedule — now up to 28 days.

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he says, "Eagle offers the best of both worlds."

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TO-160 2/97



## CSM freshen up Olympia Fields for U.S. Senior Open

OLYMPIAFIELDS, ILL.—The golf course architecture firm of Cornish, Silva & Mungeam, Inc. has completed renovations here at Olympia Fields Country Club, site of this month's U.S. Golf Association Senior Open Championship, June 26-29.

Based in Uxbridge, Mass., Cornish, Silva & Mungeam (CSM) authored several changes at Olympia Fields' North Course, rebuilding the par-3 6th hole, reshaping all the bunkers, adding strategic tees and restoring all 18 putting surfaces to configura-

tions conceived in 1923 by the original architect, the Scotsman Willie Park, Jr.

"It was another example of the incredible shrinking greens," said Mark Mungeam, the CSM partner who handled the Olympia Fields renovation. "The Park greens are magnificent, sort of like [A.W.] Tillinghast greens. But time took its toll. As mowing patterns change over time, portions of the original greens were lost to apron and rough areas. They literally shrunk over the years. We simply went in and restored the putting

surfaces to their original design."

CSM also directed substantial alterations to the par-3 6th hole, which plays over Butterfield Creek. Mungeam and his team moved the green back some 30 yards. "The idea of moving the green has been around for some time," Mungeam explained. "Indeed, the members have long recognized the 6th green was in play from the 7th tee. So the green was moved back to create a safer green site and, secondarily, to improve the golf hole."

The Olympia Fields project follows closely on the heels of CSM's work at the Donald Ross-designed Rolling Rock Club in Ligonier, Pa., for years considered the best nine-hole course in America. Cornish, Silva & Mungeam opened a new nine holes there in May.

Olympia Fields, one of the premier golf clubs in the Midwest, has hosted two major championships: the 1928 U.S. Open and the 1961 PGA. The club retained Cornish, Silva & Mungeam in 1989 to conduct a long-range plan for both its North and South courses. Renovations began on the North Course in 1992.

Little work has been completed on the South Course, where work will now begin in earnest, Mungeam said.

### GRAYHAWK GOLF COURSE, ARIZONA



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Prelude II and Laser Poa trivialis keeps fairways looking their best. And, our seed isn't the only thing that performs.

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## Private renovation for Illinois municipal

HAMMOND, Ill. — Two of the firms that submitted privatization proposals for the renovation of the public, 18-hole Wicker Park Golf Course will join forces on the project.

Town & Country Utilities Inc. and First Golf Corp. will team up with Phillips Golf Design to collectively design, renovate, build and manage the golf course.

According to the agreement, Town & Country, based in Merrillville, will lead the group; Phillips Golf Design, based in Arizona, will handle the architectural designs for the golf course improvements; and First Golf, also based in Arizona, will manage the golf course on a day-to-day basis.

## Ill. developer plans \$230m golf resort

POYNETTE, Ill. — An Illinois developer wants to build a \$230 million resort village with an 18-hole golf course along Interstate 90-94 west.

The proposed development would be called "The Kingdom of the Evergreen Forest," a reference to a pine plantation on the property, according to Bryan Clayton, president of Evergreen Enterprises in Morris, Ill., the course developer.

The massive project would include a 300-room luxury hotel, a campground, 200 time-share and permanent homes and the 18-hole golf course. There are also plans for year-round entertainment, several theaters, and restaurants. The project would also include castles, moats and a museum of medieval items.

### CLARIFICATIONS

A chart on U.S. Turf schools in the May issue was missing the legend. In the chart, A=graduate program; B=4-year program; C=2-year associate's or certificate program and 1-year certificate program; D=winter programs, short courses, other seminars; E=correspondence and independent-study programs.

A story in the May issue incorrectly reported the status of the Park Meadows Golf Club in Park City, Utah. Pundy Yokouchi owns the course and will continue to operate the Jack Nicklaus-designed, 18-hole layout as an upscale, daily-fee, resort-style facility.



## Us vs. Them?

Continued from page 1

beginning to see that now. We are trying to end the 'us against them' approach to promoting environmentalism."

The May 16 event, sponsored by The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was another significant step toward Dodson's goal, as participants from governmental, environmental and golf organizations heard a variety of speakers summarize the status of conservation "on course." The consensus: The concept of environmental stewardship is gaining ground, but vigilance must be maintained and research continued.

Environmental enhancement consultant Catherine Waterhouse admitted she originally viewed golf with a jaundiced eye. Yet since she began working with golf courses, her attitudes have changed. She applauded the openness to new approaches that many superintendents show. One example was the use of earthworm castings as a greens fertilizer at the Cranberry Resort in Canada: "It was a resounding success," she said, "and friendly to the environment," she said.

Reg Murphy, president of the NGS and former president of the USGA, welcomed the group and noted that species extinction is a major concern today. One out of four species could be extinct by the year 2050, less than a human lifetime away. "We should be talking about what we do to the environment, how we respond to the environmental challenges, and what can be done to help," he said.

The first step in that direction came in 1996, when The Center for Resource Management brought together representatives from the golf and environmental communities for an Environmental Summit. The result was a set of voluntary environmental principles that would chart a sustainable future. According to Curtis Spalding, director of Save the Bay — a group dedicated to preserving Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay — Summit attendees learned, "You can have good golf without compromising the environment."

When Audubon International began looking for courses to get involved with its voluntary program for wildlife enhancement in 1991, Dodson said, only 150 enrolled the first year. Today 2,500 courses in the U.S. have signed on, with 100 courses attaining "certified" status.

Another initiative, Wildlife Links, has a goal to "make golf courses part of the conservation

landscape," according to Dr. Peter Stangel of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Established in 1995, Wildlife Links funds research and provides information to golf course designers and superintendents on how they can promote the wildlife on their facilities while maintaining quality playing conditions.

"The presence of golf courses can actually improve wildlife," according to Jan Beljan, golf course architect with Fazio Golf Course Designers. "Much needs

to be done before the actual site is looked at, and erosion control is a major factor during construction. Consider using a permeable surface for golf cart paths."

While many of the speakers talked about wildlife habitat enrichment, the basic concerns for turfgrass management, chemical and water use were also noted. Dr. Charles Peacock, professor at North Carolina State University, lamented that no basic course in ecology is required in most golf course management

programs. He also concluded, "A lot of the best practices are just common sense."

Another example of common sense — The Pesticide Environment Stewardship Program — was discussed by Janet Anderson of the Environmental Protection Agency's Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division. This voluntary public/private relationship, formed in 1994, includes Partners (users of pesticides) and Supporters, organizations that are non-users but

involved with users.

Bill Leary, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks with the U.S. Department of the Interior, gave the keynote address at the luncheon. He stressed that the Department of the Interior will continue to work to protect imperiled species.

"We don't like to unleash the pit bull — the Endangered Species Act," he explained. "We would prefer to work with the developer to find compromises."

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Bill Sugg is editor of Triad Golf Today magazine in Winston-Salem, N.C.



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# Aiming for a different sort of relevance



Hal Phillips, editor

The real fear in writing a farewell column is pure ego: You're flat out terrified that people will immediately forget about you, perhaps before they even finish the column. This is the anxiety my keyboard and I carry with us this month. This is my last column as editor of *Golf Course News* and, I'll admit it, I'm desperate to hold your attention all the way through.

Unfortunately, I've nothing terribly sexy to dangle before you, no revelations hidden in the final paragraph, no scandals to disclose... Except for that pending corporate merger I've known about for weeks. But that was "off the record," and why share a stock tip that could prove so lucrative?... I suppose I could divulge the names of those superintendents who stockpiled now-banned mercury-based pesticides a few years back. But that's not even illegal... Come to think of it, there is that swing tip Tiger shared with me on the beach in Cancun, but who would believe me?

There are a few things I should get off my chest, while I still have the forum. To keep it interesting for you, I'll try to be as provocative as the bounds of good taste will allow:

- Discussions of slow play bore me to distraction. Has anyone admitted to slow play, ever? It's always the foursome ahead, or the foursome ahead of them, blah blah blah... Until golfers stop taking themselves so seriously, the situation will never improve.
- On a related note, how many times have you heard guys bitch about "that woman" in the foursome ahead. Or about the inappropriate clothing "those kids" are wearing. Aren't these the demographic groups golf has targeted as vital to its growth, the groups we must attract if the industry is to expand? Golf must eventually reconcile its interest in growth with its reverence for tradition. Do we want golf to grow, or would we rather everyone wore a collared shirt?
- For a state with so many golf courses, Florida has precious few good ones.
- All the self-appointed purists out there routinely take pot shots at golf cars, the profits from which have made possible

Continued on page 16

## Letters

### WHEN IT COMES TO MAINTENANCE, ISN'T LESS MORE?

To the Editor:

In response to your editorial in the April 1997 issue concerning the new A&G varieties and Dr. Beard's comments, the point I find most disturbing is that in this day and age of trying to introduce products to the marketplace that require less input for maintenance, the new Tee to Green A and G varieties are looked upon as being acceptable, even though they would require a superintendent to provide additional maintenance in the way of extremely low mowing, added aerification, verticutting, and top-dressing to provide an acceptable surface. This would be equivalent to one promoting a new car that performs well but requires the owner to change the oil every 500 miles.

There are other varieties on the market that are significant improvements over Penncross that provide every bit as much as an advancement in improved putting green turf without excessive maintenance. One variety that easily meets this criteria

is L-93. L-93 is not a niche grass, it doesn't need excessive maintenance like the A's and G's, and it has shown to provide exceptional turf performance.

L-93 is the number one variety in the NTEP trials for 1995 and 1996 and has produced exceptional disease resistance. Your editorial was based on comments made by Dr. Beard as presented at the Canadian Turf Conference in March in Montreal. As a man of science, why would Dr. Beard omit mentioning the No. 1-rated NTEP variety? Why would he not mention an improved variety with impressive qualities?

Dr. Richard Hurley,  
Executive Vice President,  
Lofts Seed

### DAKOTAN FIRM SURVIVES TO TELL ITS TALE

*Ed. — Severe spring flooding was merely the latest meteorological hardship endured by residents of the Red River Valley, where a tough winter touched off a chain of destruction. While the golf industry does not boast a great many firms in this region, higher*

# The game's greatest resource

TORONTO, Ontario — What would Gene Sarazen tell Donald Ross if the venerable elder golfer were to meet the venerable deceased golf course designer?

"Your traps are too far away from your greens."

That tidbit came from Mr. Sarazen's grandson Jeff, who stood in for him in accepting the 1997 Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects here.

It was a brief acceptance but a fitting one from one of the game's grand classics — people, that is, not courses. Gene Sarazen is now 95 years old, and for those many decades he has exemplified what is good about the game.

Those at the ASGCA's Donald Ross banquet were sorry he could not attend. And it gave stock to pause and reflect on who we have in this industry, how long we will have them, and who stands in the wings to take their place as golf's next generation of "venerable old men."

It is good news. Think about it: This sport/game/hobby is blessed beyond all others, I believe, in its number of men and women of character. A list would more than fill this page, single-spaced and tightly wound. There are seminal humanitarians, people of integrity, and many with brilliance and skill beyond hitting golf balls. Honoring them with awards is wonderful. And yet, not enough awards exist to honor them all.

Thank you, Mr. Sarazen, for the generation you have stood tall among your peers, and in society in general.

•••

Dr. Noel Jackson of the University of Rhode Island is a favorite speaker among superintendents. An entertaining Scotsman. Three quips from his recent speech in Maine:

- A micron equals 1/1000th of a millimeter, or "about half the height you guys are mowing at."
- "*Fusarium* patch disease is big in England 12 months of the year. Why? Because every week over there you get three days of rain and four of wet weather."
- The first adjustable bedknife? Check out the upper gums in the mouth of one of your neighbor's sheep.

•••

Talking about the gene gun and molecular genetics, former New Mexico State University Prof. Arden Baltensperger at Seeds West, Inc. said: "One of the ladies who works here crossed sunflower and bean."

What did she call it?... A sunbean.



Mark Leslie, managing editor

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(MORE LETTERS ON FACING PAGE)

### ground allowed Dakota Peat & Equipment to pull through:

To the Editor:

A series of natural disasters struck the Red River Valley of the North region during the winter and spring of 1997. This region borders parts of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Eight blizzards hit the region during the season, including an ice storm and blizzard in early April that knocked out electrical power to more than 150,000 people in the area.

The record snows from these storms resulted in the flood of the millennium on the Red River. Record flood crests were reported all along the Red River Valley. The flood burst through dikes in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn., on April 18 and 19.

By the end of the weekend, more than 50,000 people had been evacuated, most of the business community had been shut down, and some of those businesses were destroyed. The river crested at 54.11 feet in Grand Forks, more than 5.3 feet higher than the previous record crest in 1979.

Dakota Peat and Equipment of Grand Forks was one of the more fortunate businesses in the area. The company did suffer some damage to three buildings in the region during this series of disasters. Many employees were displaced by the flood waters and the mandatory evacuations. These employees were given time off to take care of personal needs and make suitable alternative living arrangements.

But business activity never stopped at Dakota Peat and Equipment. The company's location on the edge of the city kept the main offices and plants high and dry from flood waters. Shipments of Dakota Peat and Dakota Equipment continued to go out during the height of the disaster.

As a matter of fact, peat shipments for the rebuilding of Lambeau Field, home of the World Champion Green Bay Packers, were sent out the week of April 21. By Thursday, April 24, Dakota Peat and Equipment was back operating on a regular basis.

Mark Landa  
Dakota Peat & Equipment  
Grand Forks, N.D.



## Obituaries

**ARTHUR SNYDER**  
1898-1997

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arthur Armstrong Snyder, who along with his three sons was a AA Life Member of the GCSAA, died here on March 12, from complications from pneumonia. He was 98.

Born Sept. 13, 1898, Mr. Snyder was a certified golf course superintendent and raised three superintendents: Arthur Jack, who is also a golf course designer, James H. and Carl H. All three survive him. His wife Margaretta died in 1989.

Starting as a caddie at Oakmont in 1907 when he was 9, Mr. Snyder was in the golf business for nearly 70 years, retiring in 1974 as superintendent at Paradise Valley (Ariz.) CC. Following service in World War I, he went to work on the grounds crew at Westmoreland Club in the Pittsburgh area. He became greenkeeper at nearby Alcoma Country Club in 1927. During World War II he was superintendent at both Alcoma and The Longue Vue Club.

In the early 1950s he moved to Arizona, working as superintendent as well as performing some redesign work. He built White Mountain Country Club at Pine Top in eastern Arizona in 1953. Later, with son Arthur Jack, he co-designed the second nine holes at White Mountain.

An excellent golfer, Mr. Snyder played nine holes twice a week until he reached the age of 96. When asked what he wanted for his 95th birthday, he answered: "I could use a new golf bag."

**TOM MASCARO**  
1916-1997

Tom Mascaro, whose inventions included the aerifier, verticutter and first battery-powered mower, died May 6 at the age of 81.

Active in the golf course industry for the past 65 years, Mr. Mascaro was awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, and was a current GCSAA member, historical preservation committee member and Foundation donor. He also had received the U.S. Golf Association Green Section Award, along with hundreds of other turf-related awards. The Mascaro-Steiniger Turfgrass Museum at Penn State University was named in his honor.

He was a former president of West Point Products, West Point, Pa., and former president of Turf-Tec Int'l, Oakland Park, Fla.

Mr. Mascaro is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons John and Bobby; daughters Tammy Shackelford, Linda Owens and Stella Churchill; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Mascaro's family has requested that donations be made to the Historical Preservation Fund in lieu of flowers.

## Letters



**NOT QUITE READY FOR IPM**

To the Editor:

My father, Gordon Witteveen, has asked me to send you this photo. I hope you find it interesting. Perhaps your readers will, too... I guess I'll always be a greenkeeper's daughter.

In Zimbabwe I marveled at city workers cutting grass with dull scythes on the boulevards near Victoria Falls (Dad was less impressed when he contracted tic bite fever attempting the same feat on my Swaziland "lawn").

In Bangkok I asked a friend to translate signs written in Thai script in the enclaves of the Grand Palace entreating visitor not to disturb the grass.

In Vienna, at another famous palace, a uniformed grass guard patrols the grounds on bicycle, lest an errant tourist can't resist

a short barefoot stroll on the cool, green, manicured lawns. I watched him catch an infractor once, whistle shrilling, bell tinkling, one arm flailing as he peddled furiously up and down the gravel pathways.

But the above photo was taken in India, just outside the Taj Mahal, inside an enclave that keeps out the postcard hawkers, beggars, holy cows, fruit sellers, and all that is chaotic and fascinating about the subcontinent. On the other side of the red sandstone wall is the Taj itself, the white marble shrine built for love by a heartbroken emperor in 1631 (completed in 1653).

Ann Witteveen  
Woodbridge, Ont., Canada

*Ed. — The author's father is superintendent at Board of Trade Golf Club in Toronto.*

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## Phillips comment

Continued from page 14

golf's fantastic course growth in the 1990s. Indeed, many of the spectacular courses built in the past 20 years — Princeville on Kauai or Sugarloaf here in Maine, for example — simply are not walkable and would never have been built if it weren't for golf cars.

- Of course, carts made

residential golf possible, too. When traveling from green to tee, there's nothing like a five-minute drive through the time-shares. Ugh.

- From a design standpoint, I believe holes that require blind shots are perfectly sound — if they're located at a private club. At a resort course, where someone is likely to play only once, blind shots are unfair. It's a question of repeat play.

- When I took this job, I never dreamed I would know so much about grass.

- Or compost.

- I'd like to thank Arnold Palmer for backing me up during the Masters, when he suggested (on a USA Network telecast) that Augusta go back to Bermuda on the greens. In a column I wrote for the GolfWeb late last year, I said the same thing: Those greens

were not designed for modern bents. Indeed, with modern bentgrasses in place, the greens at many older courses are pitched so steeply and contoured so flamboyantly as to be unfair and at odds with the architect's original intent.

- Here's a corollary: While modern turf grasses are undoubtedly healthier and easier to maintain, their ability to be cut at such low heights

has made modern greens, by necessity, flatter and more boring to putt on.

- The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America must decide, at some point, whether it represents the superintendent's profession or merely its members. Until the folks in Lawrence sort this out, their power and credibility in golf will suffer. If they take the broader view, their leadership position and (dare I say it?) their coffers will only be enhanced.

At this point in the farewell column the editor is obligated to tell readers why he's leaving and where he's going, provided he has a place to go. To the delight and relief of my wife and young son, I do have a place to go.

I'm starting my own media relations company, On In Two Communications. As the name suggests, On In Two will specialize in golf, formulating and executing media campaigns for firms interested in promoting themselves nationwide. That's a fancy way of saying: Helping companies get good press. Here's hoping my knowledge of the golf business and my experience with the media will prove useful to companies seeking to raise their industry profiles.

Well, I've bared my soul. I've tried to hold your interest with my "compelling" industry views. And I've made known my future plans. It's time to sum up:

Five years have passed since I arrived here at *Golf Course News*. In that time, the golf industry has flourished and so has our publication. Courses have opened in record numbers, allowing *GCN* to grow and expand the way a good business journal should grow and expand when an industry is strong.

This vigor, which is global, has allowed *Golf Course News* to launch an Asia-Pacific edition, an international edition, a national conference & trade show, a development newsletter and a web site. All this has happened on my watch; I'm proud of the job our staff has done. I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity. And I'm grateful for having not screwed it up.

I will miss the staff here — Publisher Charles von Brecht, Managing Editor Mark Leslie and Associate Editor Peter Blais. I'm confident the quality of this publication will not suffer after my departure.

However, like many who come to this industry, I've come to enjoy golf too much to leave it. In that sense I'm lucky. I don't have to say "good-bye," just "see you later."

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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BRIEFS



**MATRIX PROPERTIES JOIN AUDUBON**

**JAMESBURG, N.J.** — Forsgate Country Club and its sister clubs Commonwealth National Golf Club of Horsham, Pa., and Ashbourne Country Club of Cheltenham, Pa., have joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS). Matrix-Stafford Hospitality, a management and consulting group based in Cranbury, manages all three clubs. The program will be coordinated by superintendents Bob Ribbans at Forsgate, Larry Schlippert at Commonwealth and Mark Yates at Ashbourne.

**GOLEMBIEWSKI GETS MUSSER AWARD**

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has named Ohio State University graduate student Robert C. Golembiewski the recipient of its 1997

Award of Excellence, which includes an \$8,500 scholarship toward Golembiewski's doctoral studies. A graduate of Michigan

State, with a master's degree in botany and plant pathology, he is working on a thesis titled "Characterization of creeping bentgrass using randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) markers."

**MSU GETS CRUMB RUBBER PATENT**

**DENVER, Colo.** — The US Patent Office on May 1 issued a major patent to Michigan State University for using crumb rubber as a turf top dressing. Its exclusive licensee, JaiTire Industries in Denver, has been marketing the product under the trade name of Crown III for two years through its national dealer network. The product has been installed at more than 500 locations across the country — including many high-profile golf courses, collegiate and prep athletic fields, and professional sports stadiums.

**NICKLAUS CITES SCOTT LEWIS**

**LAS VEGAS** — Scott Lewis, superintendent of golf course maintenance here at SouthShore Golf Club at Lake Las Vegas Resort, has been named the Nicklaus Superintendent of the Year. Lewis was selected from superintendents tending to 138 Nicklaus-designed courses, as well as those managed by the Nicklaus golf course maintenance company, Golf Turf. "The honor says a lot about Scott's talent and ability. It is nice to see him recognized by his peers. It also speaks volumes about the talents of his first-class staff," said Harry Turner, vice president of operations at Lake Las Vegas Resort.

**Nationwide test greens to yield results this year**

By MARK LESLIE

**FAR HILLS, N.J.** — Inspired by the old pie greens of the 1930s and '40s, three national organizations expect to plant test putting greens at 16 golf courses and have initial data readings by the end of the year.

"We're excited by this," said Jim Snow, national director of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, which is sponsoring the project along with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). "One of the things superintendents have wanted is data from variety trials that was gathered under golf course conditions. For whatever

reasons, even if they are cut daily, most sites are not maintained that way. They don't get the traffic you get on a green.

"There have been some prominent grasses over the years that looked great in tests but failed miserably under field conditions."

With \$15,000 in funding each, the participating golf courses will build practice greens, which will be used as test plots for bentgrasses or Bermudagrasses. As of mid-May, 17 bents and 12 Bermudas were expected to be included, although that number will change.



Four courses will test the Bermudas, a dozen will test bents, according to NTEP National Director Kevin Morris.

"We're trying to get the bentgrass greens built this summer and established this fall," Snow said. "We can begin taking data this fall regarding establishment rate and other things. Next year will be the first full year."

The Bermudagrass greens will be planted next spring.

Professors at nearby universities will be charged with keeping the data.

Continued on page 20



A work crew performs its daily chores as the day (June 12) draws near for the long-awaited 1997 U.S. Open at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

**GETTING OPEN-READY**

**Latshaw faces compelling challenge at Congressional**

By MARK LESLIE

**BETHESDA, Md.** — When the U.S. Open begins on June 12 at Congressional Country Club here, it will mark the beginning of the end of the three longest years of Paul R. Latshaw's life.

"It will be a letdown, actually," said the Congressional superintendent. "It's been a three-year grind." For three years, every day has pointed toward 96 hours in 1997 when the venerable old course becomes the focal point of golf for the world.

Latshaw had tackled the rigors of maintaining Augusta National for Masters competitions in 1986-89 and of preparing Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club for PGA and U.S. Open events in 1978 and 1983. And his arrival at Congressional was akin to University of Kentucky coach Rick Pitino taking control of the woeful Boston Celtics last month. The golf world looked on in anticipation.

"These were the most publicized greens in the world," Latshaw said of Congressional's putting surfaces, which were in sad condition but for reasons no one could fathom.

"Everyone said, 'They're never going to make it; forget saving



Paul R. Latshaw

Continued on page 24



**RECYCLING MADE EASY**

Wood chippers have a place on the golf course, especially where the club is dedicated to recycling. At Longaberger Golf Club in Hanover, Ohio, which will open in 1998, wood chips will be used for paper products. See On the Green article on page 23.



**Texas A&M program a model for clubs considering Audubon**

**COLLEGE STATION, Texas** — A unique program at Texas A&M University is helping more than 70 courses in Texas, such as Champions Country Club, to pursue certification as wildlife sanctuaries under a program of the Audubon International and the United States Golf Association.

Lake Side Country Club in Houston is the first fully-certified course in Texas, according to Audubon ecologist Marla Briggs. Some 2,000 courses in the United States and Canada have paid a \$100 membership fee with the intent to pursue the program, and 95 have completed the strenuous, six-part program since its inception in 1991, she said.

But the unique boost in Texas, where long sunny days have sparked a passion for golf played on some 900 courses,

Continued on page 18



## Texas A&M students perform Audubon preliminaries

Continued from page 17

comes from Texas A&M University turfgrass students who have teamed with turfgrass researcher Dr. Richard White to provide the first step toward certification. The group offers to conduct initial resource assessment surveys documenting the wildlife and plant species that already exist on the course.

"Texas A&M's turf students have been tops with this effort," Briggs said. "We've talked to some other universities about doing this, but Texas A&M has been the leader so far."

White said working with golf courses — where most turf majors hope to land jobs — is an excellent teaching tool.

The students know this is important for the environment, White said. "They see the golf course as a whole, not just the turf, and start thinking about ways to make it better," he added. "They get to begin applying principles they are learning in class."

Briggs said the wildlife sanctuary certification program begins with the resource inventory. From that, Audubon International writes a report on environmental planning specific to the particular golf course. Next, a workbook is provided to the golf course, with five segments: water quality management, water conservation, integrated pest management, wildlife and habitat management, and outreach and education. Full certification may take one to three years, depending on the environmental condition of the golf course when it begins, she said.

"A golf course can do all five at once or one or two at a time," Briggs said. "When they finish the workbook, we review and, if all is satisfactory, accept it for full certification."

The Texas A&M students begin the process by dividing into teams for photography, property/adjoining land use, plant inventory, wildlife inventory and superintendent information. White said that by working in teams — each with a leader and several members — the group can complete the resource assessment in a day.

"We put at least 100 man-hours in during one day," White said. That's something a golf course superintendent would find difficult to do given time commitments.

"I gave the students some pointers on where to find wildlife and native plants, but I would not have had time to do it myself," Joachim said.

Beginning the wildlife sanctuary certification program at Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas was one of Keith Ihm's first actions as golf course superintendent. Having the students available to

do the initial resource inventory allowed Ihms to concentrate on other duties in his new position without neglecting the important first step toward certification.

"Some people have the impression that we (at golf courses) spray with a lot of pesticides and waste water," Ihms said. "But we are doing what we can to change that."

Ihms said Bent Tree plans to

use the resource inventory completed by the Texas A&M students to help educate and inform their members and surrounding community about the wildlife that lives there. And, he has plans to have a local private school build nesting boxes for various species of birds that frequent the course.

White pointed out that an

open-door policy for increased wildlife populations can have drawbacks - bird droppings, divots in the turf from large mammals, or putting natural habitats in the wrong places, causing golfers to lose more balls or slowing play.

Ihms agreed. But he said Bent Tree has an environmental solution for much of that - the course contracts with a humane trapper to remove problem animals and relocate them on neighboring

ranches. The trapper also recently rescued and sent to a rehab facility some baby beavers that were homeless due to the heavy rains.

White said it is that kind of example students realize from working on the resource assessments.

"The exposure is great. This project has increased the students' awareness of environmental concerns and is something that they will carry with them through their careers," White noted.

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MECHANICS' CORNER

# Jake backs program with scholarships in memory of employees

RACINE, WI — Jacobsen Textron, a major sponsor of the turf industry's first two-year associate degree program for turf equipment technicians at Texas State Technical College in Waco, has also established two annual scholarships for students participating in the program.

Developed in cooperation with Jacobsen's staff and the college, the technicians' program combines a curriculum focused on an understanding of hydraulics, electrical and engine principles, along with hands-on training.

"Jacobsen chose Texas State Technical College because of its

strong mechanics' program and an active advisory committee for its golf course and turfgrass management studies," said Tony Saiia, Jacobsen vice president of customer service & product support.

"The school has excellent training labs, as well as several holes of golf which provide per-

fect 'real life' areas for learning about turf equipment."

Saiia added that program developers agreed that technicians and mechanics should have a clear understanding of the day-to-day demands of turfgrass maintenance, in addition to their technical equipment training.

"Our intention," said Wallace "Tinker" Clift, CGCS, who heads the Golf Course & Turfgrass Management program at the college, "is to meet the demands that the golf and grounds maintenance industry has placed upon us in recent years. We want these students to receive both technical training in the classroom and field experience in an approved work situation before they graduate."

Jacobsen has established two annual scholarships to provide added support for the program: the "Wayne Snell Memorial Scholarship" and the "Steve Moffett Memorial Scholarship." They are named in memory of two turf professionals who were associated with Jacobsen until their untimely deaths from illness last year.

Wayne Snell was Jacobsen's manager of product training and helped pioneer many of the training programs offered at the company. Snell was 40 when he died from a cerebral aneurysm.

Steve Moffett was the president of S.V. Moffett Company, a Jacobsen distributor in West Henrietta, N.Y. Moffett was widely known for his educational interests and efforts on behalf of turfgrass students. He died last October from cancer.

The scholarships will be awarded to four students each year — two of the "Wayne Snell Memorial" and two of the "Steve Moffett Memorial."

"Jacobsen is extremely proud to sponsor this new, two-year associate degree for turf equipment technicians," said Saiia, "and we're excited about the scholarships. They are named for two friends of Jacobsen who believed in the power of education and who shared their knowledge with others to advance the turf industry. We're glad that Jacobsen can help carry on those ideals."

Ransomes, through its Dallas distributor Master Turf, is also supplying equipment and expertise for the program, Clift added.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEETINGS SET

The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Equipment Manager's Association has scheduled three events for this fall, according to Meeting Committee Chairman Chris Maurer of the Country Club at Castle Pines.

On Sept. 7 members and their families will get together for a family picnic at 11 a.m. at Clement Park.

The Country Club at Castle Pines will host an association meeting on Oct. 17 at noon. A speaker will address the group.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 14 at a location to be announced.



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## Texans spur research with \$200K grant

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Texas Turfgrass Association has donated \$200,000 to Texas A&M University's department of soil and crop sciences as part of the Texas Turfgrass Research, Education and Extension Endowment.

"The association is hoping that with this beginning money, others will see the need for the endowment at Texas A&M and will also make contributions," said

Texas Turfgrass Association Executive Director Shirley Duble of College Station. "We hope we provide the seed money that generates more."

Turfgrass in Texas is a \$4.13 billion industry, covering about 3.5 million acres, according to the association. Single-family households, the largest sector in terms of annual expenditures, spend almost \$2.6 billion a year on lawn

care and maintenance.

Research currently includes breeding, plant pathology, urban entomology, soil science, turfgrass physiology and management, weed control and development of other leading-edge programs and technologies, according to Dr. Richard White, turfgrass researcher for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The endowment also may fund scholarships and internships for student enrichment and may assist the Extension Ser-

vice in the development of timely technology transfer programs for all segments of the industry.

"The economic study by Texas A&M agricultural economists pointed to the size of the industry in Texas, and we don't think people were aware of how large it is," Duble said. "We hope that with more research and education people will learn how to plant the best types of grasses, how to take care of them and how to use fewer pesticides."

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## Test greens readied

Continued from page 17

Snow said these will be the first trials away from university sites for 50 years. "Frankly, what was there after Penncross [bentgrass]?" Snow asked. "There wasn't much else to test. Having a choice is a recent phenomenon."

On the pie greens of the 1930s and '40s, people tested a dozen to 15 mostly vegetatively propagated bentgrasses like Toronto, C-1 and C-19. But "they weren't designed for statistical analysis," Snow said.

The new plots will be replicated three times and randomly installed so they can be statistically analyzed, he said. The plan is for a five-year study.

The test greens will be constructed in Washington, Indiana, California, Arizona, Texas, Alabama, Illinois, Missouri, Florida, New York, Colorado, Virginia and Kentucky. Of the sixteen sites, 13 have been confirmed by the selection committee.

Contracts have been signed and agreed to at Fox Hollow at Lakewood in Lakewood, Colo.; North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill.; SCGA Members Club in Murrieta, Calif.; The Country Club of Birmingham in Birmingham, Ala.; The Missouri Bluffs in St. Charles, Mo.; Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y.; and Westwood Golf Course in Vienna, Va.

Six other courses have agreed to participate and are in the final stages of completing the contract. Discussions between the last three courses and the committee are ongoing and should wrap up within the next couple of weeks, said Jim Moore, director of the USGA's Construction Education Program.

"It's a great opportunity to show golfers the golf and scientific communities' commitment to golf and the environment," Moore said. "Plus it's a great combination effort between the USGA, GCSAA and NTEP. If this works, I can see us doing similar efforts on other matters in the future."

Moore is representing the USGA during the selection and construction phases. As it shifts into a research mode Dr. Michael Kenna, director of Green Section research, and NTEP will take over.

**TORO**

*It's about playability*



## Out-of-door lockers clean up indoors

By TERRY BUCHEN

NAPLES, Fla. — Darren Davis, superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club, had an idea that was ignited while working at some other fine clubs during his career, to create an employee locker area outside the maintenance building in addition to the traditional lockers located inside.

"We built 23 lockers outside," Davis said, "and issued to each one of our employees their own square and round point shovels; leafrake; whipping pole; back brace; bungee cord; hard hat; safety glasses; rain suits; rubber slip-ons booties; and ear plugs with resounding results."

This eliminated tools being lost, broken or laid around as each employee "takes a tremendous amount of pride in having their own set of tools," he said. "We felt we must and wanted to take care of our employees, which goes a long way in employee morale..."

Each employee's tool is numbered with their locker number, either on the wooden or metal handle, or on the safety equipment.

Inside the maintenance building, Olde

Florida has traditional metal full-size lockers for each employee's personal belongings and each locker number corresponds with the employee's outside locker.

Unique padlocks, from the School Lock Co., are individually keyed with a master key system also, Davis said.

"Our up-front cost for tools is more than the traditional way of purchasing them," he said, "but in the long run we actually save money by not having to replace lost, broken or stolen tools and safety equipment."

Gary Grigg, past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and superintendent at Royal Poinciana Golf Club, liked the idea and formulated a similar outside locker system at his club.

"Darren really had a great idea, so we built our own wooden lockers and we offer steel-toed shoes for each employee as well and use a combination lock," Grigg said. He pointed out that lockers need to be much taller to house shovels, rakes and whipping poles.

"Our employees, like Darren's, really take pride in having their own tools and



The outside lockers at Olde Florida Golf Club.

safety equipment. It is the little things that are important to employee pride and morale," Grigg said.

## Southern Cal show organizers expect largest, best ever

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Southern California Turfgrass Council officials have announced the organization's 1997 education and trade show will be held Oct. 1-2, here at the Orange County Fairgrounds.

"We flat out believe the 1997 show will be our largest and best ever," said Chuck Wilson, veteran manager of the event called The Turfgrass, Landscape and Equipment Expo.

Sal Ramirez, a Turfgrass Council board member and chairman of this year's show, said: "The 1997 Expo will be a vigorous undertaking that will attract more participants and attendees than ever before. It will be programmed, promoted and marketed in such a way that the show will better benefit and serve all of us in the turfgrass industry. We anticipate an outstanding success."

Exhibits not only include displays of turfgrass products, but also equipment, irrigation systems, pest control and fertilizer products and other material required to grow, use and maintain turfgrass.

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# Grand Traverse promotes Galligan and four others

ACME, Mich. — Grand Traverse Resort Director of Golf Mike Meindersma has promoted five employees in the Golf and Grounds Department.

Paul Galligan has been promoted to golf course construction superintendent of the new Gary Player-designed golf course, Northern Knight. Galligan, former golf course superintendent of The Bear, designed by Jack Nicklaus, will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day construction of Northern Knight which began in May. Galligan joined Grand Traverse Resort in 1983.

**Doug Kendziorski**, former Superintendent of the resort's Spruce Run golf course, has been promoted to Superintendent of The Bear. Kendziorski joined the Resort in 1990.

**Jim Bluck**, former assistant superintendent of The Bear, has been promoted to superintendent of Spruce Run. Bluck joined the Resort in 1993.

**Bruce Cline**, former assistant superintendent of Spruce Run, has been promoted to assistant superintendent of The Bear. Cline joined the resort in 1994.

**John Stosio** has been promoted to assistant superintendent of Spruce Run. Stosio joined the resort in 1996.

•••

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — **Dennis McNally** has been named superintendent at the Palm Beach County-owned Okeeheelee golf complex here by International Golf Management, Inc. (IGM), a Lakeland-based firm, providing turnkey golf course maintenance services on a contractual basis for public and private golf courses throughout Florida and the Southeast.

The 188-acre golf complex features 27 holes of golf on three courses and located within 900-acre, county-owned Okee-heelee Park. McNally supervises a 13-member staff and reports directly to Jimmy Witt, IGM's South Florida regional manager.

Before coming to Okeeheelee, McNally served two years as superintendent at Wellington (Fla.) Country Club. His background also includes nearly eight years as assistant superintendent at High Ridge Country Club in Boynton Beach and six years in the same capacity at Atlantis (Fla.) Country Club.

•••

GOLD CANYON, Ariz. — **Stuart Penge** has been hired as the new golf course superintendent at Gold Canyon Golf Resort, according to Bret Greenwood, director of golf.

Penge will oversee golf course and facility maintenance, bud-

get planning and the daily work assignments for 36 maintenance staff employees.

Prior to joining Gold Canyon Golf Resort, Penge served as an assistant superintendent at Desert Highlands Golf Club in Scottsdale and Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree.

•••

QUANTICO, Md. — Billy Casper Golf Management, Inc. (BCGM) has named **Charles T. Sheridan** superintendent here at Green Hill Yacht & Country Club. BCGM was selected in December to provide complete turnkey management services to Green Hill.



Sheridan is the former assistant golf course superintendent at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, where he participated in the regrassing of the course and an extensive irrigation upgrade in preparation for the 1995 U.S. Open. Sheridan

also held the position of links superintendent at Waterville Golf Links in County Kerry, Ireland.


•••

VERO BEACH, Fla. — **Michael Rowe** has been named superintendent here at Sandridge Golf Club, a club managed by Lakeland, Florida-based International Golf Management, Inc. (IGM). Rowe is responsible for complete maintenance of


Continued on next page

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By TERRY BUCHEN

**H**ANOVER, Ohio — The Longaberger Co. is the world's largest wooden decorative basket manufacturer and has 5,000 employees working at its Dresden plant, which is visited by more than 500,000 tourists each year.

To give the tourists an additional reason to visit and stick around, the company

# Longaberger GC uses chipper to fulfill credo to recycle its wooded wealth

developed its own course, Longaberger Golf Club, a public-access course designed by Arthur Hills and Brian Yoder. Built by Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., with Al Van Meeteren as job superintendent, the course is scheduled

to open in 1998 and will feature bentgrass greens, tees and fairways, with bluegrass roughs. It will be maintained by superintendent Mark Rawlins, who spent the past 12 years at the Zanesville (Ohio) Country Club.

Still under construction, this course has also reflected the firm's philosophy that backs recycling wherever possible.

"When most people see the course for the first time, they assume a lot of clearing was done, when in reality,

clearing was kept to a minimum. Fewer trees were removed than the architect's original drawings specified," Rawlins said.

"Most of the golf holes are located where openings in the trees already existed. The philosophies of Doug Schmidt (director of grounds and golf maintenance) and Mike Kaido (executive director of golf operations) from the beginning, were to leave as many trees as possible. Trees that were removed were chipped and sold to a local company that got some good use out of them as they weren't just buried."

The trees were chipped with a high-tech chipper, blown into a semi-trailer and hauled away to the Stone Container Co., that makes paper products. None of the trees were burned as The Longaberger Co. has a long-standing tradition of recycling everything whenever possible.

"The Longaberger Co. is already recycling, so we wanted to do our part on the new course as well," Schmidt said. "The wood chips are being used in a nearby business and we are building a new corporate office building where the interior will have cherry wood trim of which 17,000 board feet was taken from the golf course during the clearing process."

"We feel really good about the use of the chipper," Kaido said. "The wood chips will be put to a good use as all of the cleared trees will be recycled back into the local community,"

Added Yoder: "The chipper is a viable and extremely promising option for many future golf course construction projects. Owners, architects, builders and superintendents feel really good about the end results."



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## On the Move

Continued from previous page

Sandridge's two 18-hole courses — the 7,000-yard Dunes and the 6,300-yard Lakes. He supervises a staff of 23 and reports directly to Jim Wells, IGM's central Florida regional manager.

DULUTH, Ga. — The new 18-hole executive course Peachtree Masters Golf Club has hired **Scott Hales** as its golf course superintendent.

GRIFFIN, Ga. — The city of Griffin has hired **Tommy Wood** as superintendent of his municipal golf course. Wood was a representative for LESCO.

HOLLYWOOD, Ga. — Hollywood Hills Golf Course has hired **Tom Grundy** as its new golf course superintendent.



# Latshaw's ready for U.S. Open

Continued from page 17

those greens,' Latshaw recalled. "But our goal is: We can do it."

"Dad likes and wants challenges, and this has been the greatest in his whole career," said Latshaw's son Paul B., superintendent at another high-profile facility, Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. "There were a lot of problems there [Congressional] and he has started to turn the place around. Last week I was there and the greens were the best I've ever seen them."

"Dad is like the Michael Jordan of superintendents. He's in a class of his own. You think you do a good job and then visit his course. It's humbling."

When architect Rees Jones was hired to renovate the 70-year-old Devereux Emmet-designed Congressional for the 1995 U.S. Senior Open and this month's U.S. Open, the condition of the greens was first brought to national attention. Fairway contouring and other restoration went well, but the greens reportedly remained a dismal problem.

Many experts, including agronomists from various universities, couldn't resolve the issue. And while other clubs

faced with this situation decide to rebuild the greens entirely, the membership here declined to do that.

"We never did pinpoint the problem," Latshaw said. "There is nothing we have not tried. We changed a lot of programs around to find something that would work. We did a lot of aerification, modified the existing root zone, and got very involved in biological-type maintenance, adding natural organics for fertility."

After a lot of experimentation on the all-sand greens, Latshaw settled on a program adding Nature Safe, humates and soil amendments to build up cation exchange capacity. "We found that combination of three was the best," he said. "I firmly believe you need organic matter. We used a lot of foliar feeding with trace elements. And we are tissue-testing regularly, almost weekly now."

Paul B. said from his Pennsylvania office that his father, in the Washington, D.C., area, is "living in the armpit of the world to grow grass."

*Dad is like the Michael Jordan of superintendents. He's in a class of his own.'*

Paul B. Latshaw

could do it. I'm going to do it."

Come June 12, he said, he will find out if he is right.

...

Attesting to the popularity of golf, when the 35,000 to 40,000 daily spectators arrive at Congressional there will be 37 hospital-ity tents. "At Oakmont in 1983," Latshaw said, "we had six or seven tents... This dwarfs the PGA and other events I was at."

The major course conditioning factor during the Open is weather, he said. "If it's not raining, you can spend some time watching. But if it rains, you have to mulch and sand the crosswalks and move people around. Safety is an obligation."

Management at Congressional, he said, did a exceptional job cleaning out a wooded area to make the spectator area at the 17th and 18th holes, "the two finest in golf to watch."

In his 32 years as a superintendent, the Pennsylvania State University graduate said, the profession has become much more mechanized. "We have much more play now. People really use the facilities. They come out early and play late. They used to not play after mid-afternoon. That has brought a lot of change. We have some great aerification equipment, but you need a chance to use it. That's the problem: working around the golfers."

"He's made so many changes in geographical areas. At Wilmington [CC in Delaware] we never thought of these things. He went from Pittsburgh [Oakmont (Pa.) CC], one of better places in the U.S. to grow grass, to Augusta [National in Georgia] where the heat makes it very difficult to grow bentgrass, then to D.C."

Indeed, the greens the pros will be putting on in the Open were originally bentgrass but have been taken over by poa annua, which now covers 60 to 70 percent of the turf, Latshaw said.

In the midst of the battle for the greens, Latshaw has refurbished all the bunkers. His crew, which will expand to 50 for Open week, removed all the sand, installed new drainage and liner and brought in new sand, completing the job in May.

"I accomplished more here in 3 years than at any other time in my life," he said.

In the midst of the job, Latshaw had the chance to leave for at least one more lucrative position. Why did he turn it down?

"Pride," he said. "I wanted to prove I



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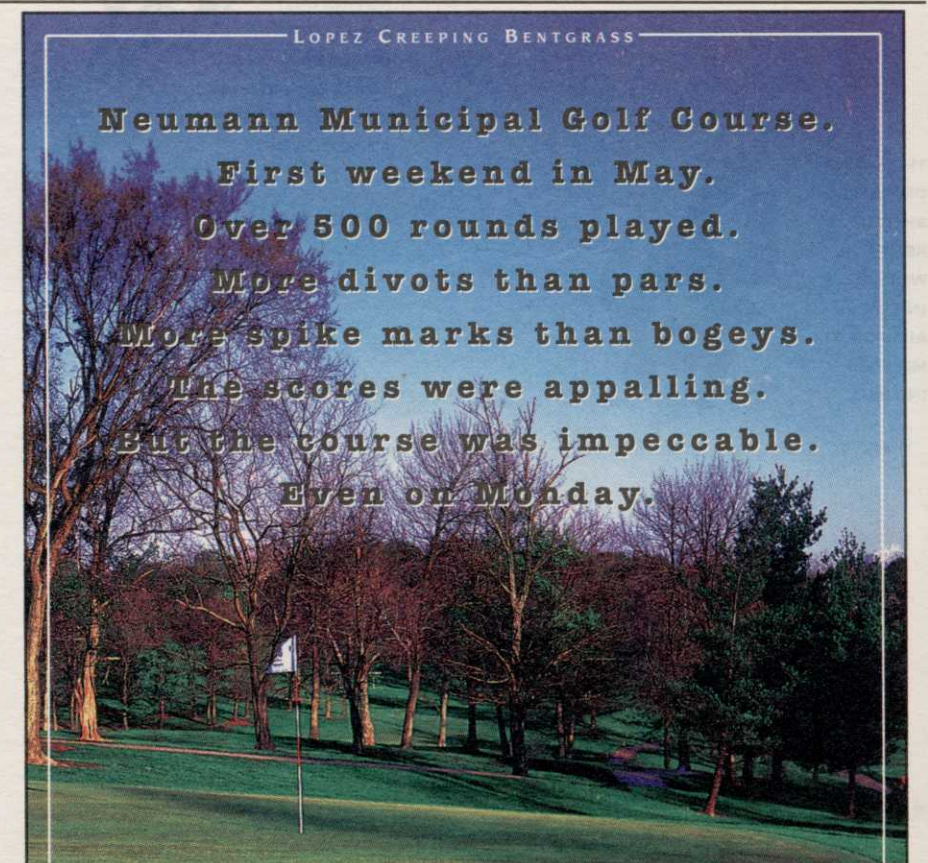
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# Latshaws exemplify the many father-son superintendent combos

By MARK LESLIE

BETHESDA, Md. — There may be no other father and son among superintendents who work at such high-profile golf courses as Paul R. Latshaw and son Paul B. But that is not because Dad — now at Congressional Country Club here — did not try to persuade Son — now at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. — to enter another profession.

Although Paul B. worked for his father starting at the age of 12, he said his dad "discouraged me from working in the business right up until I said I wanted to work with Dick Bator at Pine Valley in 1985 for the Walker Cup."

"Most fathers encourage their sons not to get into this business," said Paul R. "So did I. It didn't work."

His son concurred, adding: "I hope my two sons are not superintendents."

But, if the children persist they want to work outdoors long and hard work weeks and, in some places, long and hard seasons, Paul R. believes good planning and hard work will lead to success. In his case he sent his son

"to two guys I have a lot of respect for who would train him well — Dick Bator and David Stone [superintendent at The Honors Course]... and then one summer with Tom Tanto's golf course construction firm so he could see the irrigation and construction of a golf course, too."

Son Paul also earned four-and

two-year turfgrass degrees from Pennsylvania State University.

When he left Wilmington (Del.) Country Club, where he worked for his father, "Dad said, 'If you fail it's only your fault,'" Paul B. recalled. "He was right. I had a great education, worked for great superintendents and was exposed to a lot of different

concepts."

Paul R. believes this combination will work for others.

"I tell all my young guys, 'If you work and do your homework right when you're a student and build your resume, you can get a good job. Maybe not a Merion, but a good job. Too many times a young person wants to be a

superintendent right away and they get stuck in one place forever."

Training under knowledgeable veterans, he said, can be a major career boost. In his son's case, he is still learning, working on a master's degree in management — something not normally taught in turf school.

## Tenn. Golf House awards scholar

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Golf House Tennessee has awarded its first Danner Turfgrass Internship to Mississippi State University sophomore Michael Schulman to participate in a special project at the Little Course at Aspen Grove. The Little Course, a nine-hole short course on 15 acres, is studying 52 varieties of turfgrasses in hopes of creating better playing conditions.

Schulman, an agronomy student from Campbellsville, Ky., will work for Joe Kennedy, superintendent at the Legends Club of Tennessee. He will record research data during the summer on such projects as converting fairways from Bermudagrass to zoysiagrass, testing new strains of bentgrasses for greens, green speed testing with different varieties, and a study of nitrogen rates on turf. Schulman will also conduct tours for visiting clubs who went to view the experiments.

"Creating this Danner Turf Intern will benefit every single Tennessee golf course and all who play," said Tennessee Golf Foundation President Dick Hurton. "Growing golf course grasses in our transition zone, where temperatures range from minus-17 degrees in the winter to 105 degrees in the summer, is very difficult and we hope we can make strides to improve our course."



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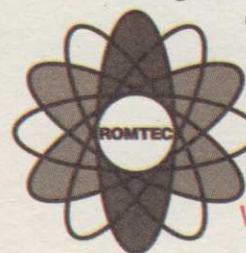
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# Golfers' questions are 'an opportunity'

By TERRY BUCHEN

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Golfers have questions, superintendents have answers! It is always fun talking "golf course maintenance" with the players. It makes for good public relations and provides answers to questions of a technical nature from an expert. Many friendly debates, between golfers and superintendents, concern the way that a sand bunker is supposed to be maintained. That is, should the bunker be maintained in the traditional way as a hazard, or the way many are maintained today: on the firm side. It seems the more time goes on, the firmer golfers want sand bunkers maintained. The reason? To make playing conditions as easy as possible.

Another popular question asked of supers is how should a fairway divot be replaced. Supers explain the obvious: that if roots and soil are still attached, replace it properly; if not, do not. An interesting strategy that really works is to tell the golfer to use a wooden golf tee(s) to hold the divot in place so it will not be knocked out from the fairway mower or by crows, being the curious birds that they are.

Many superintendents mention this in their course newsletters, further explaining this excellent idea. In the United Kingdom, greenkeepers recommend "divot anchors" that are made of plastic and are used with the same principal as a wooden golf tee holding the divot in place. They are given away in the golf shop and golfers take a handful and put them to good use.

How hole locations are determined always causes a lively discussion. The biggest question is, is a hole location "illegal"? That is, how far can the cup be from the edge; how far should it be from the beginning or end of a slope, and so on.

One of the best ways to explain this dilemma is to refer golfers to the USGA Recommendations Regarding Hole Locations, which offer only recommendations, not anything from the Rules of Golf, which many supers put in their monthly newsletter column as well.

Another interesting frequent question is whether a bunker rake, used by golfers, should be placed "inside" or "outside" of a bunker. Again, there is no Rule, but the USGA recommends that bunker rakes be placed outside of the bunkers laying down as close to the bunker as possible without causing any undue interference with golf balls.

In closing, golfers like to ask

many questions about how to improve their home lawns and many supers answer in person and then follow it up with a letter of recommendation to further help them with their lawn. During the face-to-face discussions, many supers

SAVVY SUPERINTENDENT



take the opportunity to explain the hardest part of growing grass on a golf course anywhere in the country, which are usually: 1. Shade; 2. Traffic; 3. Air Movement; 4. Budget Limitations; 5. Drainage, et.al.

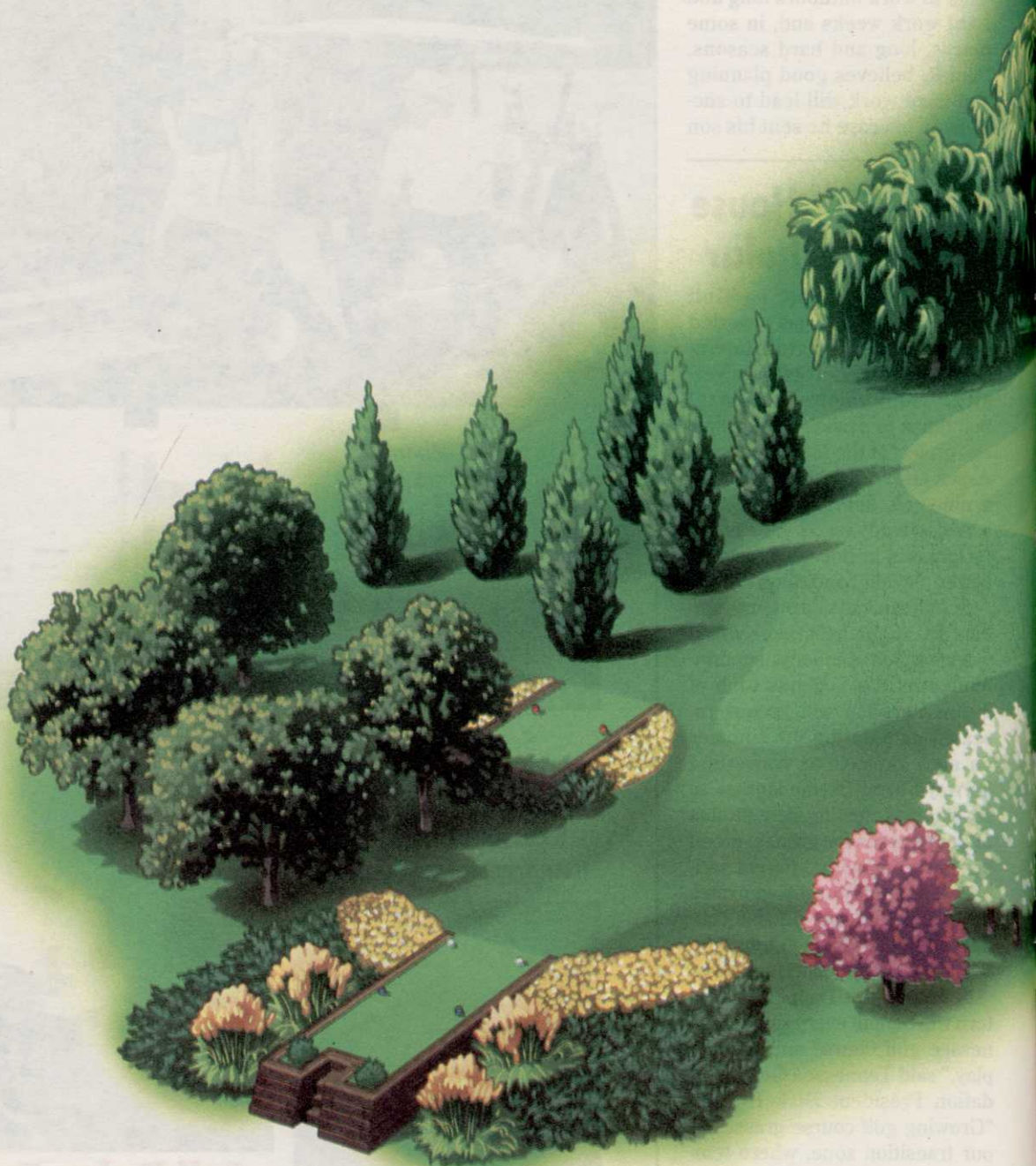
## ENVIROTRON CLASSIC

### Tournament raises \$45K for research

HOMOSSA SPRINGS, Fla. — The 5th annual Envirotron Golf Classic, held April 21 at World Woods Golf Resort here, raised \$45,000 for the Envirotron Research Laboratory at the University of Florida. Barbaron, Inc. was the highest-level sponsor with a donation of \$12,500. The Envirotron is a 3,100-square-foot field lab that includes a greenhouse, four climate-controlled glass houses and two walk-in growth chambers designed to study and develop new technology on the relationship of turfgrass with biological, environmental and cultural factors.

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# QA Texas A&M's White making strides toward more stress-tolerant bentgrass

*Richard White is an associate professor in turfgrass pathology and management at Texas A&M University in College Station. He is currently testing new bentgrass varieties that are supposedly more tolerant to the higher temperature and moisture levels found in humid Southern states, similar to the conditions found at Texas A&M located 90 miles northwest of Houston.*

**Golf Course News:** What grasses are you working with?

**Richard White:** We're working with several populations of grasses including several that don't have names yet. At the end of the summer, we should know more about how they stand up to the heat and moisture. A few are relatively new ones to the market, Penn State's A-4, Texas A&M's Crenshaw and Mariner and Seed

Research's SR 10-20.

**GCN:** What makes College Station a good area to test these grasses?

**RW:** Water management is a critical issue here. It's actually easier to grow bentgrass in the hotter, drier states like New Mexico or Arizona than it is in slightly cooler but more-humid areas like this.

The evaporative demand in desert states can be measured routinely and an appro-

priate amount of water applied to make up for water loss.

But in a humid area, the course manager tends to over water. With soil moisture near capacity comes many detrimental effects. Plants in high soil-moisture areas have less leaf water potential. That makes them less able to take up moisture through the roots than grass in arid climates. The result is reduced photosynthesis and not as much energy for the plant.

**GCN:** Are you doing any other bentgrass research?

**RW:** We're looking at a number of bentgrass blends to try to take advantage of any genetic diversity that would make them more tolerant of summer stresses. Among those we're looking at are Mariner, Crenshaw, A-4, Loft's L-93 and Penncross.

Blends have been used in other types of cool-season grasses, but not traditionally with bentgrasses. We're hoping to develop blends that are more disease-resistant and allow decreased fungicide applications.

**GCN:** What are the potential problems associated with bentgrass blends?

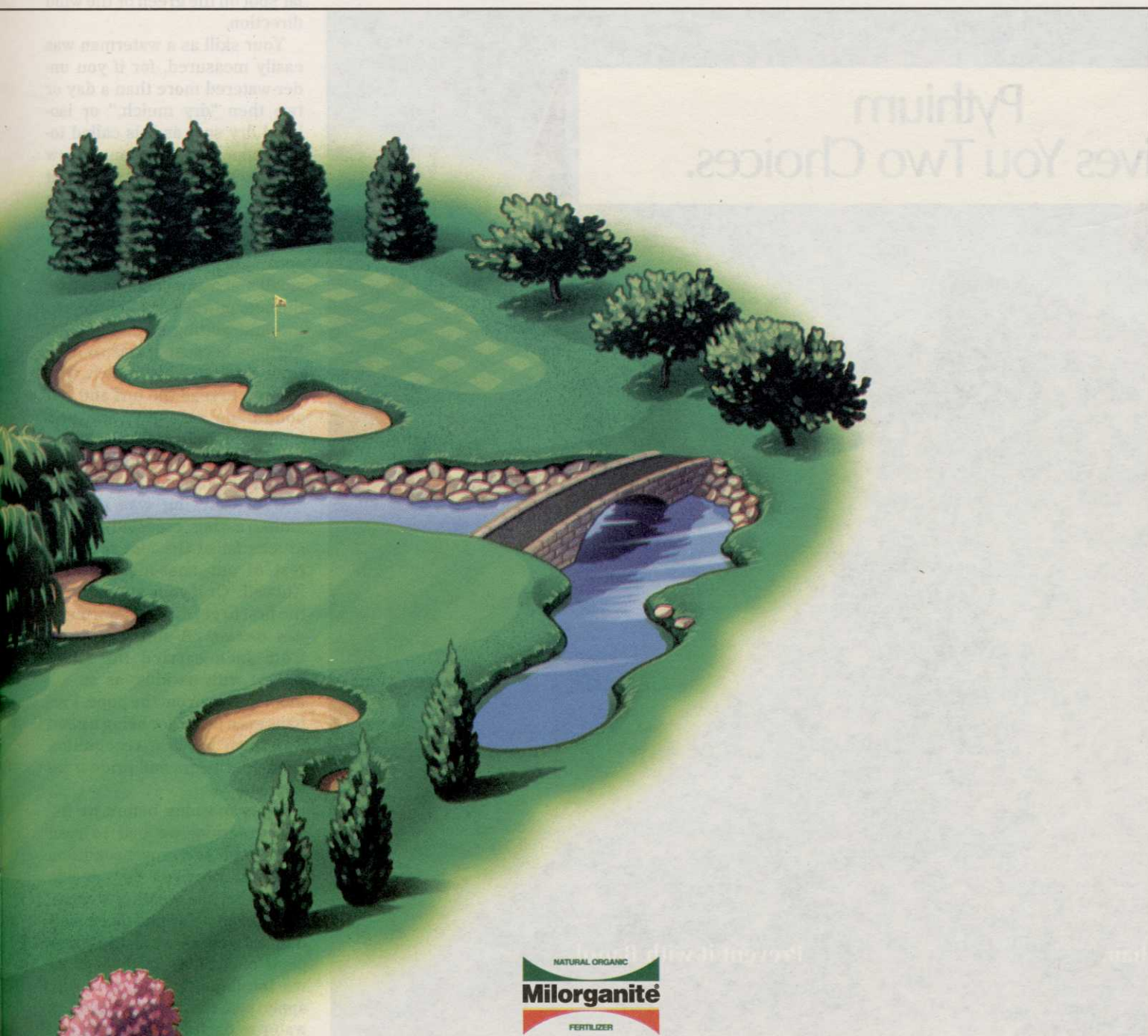
**RW:** Different varieties have different colors and textures. One variety could grow well on a particular part of a green and another on a different part. The different varieties could segregate themselves into different areas of a green and rather than a uniform-appearing putting surface, you could end up with a mottled look. It wouldn't affect the putting quality much. It would be more of an aesthetic thing.

**GCN:** Will more Southern courses be putting in bentgrass?

**RW:** Falcon Point in Katy is using bentgrass, but that's about it around here. In fact, many courses that had bentgrass are switching back to Bermuda-grass. It's not our intent to reverse that conversion. College Station just happens to be an excellent testing area. If we can find some bentgrasses that are successful here, we know they'll succeed in areas that place less stress on bents.

## AUDUBON CANADA EXPANDS

COLLINGWOOD, Ont., Canada — Scott Martin, national coordinator for Canada's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), reports there are now more than 170 Canadian courses signed on with ACSS. Twenty-five have joined since Martin was hired in February. He can be contacted at the following address: 115 First Street, Suite 116, Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, L9Y 1A5. Telephone: 705-429-2277; fax: 705-429-1435; email: acss@cois.on.ca



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# New technology ought to aid old-time watering know-how

By MICHAEL HURDZAN

Last month I wrote about the evils of over-watering golf course turf and considerations to break that addiction. As I wrote I thought about what changes I have seen in golf course irrigation over my past 40 years, as well as what lessons I have

learned that might be worthwhile sharing.

I grew up and learned the fine art of watering turf on a nine-hole course built just after the Depression. So it had only the basics — small size, iron ductile pipe, gate valves and hose spigots at tees and greens — to sup-

ply the hoses and roller-base sprinkler system. (I think we had six hoses and perhaps nine or 10 sprinklers for the whole course, so we often had to drag hoses between greens or tees.)

With only a 125 gpm well and a 14 hp pump, and with greens and tees made of yellow clay,

over-watering was a sin. We were taught how to read the dew patterns on the greens and the subtleties of the color of turf as it approached moisture stress.

We learned to “punch” the turf with the knuckles of a clenched fist to test the green surface for hardness, use the back of our

hand to monitor the temperature of the turf, and firmly push our foot to confirm that we had applied just the right amount of water. We learned to control the precipitation pattern of the 1-inch hose with our thumb or combination of fingers, depending on what was called for in a particular spot on the green or the wind direction.

Your skill as a waterman was easily measured, for if you under-watered more than a day or two then “dry mulch,” or isolated dry spot as it is called today, appeared and your fellow greenkeepers weren’t shy about calling it to your attention. Then you had to take a pitchfork and poke hundreds of holes in that spot and make tens of repeat small water applications to wet the near powder-dry soils below.

Some wetting agents helped. Perhaps because it was so frustrating to cure dry mulch, you learned to read the turf and soil conditions carefully, and you identified indicator places on each green that could forewarn you of that dreaded condition.

Over-watering was equally embarrassing, especially if your greens failed the foot firmness test of our boss-mentor Jack Kidwell. Or if your greens were the first to get disease, worms or *poa annua*. A soft reprimand from Jack carried the same weight with us kids, as an admonishment from the pope. Perhaps even more, for being a good waterman brought recognition from your peers and pride from yourself.

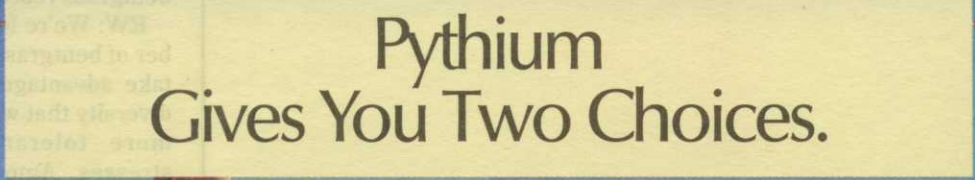
Every morning before we began watering, we had to read each green’s carryover condition from the previous day, decide upon what the weather was going to be that day and three days out, as well as what the grass plant needed. Only then could we intelligently and precisely apply just the right amount of water to each individual part of each green.

The most serious times were when you had hot temperatures, high humidity and successive patterns of thunderstorms. It was like reshuffling the deck, for one end of the golf course might get an inch of rain and the other end only a trace, but everywhere had the same heat and humidity that it had to survive.

If you knew a major storm system was headed your way, you had to start backing off the wa-

Continued on next page

*Dr. Michael Hurdzan is a Columbus, Ohio-based course architect and a member of the Golf Course News Editorial Advisory Board. This column is one of a semi-regular series.*



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## Old-time watering

Continued from previous page

ter days in advance to get things dry enough to receive the precipitation. If you guessed wrong, you had to try to stop the inevitable appearance of dry mulch or, worse yet, the green might go into wet wilt or even sun scold.

The key to watering in stress periods was frequent light applications tailored to each area of each green, but not necessarily enough to hold the grass through the entire day, for about noon you would go out again and apply another small amount of water to get them safely into the cool part of the evening. At dark we would use roller-base sprinklers in several short sets to replenish soil-moisture reserves.

Stress periods also meant syringing, which we were taught meant cooling the grass plant by cooling the air above the turf. To do that we would first sample the temperature of the green in several places with the back of the hand to determine how much syringing was needed, then use maximum pressure to break the water into the smallest droplets possible, and spray them six to eight inches above the putting surface. We never applied water directly to the grass.

After you were done, you would test the turf to make sure you had sufficiently lowered the temperature. The operative word was "vigilance" — not for a day, week, or month, but the entire summer season.

Each green had a personality and you became intimately familiar with all of its vagaries and nuances. To be a successful turf manager meant being in constant touch with the turf.

By the mid-1960s automatic irrigation, combined with high-tech root-zone mixes, seemingly obviated that requirement for vigilance and the margin of error in water application was broadened. Just set the clocks, adjust them for envirotranspiration, and supplement turf with another short burst of water in a syringe cycle if necessary.

Until individual head control and two-speed heads, the superintendent only had to avoid flooding those areas of multiple-sprinkler overlay, and usually good surface drainage could bail you out of that problem because greens still had 3 percent or more slope built into them. But then we began to mow greens below 1/4-inch and green speeds of 6 to 7 feet were considered the minimum.

As the pendulum continued to swing, we evolved the art of shaving bed knives, using comb rollers, and light frequent top dressings to cultivate and satisfy the American golfer's infatuation with ultra-fast greens.

Mowing heights of 5/64-inch became possible (for short periods of time) and speeds in excess of 13 feet. But at such warp speeds, 3 percent surface drainage slopes in greens became intolerable for skillful putting. Rather than give up putting surface speeds, we started to make greens flatter — often below the minimum 1.5 percent required for surface drainage, which meant almost all water had to percolate through the root zone.

Over-watering became much easier, and it started to produce negative consequences like short root systems, root rot

diseases and more invasion by *poa annua*, particularly on parched water table systems and even isolated dry spot. Soon the superintendent's only response was to go back to hand-watering, the way he did before automatic irrigation.

But I wonder if during those 30 years or so, we haven't lost much of the knowledge, experience and vigilance that was so important to the art of hand-watering. It seems that now being a waterman is the least prestigious job on the crew and not the most esteemed as it was in my day.

I honestly don't think we will be able to recapture or teach all of those delicate

observation skills to be a great waterman; and perhaps we shouldn't. Instead, this and future generations of greenkeepers and superintendents should turn to technology to measure the same things that we did in the old days.

I would like to see the waterman again become the most experienced greenkeeper, but now he would measure the sample turf temperature with a hand-held pyrometer, measure existing soil moisture levels at various depths with electronic soil probes, and monitor the oxygen level of the root zone to maintain an optimum soil water/air relationship for

turfgrass growth.

Irrigation cycles should be based again on three- to five-day weather patterns and not short-term envirotranspiration. We should favor the dry side of acceptable moisture range and stimulate the plant's drought-survival mechanisms to produce a healthier total plant.

The operative word will again and always be "vigilance," but just in a different form. But it doesn't hurt to have a few old-time guys like my friend and mentor Jack Kidwell around to give out a few soft reprimands to remind us how important it is to be a good waterperson.



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# Zoysiagrass's territory expanding into northern regions of transition zone

By MARK LESLIE

**B**ELTSVILLE, Md. — Golf course superintendents are pushing the envelope on zoysiagrasses, trying to get the turf which plays so well on fairways to survive further north.

"For use on fairways, zoysia is getting a lot more attention," said Kevin Morris, national director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, based here. "People are trying it much farther north. It is into Indiana and

even the Cincinnati area. It's not taking over the market, but it is being used more and more."

Sod growers in the South, he said, "are shipping a lot of sod into the upper South and even the upper transition zone. In fact, the transition zone is probably its best fit.

"Bermudagrass is more aggressive, but where winter kill is a problem zoysia is better because it is more winter-hardy. It also uses less pesticides and water. And it

makes a really good playing surface in the winter. Its leaves are very stiff and upright and hold the ball well."

Morris reported that seeded varieties of zoysia that have been on the market haven't been used much but will be as more people find out about them.

Supporting that statement, Turf Merchants, Inc. (TFI) of Tangent, Ore., reported that supplies of Zen zoysia are completely sold out until the new crop is harvested in July. One of the first

proprietary seeded zoysia, the Zen line has been sold out since its first production in 1995, according to TFI's Steve Tubbs.

The vegetatively propagated zoysias are finding more of a place on fairways because they are finer textured and can be mowed closer.

The newest national test plots for zoysia were planted last summer, and data on them will be available next year, Morris said.



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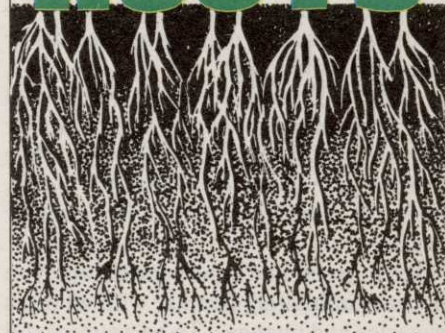
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# Marginal problems of the past becoming more insidious

By MARK LESLIE

YORK, Maine—Turfgrass diseases not previously diagnosed or dismissed as the cause of minor damage are becoming more and more menacing as golf courses are subjected to increased play and more intensive management practices, according to Dr. Noel Jackson.

The University of Rhode Island plant pathologist told a Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association meeting here that the added stress of today's management has exacerbated problems that once were minimal — such as summer patch, anthracnose and pythium root diseases.

Summer patch "has assumed importance over the past 10 to 15 years on greens," Jackson said. Once called the Pittsburgh Plague because it was found there on *poa annua* greens and no one knew its cause, summer patch attacks *poa* species and some fescues, leaving bentgrass alone.

"The lower you mow, the more summer patch you're going to have on *poa annua* greens," he said.

Meanwhile, when *pythium* blight strikes, it can cause disaster. "It works with high temperatures and plenty of water, and it works with a vengeance. In 12 to 24 hours it is devastating," Jackson said. "Most superintendents are familiar with pythium blight but other pythium problems, particularly pythium root diseases, are cropping up. These infections occur at much cooler temperatures than pythium blight. Often these are associated with old pushup soil greens with poor air flow. Sometimes spanking new USGA-specification greens show symptoms because, once introduced, pythium species can grow quickly through sand."

*Pythium* root rot problems on new greens, he said, invariably start on the perimeter and move into the green. Installing barriers to separate the greens mix from existing perimeter soils will help arrest fungal spread, but "I have a sneaking suspicion pythium spores can pole vault," Jackson said. "More and more damage is being caused by cool-season pythium," he said. "These cool-season *pythium* are slower acting and much more insidious than normal *pythium* blight. The infection takes place through the roots and it's a slow progression to the crown."

In the case of anthracnose, it is a stress-related fungus disease that affects all grasses. "We have known it for a long time, but usually it was a leaf infection," he said. "And generally, leaf in-

fections occurred in stressed plants at high temperatures and especially on *poa annua*."

Now it is seen at cooler temperatures as a basal stem rot on *poa annua* and bentgrass.

Factors bringing on anthracnose, the professor said, are compaction, low fertility and

low cutting heights.

What to do?

For all these diseases, raising the height of cut is a primary recommendation. Jackson also advises:

- using systemic fungicides preventively to combat summer patch;

• judicious nitrogen applications and preventive fungicide combinations for anthracnose; and

- drenching appropriate contact fungicides, followed by systemics against pythium root rot.

"The problem with the

pythium root rot," Jackson said, "is how to get fungicides down into the root zone. The answer is, with difficulty. Where possible, treat following mechanical treatment (coring, etc.) and drench it in. I recommend Koban or Teremec SP (4 or 6 ounces

Continued on page 32

## GOLF COURSE NEWS BOOKSHELF

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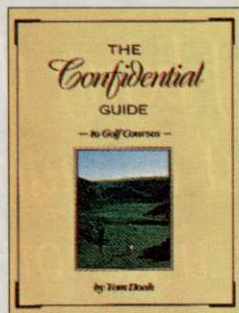
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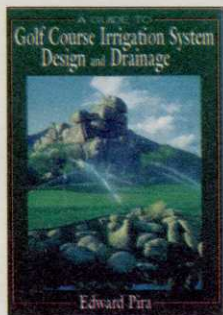
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## New stresses

Continued from page 31

the thousand), then follow with Aliette or Banol four to five days later."

The most efficient systemic fungicide against root infections, he said, is Aliette because it is the only one that will move downward in the plant. Other systemic fungicides mainly move up.

In the meantime, other cool-season diseases are also increasing, Jackson said, singling out take-all patch and necrotic ring spot.

Take-all patch is lurking at golf courses, particularly where new courses are being built on new woodland sites. The antithesis to summer patch, which attacks poa annua and leaves bentgrass alone, take-all patch kills bentgrass and leaves poa annua.

"It is a pernicious disease," Jackson said, causing the grass to die as first the roots then the crowns succumb. New sites are infected by airborne spores, going wherever the air currents carry them.

Take-all patch occurs where there are bentgrasses, the soil pH is higher than 6.2 or so, and there is plenty of surface moisture.

To combat take-all patch, a superintendent should lower the pH with ammonium sulfate and apply organic amendments such as Milorganite, Lawn Restore and Sustain to build up a good microbial population, Jackson said.

Necrotic ring spot, he said, "is a real pain on sodded Kentucky bluegrass lawns ... and we're seeing it in golf greens on poa annua."

Cool, wet weather favors the disease. He suggested supplementing the turf with organic amendments such as those for take-all patch, topically or preferably incorporated in the soil prior to sodding or seeding. Jackson said Heritage fungicide has activity against all these diseases and is "a powerful new weapon for our arsenal" for turf-disease control agents.

•••

Hot summer, or cool seasons, the diseases can be interrelated, Jackson said. "Fusarium blight is still out there; occasionally we see it in hot, dry conditions. Summer patch is certainly out there and increasing under hot, wet conditions. Necrotic ring spot is out there with a vengeance in cool, wet conditions.

"All produce the same conditions in, say, Kentucky bluegrass turf. They occur at different times of the year, but since they are root pathogens, when do the symptoms show up most? When they get heat stress. It doesn't matter if it is necrotic ring spot: the damage has started probably in March and April."

## Super-dwarf Bermudas

Continued from page 1

Bermuda that plays as well in the South as bent does in the North."

Citing the vegetative Bermudas Champion (from Coastal Turf Inc. in Bay City, Texas) and TW72 (from Dr. Wayne Hannah's breeding program at the University of Georgia), Snow said, "These two grasses and probably several others look like they may do that."

Indeed, owners of the new wunderkind Champion said 10 18-hole courses have converted to their turf and another 40 will do so this year, including former bentgrass tracks. One of those is Barton Creek Club and Conference Center, where superintendent Dale Miller has been able to compare Champion to the standard dwarf Bermudas as well as bentgrass: "There is noticeable difference — density mainly — between normal dwarf Bermuda and Champion," Miller said. "The old standard dwarf averages 1,000 to 1,200 shoots per decimeter. Champion averages

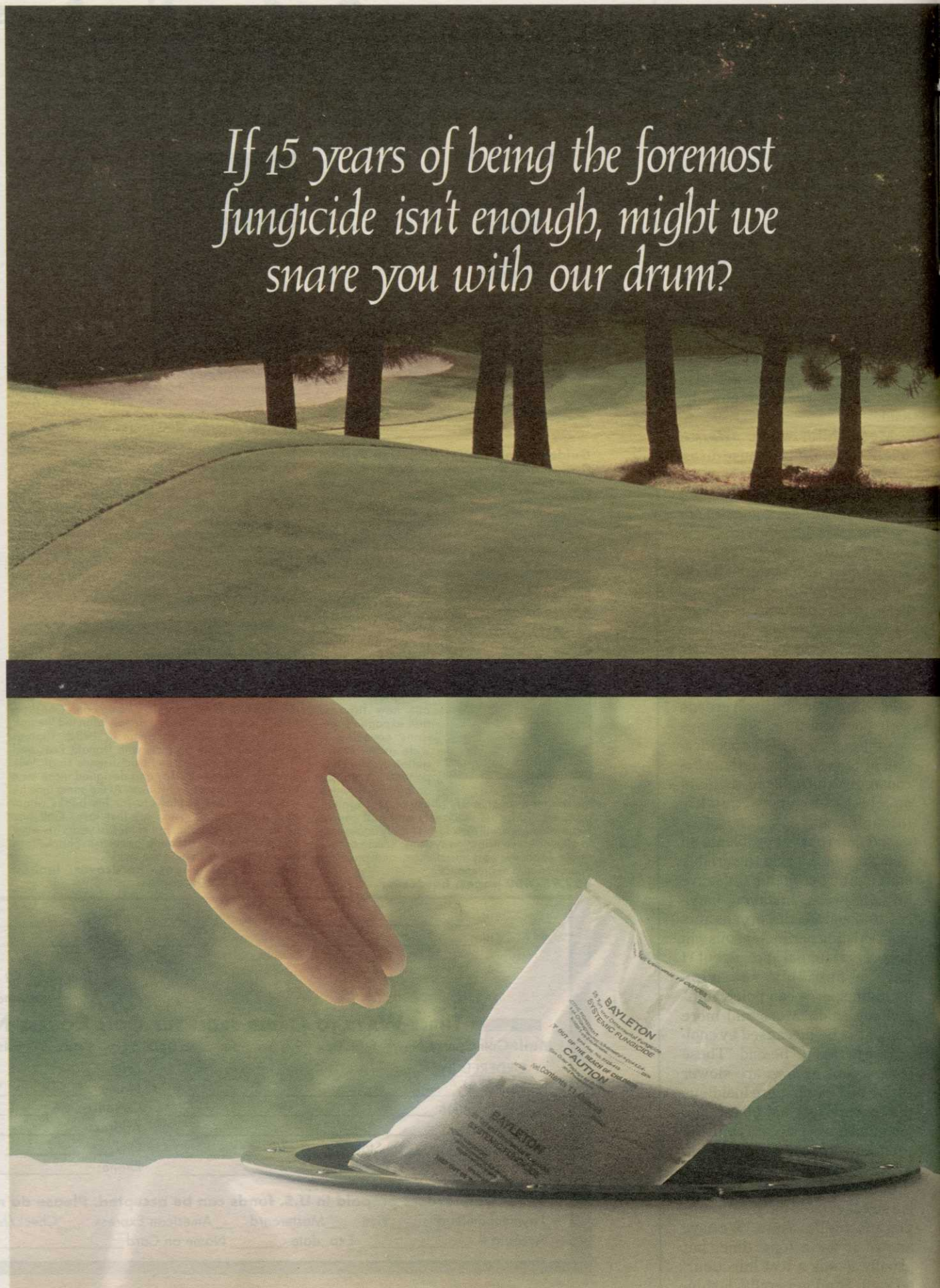
3,000. It's as dense as every bentgrass except the new Penn State A and G series that run around 3,500 shoots."

Miller installed Champion on his Fazio Course two years ago, replacing Penncross bentgrass, and in July will begin replacing the bent with Champion on the Arnold Palmer-designed Lakeside Course.

"You can mow this stuff so low," he said. "It makes a lot of difference on a tee where you can cut it at 1/8 inch as opposed to 3/8 to 1/2 inch. It's a major improvement."

Continued on next page

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## Super-dwarfs

Continued from previous page

Citing "some grumbling" among superintendents that the new super-dwarf Bermuda is too dense, Miller said: "But when 328 was the best Bermuda putting surface and dwarfs came along, everyone said the same thing. It's just a matter of superintendents learning how to take care of it."

The quandary facing develop-

ers building new golf courses is whether to use the standard dwarf Bermudas or the new ones. If they choose the older types, Miller said, they may face a changeover in four or five years to keep up with competition.

Bentgrass breeders have made giant strides in recent years, developing cultivars to push further into the South. These cultivars, Morris said, are finer-textured, extremely dense, and

designed for high-level courses that mow very close and have aggressive aerating and verti-cutting regimes. Nevertheless, Bermudagrasses will be coming into the marketplace to rival the bents even on putting surfaces.

Champion, for instance, "not only tolerates low height of cut, but is easily managed at that height," said Mike Brown of Coastal Turf, which produces it. "We recommend it be mowed at

1/8 inch, but some mow at 1/10 inch. It actually increases density when you lower the cut. It's very, very dwarf-type.

"When you get that much density the leaflets get crowded and turn up. It makes for a good putting surface and doesn't show any grain," he added. "Less knowledgeable golfers even think they are playing on bentgrass."

Brown attributed his grass's density to its growth deep into the

ground and make abundant rhizomes. "If you ballmark it, or scalp it you don't hurt the rhizomes down deep and it grows right back," he said. "It's recuperative potential is phenomenal."

Brown's father Morris discovered Champion on a green he had planted in the late 1960s. In 1987 Morris started looking for other dwarf-type Bermudas. "He brought home a greenhouse-full," Mike recalled. This is the one that stood out and that's how it got its name. It cleaned off a spot for itself. It just took over the weeds."

Snow said more testing needs to be done on all the new Bermudas. "It will be interesting to see if one grass does as well in one area as another — especially under humid conditions."

At this point, there is not enough acreage of Champion being grown to meet the demand.

That may be a good sign for others, especially those breeding seeded Bermudagrasses.

"We're looking now at seeded Bermudas for putting greens," said Arden Baltensperger, emeritus professor of agronomy at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and researcher for Seeds West in Phoenix, Ariz. "I don't think it will quite compete with Tifgreen, Tifdwarf and this new Champion. But the beauty of the seeded variety on the green is, if you have a little damage you can just seed it. It would be a big advantage."

NMSU and then-Farmers Marketing Corp. released the drought-tolerant NuMex Sahara seeded Bermuda in the late 1980s. It was "open" rather than dense. The next generation, Sultan, along with competitors such as Jackpot and Mirage, are medium dense. NMSU and Seed West's new Princess, a seeded hybrid due on the market next year, is "most dense," Baltensperger said. Yet, it is not green quality. On the docket for seeded Bermuda breeding, he said, is refining cultivars for characteristics beyond density.

"We will look at disease-resistance," Baltensperger said. "We have some leaf spot on some of these in the South. We want to maintain cold tolerance and we probably will look for something even more dense and finer than where we are with Princess... There will be a little less forage, less shoot elongation."

Progress in seeded Bermudas has been phenomenal, he said. "Fifteen years ago, I could hardly find even a researcher who thought it was worthwhile working on seeded Bermudas. But Charles Taliaferro, the late Howard Kaerwer and I thought there was a place for them... It sure has turned around."

Many of these grasses and others will be placed in NTEP trial plots which will be planted this year. The first report on that test will be in mid-1998, Morris said.



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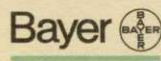
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## Winter's fast transition to summer puts extra, unpreventable stress on turf

By PETER BLAIS

S CARBOROUGH, Maine — While the northern Appalachian Mountains and chilly Gulf of Maine waters relieve tourists from the summer heat, the combination isn't enough to overcome summer stress on the area's golf course turf, according to agronomist Dr. Annamarie Pennucci.

"The quick transition from winter to summer puts signifi-

cant stress on turf, which often results in *pythium* and brown patch problems," said Pennucci, a turfgrass consultant who spoke recently at the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association monthly meeting here.

While the calendar notes Spring officially begins March 20, Northern New England often experiences frosts and snowstorms into late April and early May. And while the calendar pegs June 21 as the first day of

summer, the unofficial kickoff to the holiday season in these parts is Memorial Day.

In other words, the three-month spring enjoyed by most regions of the country is frequently reduced to roughly

three weeks in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and much of Massachusetts.

Just as the weather changes gears quickly, so does the tourist-dependent Northern New England economy. Summer means an influx of golfers and a near-overnight jump from as few as 100 rounds per day to more than 300 rounds daily at some facilities, Pennucci said. The wear and tear associated with such a dramatic increase in play can damage turf quickly, she explained.

"The grass needs time to grow back and become hardy," Pennucci said. "But it frequently doesn't happen because of the [economic] need to get the course open and get players on the course. That gives every species of disease the chance to go nuts."

Although many would consider it unorthodox, Pennucci believes reducing fertilizer applications would be a partial solution to the problem.

Northern New England superintendents frequently use heavy fertilizer applications in late fall and early spring to give plant growth a kick start come late April and early May, she said. Her recommendation is to reduce the amount of fertilizer and to apply it earlier in the fall, say the first week of October. She would also allow grass to grow a little longer in

*But less fertilizer, higher cuts and a tad more patience would result in healthier grass and a lower maintenance budget through the heavy-play months of June, July and August.*

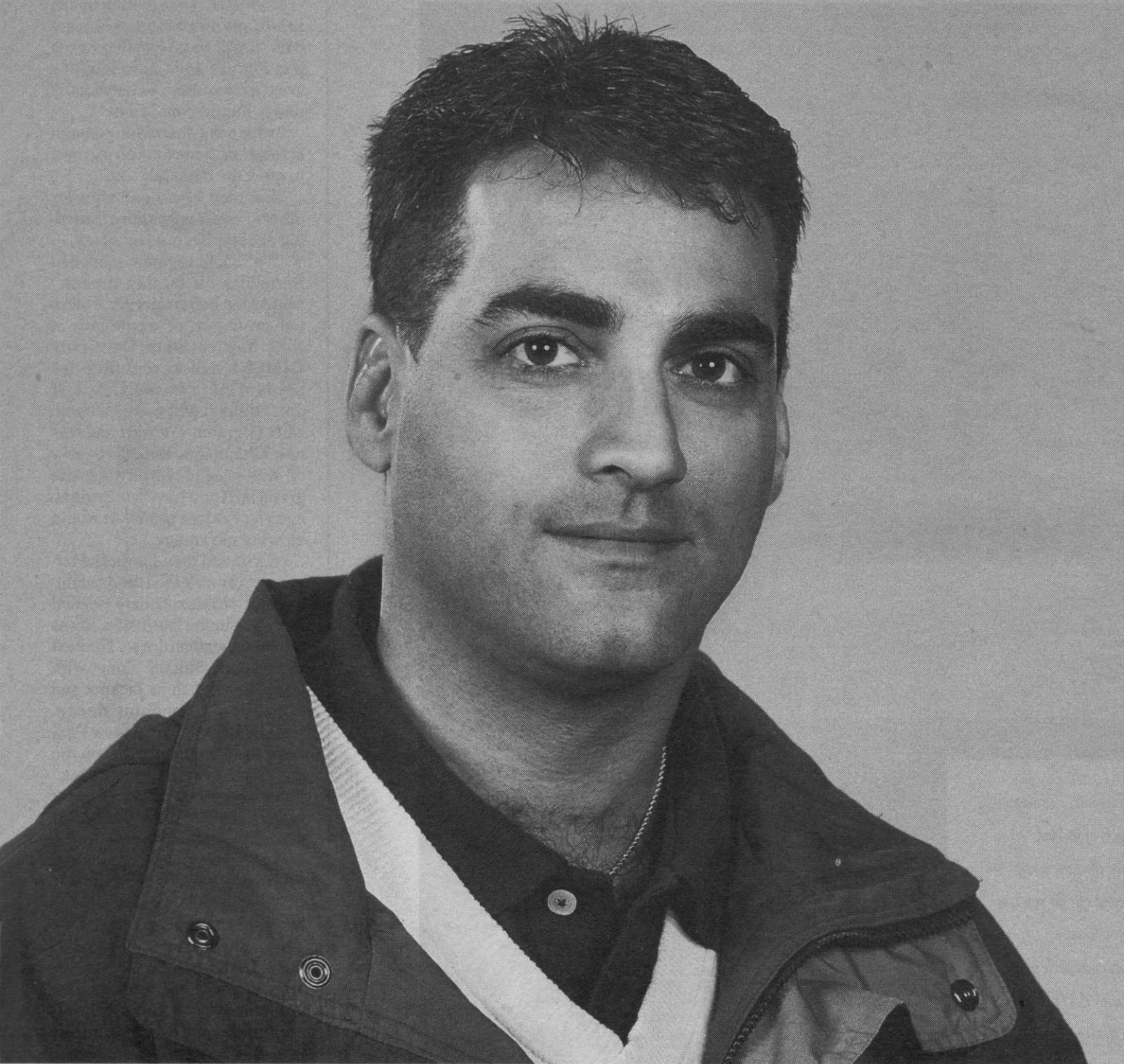
**Dr. Annamarie Pennucci**

the fall, entering dormancy in a healthier state and emerging from dormancy in a more gradual manner.

"It would slow down the rate of growth, making for a more even growing season and less susceptibility to disease," she said.

She realizes this would be a hard sell to golf pros and owners, who believe tight-cut greens and fairways are needed to attract business in the fall and green rather than brown grass to bring players out of hibernation in the spring.

But less fertilizer, higher cuts and a tad more patience would result in healthier grass and a lower maintenance budget through the heavy-play months of June, July and August, she assured.



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CIRCLE #122



BRIEFS



**FOREST HIGHLANDS TAPS KITCHELL**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Kitchell Contractors will serve as construction manager/general contractor for infrastructure during the expansion of Forest Highlands, a golf community eight miles south of here. The \$15 million project, developed by DMB Associates and the Forest Highlands Homeowners Association, includes lot development for 170 custom home sites with lot sizes averaging three-fourths of an acre, mass grading for a Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course and six miles of roads and utilities. It totals approximately 500 acres. The project began in May and should be completed by the summer of 1998.

**PENN STATE HONORS LDR FOUNDER**

COLUMBIA, Md.— Frederick D. Jarvis, president and co-founder of LDR International, Inc., has been selected by The Pennsylvania State University, Arts & Architecture/Performing Arts Alumni Board as a recipient of the 1997 Arts & Architecture Alumni Achievement Award. These awards are given annually to alumni of the college who have distinguished themselves in their profession.

**Former Player chief to write own Signature**

By MARK LESLIE

STUART, Fla. — After overseeing construction of 35 golf courses over the last 10 years for Gary Player Design Co., Jim Applegate now will put his own signature on golf courses. Applegate, the founder and former president of Player Design, already has two contracts on his desk for Signature Course Design and will finish projects already started with Player, he said.

“Rather than a sharp break in business, it’s a very smooth, long-term transition,” Applegate said. “In fact, I agreed with Gary last week to work on a project in New York State. We have four or five courses under construction and will finish those as well. It will take 1-1/2 to 2 years.”



Jim Applegate

Signature Course Design, in fact, is “the same staff, same equipment, concepts and philosophy that were developed along with Gary,” Applegate said from his offices here.

While the firm is working for its own accounts, if clients desire “name” architects for reasons of marketing, course style or demand, Applegate will put together the team, he said.

Indeed, Signature Course Design has “loose verbal arrangements” with three or four PGA Tour players, including one major LPGA star, Applegate said. “I personally think that’s [female designers] been a missing element. There are so

Continued on page 37



Tom McBroom’s Lake Joseph Club north of Toronto.

**McBroom taking full advantage of Canada’s ‘strong, natural features’**

Canadian Thomas McBroom is president of Thomas McBroom Associates, a Toronto-based design firm he founded in 1978. He has designed more than 60 courses, including such widely known layouts as *The Links at Crowbush Cove on Prince Edward Island (PEI); Le Geant at Mont Tremblant, Quebec; and Camelot Golf Club in Cumberland, Ontario, all first- or second-place finishers in Golf Digest’s Best New Course in Canada Awards. Current work includes projects in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Vermont and Barbados.*

QA

strong, natural features that allow an architect to do a lot with rock formations, water and undulating ground. That makes for bold, striking courses and often memorable holes.

GCN: Is there a particular course of yours that solidified your reputation?

TM: Crowbush Cove gained a lot of recognition. The land allowed us to design something similar to Pete Dye’s Ocean Course at Kiawah Island [S.C.].

Any architect would be lying if he told you he didn’t want to build a course by the ocean. You don’t get sites like that very often. Politically and environmentally it took some time to get approved. But it was worth the wait.

GCN: In general, is it hard to get approval for a course in Canada?

Continued on page 41

•••  
Golf Course News: What is your design philosophy?

Thomas McBroom: Golf design begins with the land. Canada has many



**READY TO TEE IT UP IN GALENA**

The General at Eagle Ridge, the new 18-hole addition at Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort in Galena, Ill., held its grand opening ceremonies over Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26. Designed by two-time U.S. Open champion Andy North in collaboration with architect Roger Packard, The General might have been in play last fall — but discretion has once again proved the better part of valor. “The course had an excellent fall and winter to grow in,” said Jon Comber, general manager at Eagle Ridge. “We made a tough choice late last summer to not sacrifice the integrity of play an open the course early. Over Memorial Day weekend, we saw the rewards of that decision.”

**No slowdown seen in Asia’s hottest market**

By ROB GLUCKSMAN

QUEZON CITY, The Philippines — More than three years into the Filipino golf-development boom, construction companies are still building here and the market for memberships remains strong, despite overall concerns about a building glut and the 1998 presidential elections.

With at least eight major projects completed in the past five years and 20 more under construction — plus dozens more in various planning stages — the country remains Southeast Asia’s hottest market for new construction. Despite apparent overbuilding, golf-industry leaders point to strong fundamentals which separate The Philippines from market disasters which have befallen, for instance, the Thai market.

“The big difference here is that you’ve got real estate underpinning the value of the shares,” said Rudy Anderson, regional managing director for ClubCorp, manager of The Orchard Golf & Country Club outside Manila. “It’s not a ‘right of access’ like you have in Thailand. Members actually own the project, the land and improvements, and share values are based on that net asset value.”

“All the projects under construction are solidly financed from what we can see,” agreed Ed Johnson, area manager for East Asia for Rain Bird Irrigation. “Our business is good, and there are none

Continued on page 38



- Weiskopf juggles multiple projects
- Rodney Wright signs two solo deals
- Is anyone busier than Palmer?



## Lesco, Crown join GCBAA; Quality certified

Crown Golf Construction and Lesco, Inc. have been named charter members of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA), bringing the member total to 24.

Lesco, a GCBAA associate member based in Rocky River, Ohio, manufactures and distributes turf-care products and equipment, including fertilizers, turfgrass and wildflower seed, turf protection and pest control products, irrigation products, and golf course accessories.

"Lesco wants to be part of this industry, and to do that we really need to be behind the important and essential organizations in order to grow our business," said Chuck Hutton, director of national accounts and Lesco's representative in the GCBAA.

"We see the GCBAA as setting a standard of excellence to

make sure that this industry is successful for today and for the future."

Crown Golf Construction (formerly GreenVisions), is a division of Crown Golf Properties, and is based in Northbrook, Ill., with branch offices in Phoenix, Ariz., and Hatfield, Pa. Its recent projects include River Valley

Ranch, a Jay Morrish design in Carbondale, Colo.; and Desert Ridge, an Arnold Palmer design in Phoenix.

...

The GCBAA has announced Quality Golf of Sunbury, Ohio, has been named a Certified Golf Course Builder.

Quality Golf is headed by president Willard Stambaugh and his son, Vice President Rob Stambaugh. Willard Stambaugh

has worked in golf course construction since the late 1950s, and started Quality Golf in 1976.

To qualify for certification, a company must have been in the golf course construction business for at least five years, built three complete 18-hole golf courses or the equivalent in the past five years, completed the application form, passed a 100-question exam in golf course construction, and provided references.

### RAMIREZ JOINS GD

IRVINE, Calif. — Roy Ramirez has been hired as a construction manager for Golf Dimensions, a development and construction management firm here. Ramirez will work out of Golf Dimension's Palm Desert office and will be involved in the development and construction management of the new Shadowrock Resort and Golf Course in Palm Springs. Ramirez' responsibilities at Golf Dimensions will include contractor selection, project supervision, site inspections, quality control, value engineering, construction schedule/budget oversight, construction close-out, grow-in and post-construction inspections.

Ramirez has more than 20 years of experience in golf course construction and has been involved in such notable projects as the PGA West Stadium Course and Palmer Course. He recently completed work on the Las Vegas Pauite Resort.

### TWO PROJECTS FOR RYANGOLF

EDINBURGH, Ind. — Ryan-Golf, a division of Ryan Incorporated Eastern of Deerfield Beach, Fla. has been awarded the construction of Timbergate Golf Course. This will be a new municipal golf course designed by Clyde Johnston for the Town of Edinburg, Ind. Phase one will incorporate earthwork, utilities and paving for a new residential community associated with the Timbergate Golf Course. Construction is slated to start June 1, with completion by fall 1998.

...

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Ryan-Golf has been named builder of the 18-hole Joe Lee-designed Kings Wood Golf Course Community golf course here. Lennar Homes is the developer. Construction has begun. Grassing is scheduled for the fall with an early 1998 opening projected. The course will premier as a public facility with plans to eventually become an equity club for owners of the surrounding housing development.

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## Lehman collaborates with Fought at Gallery

MARANA, Ariz. — Tom Lehman, the 1996 PGA Tour Player of the Year and British Open champ, has signed a golf course design agreement in collaboration with John Fought. The project, named The Gallery, is located in here in the foothills of the Tortolita Mountains, 20 miles north of downtown Tucson.

This Lehman/Fought alliance is in keeping with other recent collaborations which feature a prominent "name" player along with a more experienced architect. In this

case, Fought is a former PGA Tour player himself. Fought's playing highlights include winning the 1977 U.S. Amateur and two PGA Tour victories in 1979. When injuries halted Fought's playing career, he redirected his passion for the game into golf course design.

"Working on this project with Tom [Lehman] is a real pleasure for me," said Fought. "He has a terrific feel for the design business and brings a very fresh perspective to the strategic elements. He is also such a

first-class person, that he elevates any project he's associated with. We hope to do more projects together in the future."

Lehman doesn't plan to cut back his playing schedule to pursue golf course design projects. He will, however, significantly reduce his appearances in corporate outings and other outside events to make time for this new endeavor.

"I am very excited to be working with John, and I think The Gallery will quickly become known as one of the finest courses in the Southwest," said Lehman.

## Applegate

Continued from page 35

many women playing today, it's appropriate for an LPGA player to consult on the ladies' side. The only one who has come close to that has been Alice Dye, and rightfully so: a good player who understands the game."

A legacy of nearly three dozen designs since 1986 with Player, Applegate said, is "the thing I'm most proud of. Gary has his name on some good golf courses."

He particularly pointed out The Floridian in Stuart, designed for entrepreneur Wayne Hui-zenga, the just-opened Raspberry Falls in Leesburg, Va., and Mission Hills North in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Phil Jacobs, a senior designer based in Player's native South Africa, will relocate to Florida and work with Signature Design during the transition period. Jacobs has overseen all Player design projects outside the Americas.

When working with Player, the U.S. staff was restricted to North and South America. "Now, we will seek work elsewhere," Applegate said. The courses that his firm designs, he said, will be "playable, enjoyable and visually exciting, but ones that are not too difficult to play.

"That means, don't create artificial forced carries, and don't build greens that are so undulating that Tour pros and others can't handle them. With the equipment we have today, these greens are kept at 9 or 10 [Stimp-meter readings]. It's craziness. The average golfer doesn't hit seven or eight greens in a round, and architects penalize him when he does get there. We've [Player Design] been criticized for being too easy on the putting greens; but golfers agree with us."

Regarding the contributions of Touring pros to designs, Applegate said: "They understand shot value and degree of difficulty, and if they pay attention during those pro-ams, they see how regular golfers play.

"To the extent that a really good Tour player can give input, everybody wins. You don't expect them to know about permitting, grading, drainage, grassing — those types of technical issues that you have to deal with. But they can sure help a design."

•••

While Applegate is its president and sole shareholder, Signature Course Design's senior designer is Tim Freeland and its design associate is J. Scott Applegate, Jim's son who is in charge of CADD system. Freeland was with Player Design for 7 years. Larry Mancour, who owns and operates his own golf course in Michigan, is the firm's construction and design supervisor. Bill Deitsch is its traveling construction supervisor.



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CIRCLE #123



## Weiskopf with at least three Archipelago projects

MANILA — The Country Club, an ultra-exclusive course venture south of the city designed by U.S. Senior PGA Tour pro and architect Tom Weiskopf, was grassed in April and is expected to open in December. The project is being developed by Country Club Development.

Weiskopf is involved in at least two more projects in The Philippines, including 18 and possibly 36 holes at the former Clark Air Force Base, and another Country Club Development project: the first 18 holes of an eventual 54-hole facility in

Manila. This project will begin with a private 18-hole course, followed by a public 18 and, at a later date, a second private layout, Weiskopf said.

Developer Tomas Consunji, president of Global Clark Assets Corp., expects to begin construction in early 1998 on what will be the second 18-hole course at the Clark AFB site. The site is flat, but "with great mountain views," Weiskopf said, and so he will be creating a lot of the course's "flow." The private facility, not yet named, should open in early 1999, he said.

## The Philippines

Continued from page 35

of the financial troubles you see at some of the projects trying to get off the ground in China, for example. The developers are established companies, profitable long-term entities in their own right. If things stay stable, then these projects can be completed."

Developers in The Philippines

generally consolidate land plots to construct a golf course and clubhouse, spinning off lots around the layout for housing. The key difference is, those club memberships are actually shares in the corporation which owns the course land, clubhouse, and other improvements. Once all the shares are sold, the developer is no longer involved in the operation. That contrasts sharply with most Southeast Asian projects, in which the developer owns the property, which nearly always remains semi-public, and memberships are merely preferred rights to play the course.

That said, golf remains targeted to the exclusive club of super-rich, and membership shares are expensive — as much as P3.5 million (US\$130,000) at some clubs, though at least some of these higher-end memberships are rumored to be supported in the secondary market by their developers. Orchard, which according to Anderson does not support its price, has 3,000 shares outstanding valued at P1.6 million (US\$60,000) apiece, making the club's current market value a hefty US\$180 million. One way or another that's going to cause a shakeout, but for now prices of memberships in the secondary market are holding steady.

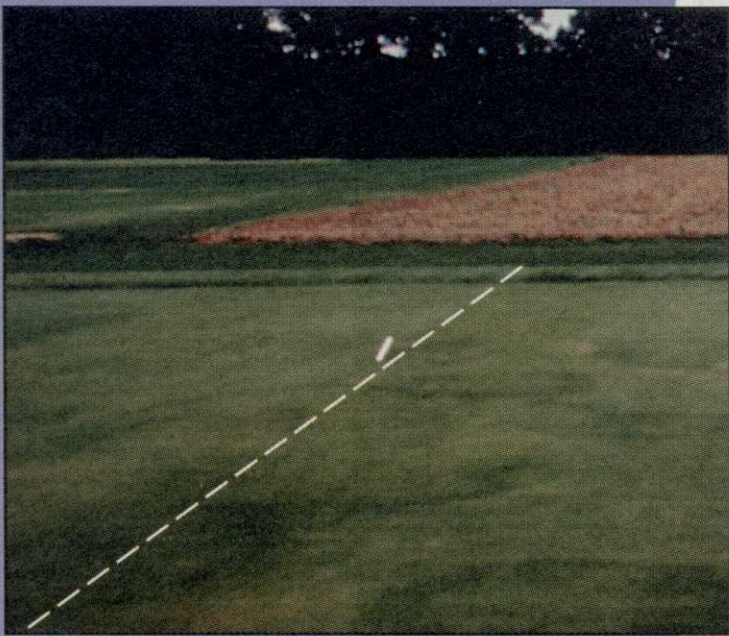
"I think they will for the foreseeable future," said Anderson. "Word of a real-estate downturn here [based on an overabundance of new building projects targeted at the upper-middle-class and expatriates] is not universally accepted. But there is some downward pressure on membership prices now, and particularly as you look at projects coming on line in the next four years, it's simple math.

"If you figure each project issues 2,000 shares, conservatively, and you've got a total of 17 projects. Realistically at these prices you've got the same pool of wealthy people buying one membership for use and a couple for speculation. Some of these new clubs are going to suffer from lack of use, and there will be an operational reckoning."

The smarter clubs are looking at positioning, long-term value, and building memberships rather than short-term speculation."

Supply is ahead of the demand curve and, sooner rather than later, it appears most clubs outside of the oldest and most exclusive are going to have to open for daily play, if only during the week.

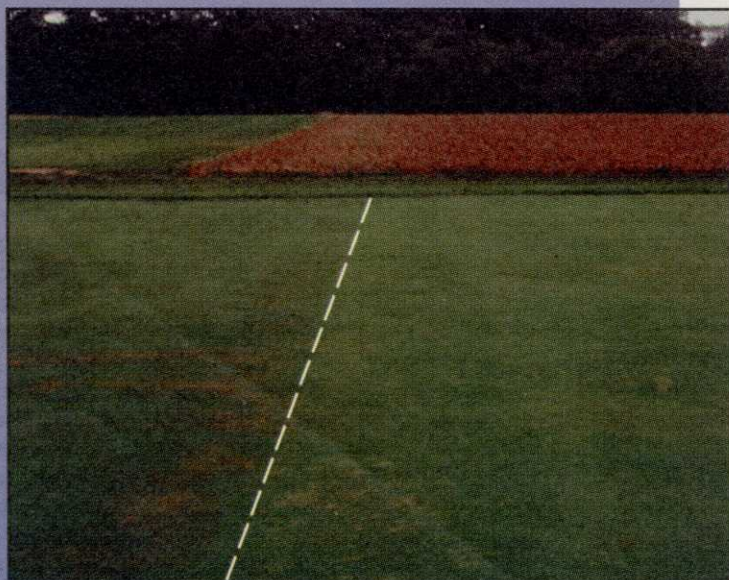
"Well, we certainly see some projects and say, 'Who the heck's going to drive out here to play golf?'" said one industry veteran who didn't wish to be named. "We see the momentum holding for now, but it could easily shut down."



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# Wright launches solo career in Philippines

By HAL PHILLIPS

TAGAYTAY, The Philippines — Architect Rodney Wright, principal of the newly formed Wright Golf Design, has been retained to design a pair of golf facilities here in Asia-Pacific's hottest development market.

The first course, Batulao Golf & Nature Resort, will break ground here this month, said Wright from his Singapore office. The second, Tanay Mountain Spa & Resort, will begin construction shortly thereafter in Tanay, overlooking Laguna de Bay. Both will be constructed by Singapore-based Pacific Golf.

During his eight-year partnership with Robin Nelson, Wright took seriously the marriage of golf courses to their surrounding environment and culture. Singapore-based Wright Golf Design will continue this tradition, he said.

"I enjoy integrating the cultural aspects of a site with the golf course itself," Wright explained. "I think Bali Golf & Resort Club [1991] is a good example of a course that looks like it belongs there.... My philosophy has always been to make the course enjoyable and memorable. Every architect says that, but that is the goal: To design something that people walk away from but remember every hole. They may not like every hole, but they remember them all."

While Wright's new firm has an eye on the U.S. market, it will debut here in Asia's hottest development region. Both projects occupy sites at significant elevation, thus sparing future golfers the full brunt of Manila's heat and humidity.

"The developer [Universal Rightfield Property Holdings] has planned a family of resorts," Wright explained. "There will be five to seven of them, each with its own theme or identity unique from the others. One membership will provide you access to all of them. There is so much development there [in The Philippines], you must have a differentiator and Universal Richfield has a really good feel for this market. These developments are really geared for the upper middle income bracket, as opposed to the uppermost bracket. It's a good niche."

Batulao Golf & Nature Resort will occupy a dramatic piece of ground here in the shadow of Mt. Batulao. The clubhouse and resort are located at the edge of a giant gorge, Wright said, while the course will take up residence between the gorge and the surrounding foothills.

At Tanay, on the northeast shore of Laguna de Bay, large rocks strewn about the virgin

site will play a key role in the layout of Tanay Mountain Spa Resort.

"This is an excellent piece of ground," said Wright. "It's fairly open but rolling, and there 300 meters of elevation change which provide beautiful views of the lake. We will definitely make use of these boulder-type rocks,

incorporating outcrops into the design and using them in the construction of retaining walls."

•••  
A native of Atlanta, Wright got his start in golf course design with Ron Kirby and Denis Griffiths. Twelve years with the Atlanta-based firm left Wright with experience on four conti-

nents and the title of senior designer. "Ron and Denis are two people who really taught me a lot," said Wright. "They know this business inside and out."

In 1987, Wright moved to Hawaii, met Nelson and formed Nelson and Wright Golf Course Architects, a division of the Honolulu-based land planning firm Belt, Collins and Associates. Wright soon started a Singapore

Continued on page 40



Rodney Wright on site in Tanay.

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## Rodney Wright

Continued from page 39

office and the partnership resulted in several acclaimed courses, including Bali G&RC, Mangilao Golf Club on Guam (1992), and Maui's Mauna Lani Resort (1994), home to the Senior Skins Game.

In 1995, Nelson and Wright accepted senior designer Neil Haworth as a full partner. However, a market slowdown soon thereafter convinced Wright it was time to strike out on his own.

"It really was an amicable split," Wright said. "Robin and I did some very good work together, but we realized a while back that we were going in different directions. Maybe it was the distance, but it made sense for me to try my own thing. At times it's been a bit scary, but I've been doing this for more than 23 years. It's just a question of using that experience. I still learn something new every day."

"Anyone who's serious about this business does, too. If you think you know it all, you're in trouble."

While his first two solo projects are here in Asia-Pacific, Wright said his practice is a global one.

"I'd like work in the States, even though I'm concentrating my efforts in Asia right now. In the year I've been on my own, I've seen the business grow and that's been extremely satisfying. Things are falling into place — but I've learned you have to put them into place."

Wright Golf Design can be reached in Singapore by phone at (65) 732-5715, or by fax at (65) 734-7812.

## Palmer Design signs 5, breaks ground on 5

CAVITE, The Philippines — The first two months of 1997 have seen an extraordinary amount of activity for the Florida, USA-based Palmer Course Design Co. Always active in the Pacific Rim, Palmer has announced five new project signings for this period and seen construction commence on five other projects.

New projects include Cavite New Town Development, a 36-hole project undertaken here with St. Lucia Development. Palmer Course Design Co. (PCDC) will do the first 18 holes. The architect for the second 18 holes has yet to be determined. H-O-K, San Francisco and Hong Kong are the master planners. Construction is expected to commence later this year.

Also signed with Sta. Lucia were 18-hole projects in Lian and Bacalod in the Philippines. Both developments will feature residential real-estate components.

Palmer Design also signed its first project in China in several years, The Sanya Golf Club, an 18-hole destination resort located on the south tip of Hainan Island.

Fronting the South China Sea, the resort will also include two marinas, a hotel, and other amenities. The client, Hiro Planning Co., is based in Tokyo, Japan. Construction is expected to begin late this year.

PCDC also signed its first project in India. The DLF Quatab project has already commenced construction and should be open for play in early 1998. The client is DLF Universal, the flagship company of the RS. 1000 Crores DLF Group.

Outside the U.S., five PCDC projects have started preliminary earth work. These include Caliraya Springs, a 36-hole project on Lake Caliraya, The Philippines and Forest Hills, a 36-hole project outside Manila. Both projects are residential developments, with Palmer designing 18 holes on each project. Located near Subic, The Philippines, preliminary site work has commenced on the Alta Vista Royale Project, also a residential development with an 18-hole Palmer course.

In Japan, preliminary site work has commenced at the 36-hole Furano Kogen Golf Club. Full construction will begin this spring with an anticipated summer 1999 opening.

The close of 1996 saw commencement of construction of the Muju Resort Golf Course near Muju, Korea. The 18-hole course should be open in the spring of 1998.

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**Q&A : McBroom**

Continued from page 35

**TM:** Every bit as difficult as in the United States. Land use is very heavily regulated. As an architect you have to be able to work with those restrictions. If you use the environmental limitations properly, you can turn them into an opportunity to do something special. Permitting takes anywhere from six months to two years, about as long as it takes to actually build the course.

**GCN:** How difficult is it to obtain financing for a new course?

**TM:** Financing has gotten easier, probably because of the lower interest rates the past few years. Lenders have a lot of money they are looking to place and they seem to consider golf a more stable investment than they used to. Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the savings & loans were having trouble and the real-estate market was depressed, golf had a bad reputation among lenders. But there seems to be money now for well-conceived projects. Banks want the developer to have about a 50-percent equity position.

**GCN:** How did you get into course architecture?

**TM:** I graduated from the University of Guelph in 1975 [bachelor's in landscape architecture] and worked as a landscape architect [with Hough, Stansbury & Woodland Ltd.]. I'd always played golf and decided to take the plunge into full-time golf architecture in the early 1980s. The first few years were tough. I knocked on a lot of doors, got a few good projects, and things have expanded exponentially since then.

**GCN:** Was there a turning point in your career?

**TM:** Working with Bob Cupp in the mid-1980s. We did two projects together [Beacon Hall Golf Course in Aurora, Ontario, and Deerhurst Highlands Golf Course in Huntsville, Ontario] which were a big help for me. I enjoyed that experience a lot and it was just what my career needed. Bob and Jay Morrish used to work with Jack Nicklaus before going on their own. I can see now what made Nicklaus such a strong designer, great architects like Bob and Jay.

**GCN:** Are there any particular courses or architects you particularly admire?

**TM:** I love the courses in Scotland and Ireland and architects like Old Tom Morris and James Braid. Braid did Gleneagles Hotel Golf Course in Scotland. Donald Ross and [A.W.] Tillinghast were the outstanding architects of the Classic Era. I try to play Pinehurst No. 2 at least once a year.

Of the modern architects, Pete Dye is the one I really admire. People have been hard on some of his designs, claiming they are

too severe. But Pete has the most creative mind in the business. He's a hands-on guy.

**GCN:** How important are the positive reviews your courses have received recently?

**TM:** Any designer wants the exposure. To be prosperous, your work needs to be celebrated and presented to the public. Powerful aesthetics are important for any course. But I'm afraid that, in some cases, strategic elements are tak-

ing second place to aesthetics. Owners want their courses to be on the front cover of golf magazines. But producing courses with quality golf shots is still the most important aspect of design.

**GCN:** Is Canada placing the emphasis on public golf, particularly affordable public golf, that is being experienced in the U.S?

**TM:** There's little said about the need to keep golf affordable here. There seems to be an ad-

equate supply of average courses at affordable prices. The demand now seems to be for high-quality, daily-fee courses plus upscale private courses, particularly in the Toronto and Vancouver markets.

**GCN:** You're basically known as a Canadian architect. Do you plan to expand into the United States or elsewhere?

**TM:** We've been a little slow to exploit some opportunities in the

United States because this market has been so strong.

Stratton Mountain in Vermont is my first U.S. project. We're renovating the existing 27 and will start construction on a new 18 next year.

We lost out to Mike Hurdzan recently on a project at Keystone Ranch in Colorado. And we've signed on for an 18-hole project in Barbados called Duranti for the government there.

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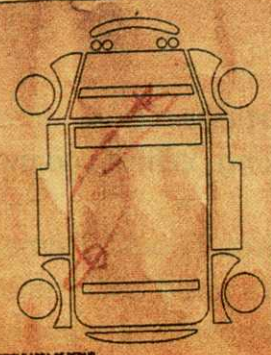
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## BRIEFS



## COURSECO SIGNS LONG-TERM DEAL

CourseCo Inc., a Northern California-based golf course management and development firm, will operate the Crystal Springs Golf Course here for the next 20 years under terms of a lease agreement with San Francisco officials. In connection with the agreement, the first phase of a \$2.5 million upgrade has begun.

## NEW OWNERS FOR NH, VT TRACKS

A pair of Northern New England courses have new owners. Pete and Grace McGowan of Gillette, N.J. along with Joe and Mary King of Sand Point, N.Y., purchased nine-hole White River Golf Course in Rochester, Vt., for \$660,000. Herb and Gail Braman were the sellers. Franklin Resource Group, headed by President John Maiorino, acquired nine-hole Nippo Lake Golf Course in Barrington, N.H., for \$850,000 from seller Lloyd Jensen. J.A. Canfield & Co. Brokers of Glen, N.H., represented the sellers at both facilities.

## LIVINGOOD NEW GM AT VA. LAYOUT

VIENNA, Va. — Billy Casper Golf Management has named Joseph Livingood general manager at Somerset Golf Club near Fredericksburg. Jerry Slack-designed Somerset is an 18-hole, public facility scheduled to open in by early June. Livingood has extensive management experience, most recently serving as general manager of Crystal Lake Golf Club in the Minneapolis suburb of Lakeville.



Joe Livingood

## FAMILY GOLF REPORTS FINANCIALS

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Family Golf Centers reported first-quarter net income rose to \$562,000 or 5 cents per share, up from \$69,000, or 1 cent per share, for the same three months in 1996. Revenues increased 168 percent to \$9.015 million for the first quarter of 1997 compared to \$3.362 million in last year's first quarter. "We continue to pursue our ambitious expansion strategy and have added nine centers since the beginning of the year," said company President Dominic Chang.



Dominic Chang

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## London-based Clubhaus widens European reach

Management firms gain popularity, increase service expectations among European golfers

By PETER BLAIS

LONDON — Clubhaus PLC has kicked off its second year in business with the purchase of three more courses, an indication of the increasing influence of course management companies throughout Europe.

"Management companies will inevitably grow here," predicted Colin Hegarty, director of London-based Golf Research Group, a golf industry research firm. "They may grow slower than some people think in terms of the numbers of courses they operate. But the effect they have will be far greater than just numbers. They will redefine customer expectations in terms of the quality golfers expect."

Management firms are gaining strength throughout Europe, but particularly in the United Kingdom, Hegarty said. Clubhaus' three recent acquisitions gives it 10 golf facilities scattered throughout Europe, with 8.5 18-hole equivalents in the United Kingdom alone. According to Hegarty's figures, Clubhaus is the third-ranked management firm in the United Kingdom in terms of total courses (measured in 18-hole equivalents) behind

Continued on page 45



Warwickshire Golf Club in England, a Clubhaus facility.

## MOVIN' ON UP

## Risk-taker Evans takes advantage of opportunity

By PETER BLAIS

BELGRADE LAKES, Maine — Years of preparation and a causal conversation set Kyle Evans on the road from superintendent to course owner.

Evans, 39, then head superintendent at Waterville (Maine) Country Club, was working on the course one August day in 1995 when Maine legend Harold Alfond happened along. Alfond, the millionaire founder of Dexter Shoe and part owner of baseball's Boston Red Sox, is a Waterville CC member.

The two struck up a conversation. Evans mentioned he was looking at some nearby land where he hoped to build a nine-hole executive course. Alfond listened and then invited Evans over to his home that afternoon to meet some friends. The friends were developers who wanted to build a first-class, championship course on 250



Kyle Evans at Belgrade Lakes Golf Club.

acres overlooking the scenic Belgrade lakes. They wanted Evans, the only one in the group with golf industry experience, to lead the development team as part owner and company president.

"You can't hit unless you step to the plate," Evans said. "I didn't hesitate for a moment."

Flash ahead to May 1997, almost two years after his initial conversation with Alfond, and Evans is hoping to open the first nine holes of his Clive Clark-designed course later this summer. He's been involved with the project through land acquisition negotiations, the permitting process, architect and builder selection and course construction.

"All the experiences I had along the way were important in getting me to this position," Evans said.

Continued on page 47

## GATX course portfolio still up for grabs

By PETER BLAIS

NationsCredit has ended its efforts to buy GATX Capital Corp.'s golf course loan portfolio, according to a NationsCredit spokesman.

"We just couldn't agree on a price," said Don Rhodes, vice president of Atlanta-based NationsCredit. "We made an offer we thought was high, but they apparently thought was too low. In the end, they wouldn't adjust their asking price."

Asked about the negotiations, GATX spokeswoman Sandra Parker offered, "No comment."

Saying the increased willingness of traditional lenders, like banks, to make golf course loans meant too-low rates of return for a financing company [See November GCN], GATX Vice President Roy Powell announced last fall that the firm would no longer make golf loans and would sell its existing \$75 million loan portfolio.

Among GATX's clients were several major golf course operators including Golf Enterprises (now part of National Golf Properties), The Fairways Group, LinksCorp and National Fairways Inc.

"The whole package included 22 courses," Rhodes said. "They cut out the LinksCorp courses early and a few others, leaving somewhere between seven and nine courses we were discussing. We talked, but kept coming up about \$200,000 apart."

Rhodes said he was unaware if GATX was negotiating with other potential buyers for its course portfolio.

"They indicated they might just keep the loans," he added. "If the properties do as well as they believe, keeping them may be the best return they will get. It was hard for us as a lender to pay for an upside that may be five to seven years in the future."



## PGA European Tour purchases Tytherington Club

CHOBHAM, SURREY, England — PGA European Tour Courses PLC has acquired The Tytherington Club near Manchester International Airport from Tytherington Ltd., a subsidiary of Club Partners International, and partnered with the Bedford Estates to acquire a 50-percent interest in Woburn

Golf and Country Club Ltd., operators of the Duke's and Duchess' courses at Woburn.

The Tytherington Club includes an 18-hole private course, practice range, and associated facilities. The club regularly hosts professional tournaments, including a Ladies Tour event scheduled for May.

The purchase price was £500 plus the repayment of a £1.525 million loan owed Club Partners International by Tytherington Ltd.

The sale was part of Club Partner's consolidation, according to company spokesman Wayne Sheffield. Club Partners continues to operate the Lambourne Club, a private

course in Burnham Bucks, and may look at further acquisitions in the future, Sheffield added.

PGA European Tour Courses purchased its interest in Woburn for £5,749,900. Plans are to build a third course there to international tournament standards and extend the existing clubhouse and facilities. A major European tournament should be staged at Woburn beginning in 1999.

Said PGA Tour European Courses Managing Director Sean Kelly of the Woburn acquisition: "This transaction gives our UK operations a flagship and fulfills our strategic aim of acquiring high quality assets in good locations where earnings can be improved through the extension of existing facilities and promotion by hosting televised European golf events."

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CIRCLE #132

## Burley now with IMG Singapore

SINGAPORE — Paul Burley has joined IMG Singapore as director of operations.

Born and educated in the United Kingdom, Paul spent seven years working for the Midland Bank, completing a diploma in accountancy and monetary economics before turning to golf.

He turned professional in 1985 and spent 18 months as a tournament professional before being appointed resident golf professional at The Gary Player Country Club at the Sun City Resort in South Africa. While there, he became involved in the overall club management and also the organization of the Million Dollar Golf Challenge tournament.

When Sun City's second golf course, The Lost City, opened in 1993, Burley was appointed head golf professional responsible for management of the resort's entire golf operation.

A member of the British Professional Golfers Association and the Club Managers Association of America, Burley was appointed director of operations for IMG Real Estate Services for the Asia Pacific region last November.

## CCA acquires second UK club

HERTFORDSHIRE, England — CCA Holdings Ltd., the Hong Kong-based private club developer and operator, has acquired Brockett Hall, the 18th century home, its 543-acre estate and the Brockett Hall Golf Club.

Built in 1760, the mansion has been converted into an international conference center with 46 bedrooms and suites. It is located 24 miles from central London and has hosted many high level government meetings.

Brockett Hall is CCA's second major investment in the UK. The company also operates the London Capital Club, opened in September 1994 and now boasting 1,000 members.

The CCA Group is a privately held firm founded in 1980. It manages 5,000 staff and 80,000 members at its 30-plus private clubs in Asia, Australia and Europe.



## CCA Int'l signs deal to manage new golf facility in Manila

MANILA, The Philippines — CCA International Ltd. has signed an agreement to manage the Riviera Golf & Country Club on the outskirts of the city. This is CCA's second golf club in The Philippines, joining Mimosa Golf & Country Club on the grounds of the former Clark Air Base.

Riviera will consist of two 18-hole courses designed by golfers Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer, as well as a driving range, clubhouse and golf academy. A separate family club will be added as part of a second developmental phase. The property is scheduled for a soft opening this spring.

Total development costs are estimated at more than US\$100 million. CCA is to provide pre-opening technical assistance and overall management on behalf of owner AFP Retirement & Separation Benefits System (AFPRSBS).

In other news, CCA recently appointed J. Scott Giddings senior manager/operations. Giddings will be based at the CCA's Hong Kong head office where he will oversee overall club operations in various parts of Asia, including membership sales, food and beverage quality, service standards and human resource development.

Giddings holds a bachelor's degree in hospitality management and a master's degree in business administration from Florida Atlantic University (USA).

## Clubhaus Europe

Continued from page 43

Whitbread Hotel Co. (17) and American Golf Corp./UK Ltd (11).

A UK tax structure that requires company-owned clubs to pay corporate and value-added taxes, while waiving those levies against member-owned facilities, makes it difficult for proprietary clubs to compete in the UK, according to Clubhaus spokesman Jonathan Talbot-Weiss.

"One of the ways to fight against that [tax disadvantage] is to accumulate a critical mass of courses, to get the economies of scale that let you operate at lower costs," Talbot-Weiss explained of the appeal of multi-course ownership management firms strive to achieve.

As for Clubhaus, the firm followed up its January purchase of 18-hole Castle Royale Golf & Country Club in Windsor, Berkshire, with February's acquisition of Golf Fund PLC's two English courses — Seedy Mill Golf Club (27 holes) in Litchfield, Staffordshire, and The Warwickshire (45 holes) in Warwick.

The new acquisitions come on the heels of an eventful first year that saw Clubhaus accumulate seven courses between its November 1995 incorporation and the year ending Dec. 31, 1996. The firm reported revenues of £7.3 million and a pre-tax profit of £1.5 million during the 14-month span.

"We are determined to achieve our goals and implement the strategy of expanding the portfolio of golf clubs in the United Kingdom as well as in Continental Europe and of broadening the product lines," said Clubhaus Chairman Alexander Baron von Spoercken. "Since 1st January 1997, we have already seen the completion of the acquisitions of three clubs in the UK and we will shortly be launching the Clubhaus Members Card.

"Trading at all the Group's golf courses is encouraging and in line with expecta-

*'Historically, the ownership of golf facilities in Europe has been fragmented and the facilities lacked the benefits of economies of scale.'*

— Clubhaus Chairman Alexander Baron von Spoercken

tions. The benefits of multiple club ownership will begin to flow through in 1997, increasing margins and allowing significant savings to be made on overheads."

Clubhaus' strategy is to be a major player in the consolidation of the European golf industry through the acquisition of existing facilities.

"Historically, the ownership of golf facilities in Europe has been fragmented and the facilities lacked the benefits of economies of scale," von Spoercken wrote. "The consolidation of the European golf industry is far from complete and it is imperative that, whilst there are opportunities, the company reacts swiftly and continues to make the progress seen since February 1996."

That progress began 15 months ago with the acquisition of the leisure business formerly operated by Ex-Lands PLC, owners of Duke's Dene Golf Club in Surrey; Hof Trages Golf Club in Frankfurt, Germany; Ludersburg Golf Club in Hamburg; Foret de Montpensier Golf Club in Vichy, France; an investment in Nippenburg Golf Club in Stuttgart, Germany; and a minority stake in a golf project in Brussels. Clubhaus Investments Ltd., previously a subsidiary of Ex-Lands PLC, had developed those properties in the five years prior to the Clubhaus PLC purchase.

The company signed a lease with The Royal Bank of Scotland in April 1996 to operate Nizels Golf Club in Kent. It has made considerable improvements to the course and opened a clubhouse since then.

These initial courses were considered premium-brand facilities — high-quality private members clubs. The company

branched out into the "middle market" brand, clubs providing a value-driven operation, with its July 1996 acquisition of Family Golf Ltd.'s two courses — Chesfield Downs Golf Club in Graveley, Hertfordshire, and Aylesbury Park Golf Club in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Castle Royale and The Warwickshire were later assigned to the Clubhaus Premier category with Seedy Mill and Clubhaus-managed Meyrick Park Golf Club in Bournemouth (scheduled for completion two months ago) coming under the Family Golf wing.

"The courses Clubhaus bought are good properties and have good people in place," Hegarty said. "They are well located, with good management and will run well, although it may take a year or so for them to run at peak performance."

Clubhaus plans to expand its membership base through providing additional services. Toward that end, the company in November acquired London's Fox Club, a city club with bar, restaurant and nine overnight suites. Last February, the company also purchased Thomas Pace Hospitality Ltd., a corporate hospitality company since renamed Clubhaus Hospitality Ltd.

These assets will provide the foundation for the Clubhaus Members Card, which became available this spring. The card offers access to all Clubhaus facilities as well as the ability to take advantage of hospitality events.

As for the future, von Spoercken wrote, Clubhaus plans additional acquisitions that fit the company's criteria of good location, positive cash flow and growth potential.



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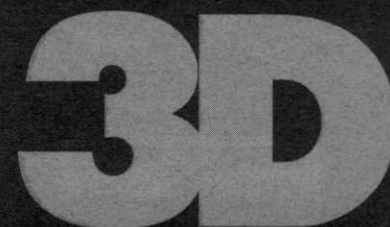
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## Player Mgmt.

Continued from page 1

Vlassopulos, who indicated the firm is currently courting course operations in the U.S. and Europe. While it has thus far concentrated on Gary Player-designed courses here in America, Vlassopulos said will not restrict itself to products of the Gary Player Design Co.

"It can go either way, though it

must be a quality location," said Vlassopulos. "We will manage other people's courses. In fact, we would be honored to manage a Nicklaus or Palmer course. We don't have to take any of their signature value away. We want to maximize the potential of each course."

The GPMS brain trust consists of Singapore-based Vlassopulos as well as Director of Technical Services Sean O'Connor, who works

from the Hong Kong office. The former director of Recreation and Resorts for Hyatt International, O'Connor will concentrate on GPMS operations. He will be assisted by Director of Operations Simon Shepherdson, a former employee of the Hong Kong-based management firm CCA International Ltd.

Vlassopulos' background is more development-oriented. In-

deed, in addition to his GPMS duties, Vlassopulos will maintain a directorship at Daedalus Development, the force behind Indonesia's Rainbow Hills project, which features a J. Michael Poellot-designed golf course.

Together with the resources of the Gary Player Group, Vlassopulos believes GPMS offers a "suite of services" that meets market demands.

"Our design clients are asking for this product," said Vlassopulos. "It's a response to the market; it's what the developers are asking us to do. We also have a very strong technical team. Further, we have a developmental depth which allows us to understand profitability at the initial stages of a project, not to mention the synergies golf and real estate can have."

According to Vlassopulos, this "suite of services" — which includes Gary Player Golf Academies — doesn't merely nurture an existing development; it has the ability to prompt the development itself.

"This pro-active, full-service approach is a reason to do the whole thing," he said. "On the [Verdemar] project, we're considering the possibility of joint-venturing the development of housing. Gary Player has such credibility in the market — we have a product of value. [Real estate development] would be a first for Player, but we know our brand sells."

GPMS recognizes that many of the 6,000-plus golf courses in Asia-Pacific overspent during development. Consequently, they find themselves in dire need of professional management services, to streamline operational costs. The Asian launch of GPMS appears to be well timed as three of the region's largest management firms — CCA International Ltd., Club Corporation of America and the International Management Group — account for no more than 50 management contracts.

Vlassopulos is equally enthused about the European market, though the development market there has never taken to the concept of branding through signature designs.

"In a way, that's precisely the value of a branded company," Vlassopulos contended. "If you have a course that isn't signature or branded, you are able to obtain the branding through the management company."

And in the United States, where the management business has become extremely competitive?

"I think we have to think about the U.S. market in two ways: First, in terms of existing courses, we must demonstrate our better level of commitment. We're prepared to stand toe-to-toe... We've also approached Gary Player-designed courses in the U.S. that are independently operated.

"Second, in terms of new developments, we offer the same suite of services which make us extremely competitive. Further, we bring a brand. There are very few of these in the [U.S.] management business, only Palmer."

While the folks at Billy Casper Golf Management and Golden Bear Club Services might disagree with that assessment, Player will soon make four.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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CIRCLE #133



## Kyle Evans

Continued from page 43

Golf is the only job Evans has had for the past 25 years. He started flipping burgers, working in the pro shop and mowing greens at Naples (Maine) Country Club at age 15. He worked summers at Naples while finishing his bachelor's degree in physical education at Springfield (Mass.) College.

"The gentleman I worked for and who was the first to really spark my interest in the golf industry was Chet Cutting," Evans said. "He was the pro and head superintendent there until he died in 1984."

A brief stint as a student teacher after college convinced Evans to return to the golf industry. He enrolled in the University of Massachusetts winter turf program, where he came under the tutelage of Professor Joseph Trull. Trull helped Evans land his first job as assistant superintendent at Spook Rock Golf Club in Suffern, N.Y. in 1981.

"It was the first time I saw golf as a big-time business," Evans said. "We had a \$500,000 maintenance budget and did about 50,000 rounds a year."

"Stu Staples was the head superintendent and Angelo Palermo [Vice President of Golf Course Development with National Golf Foundation Consulting Inc.] built the course. Stu kept the course in great shape and Angelo ran a good ship. It was a well-run business. I was able to get involved in many parts of the operation."

The chance to be head superintendent and return to his native Maine led Evans to take over Springbrook Golf Course in Leeds in 1983. Going from a *Golf Digest* Top 50 public course to a family-run operation in Central Maine was "a big shock," Evans noted. Owner Shirley Hamel and his son-in-law Joey Golden had rigged up an old fire truck to pump irrigation water onto the course, a sign of Maine ingenuity and thriftiness Evans came to appreciate.

"I was very involved in the entire operation," Evans recalled, "and it really whet my appetite for owning my own course one day."

But that would have to wait. After three years at Springbrook, Evans moved 45 minutes north to Orrin Smith-designed Waterville Country Club, a frequent entry on the state's Top Ten course list. Evans spent the next 10 years in Waterville. In addition to manicuring the course, Evans sat in on greens committee, golf pro selection and long-

range planning meetings.

"I owe the folks at Waterville a lot for that," Evans said. "If they hadn't provided me the opportunity to gain that experience, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Evans said two things have contributed largely to his success — an ability to deal with people and golf's growth.

"You are only as good as the

people around you," Evans said. "The two guys who will help me run Belgrade Lakes have been with me for 10 and seven years, respectively."

"Another factor in my career path is the popularity of the game itself. At every facility I have ever been involved with, I noticed more and more people playing the game. There was an increase every year. That seemed to be

true at most facilities."

Evans believes moving from course superintendent to course owner or manager is a growing phenomenon and logical progression.

"The most valuable asset is the course itself," he said. "So it makes sense we are seeing more and more superintendents taking GM positions and even owning courses."

### MARRIOTT NAMED TO MANAGE NEW TENN. LINKS

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — Marriott Golf has been named to manage 18-hole Cattails at MeadowView Golf Course on behalf of the City of Kingsport. The Denis Griffiths-designed course will open this fall.



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## IGM, Inc. makes initial advance into Georgia

VALDOSTA, Ga. — International Golf Management, Inc. of Lakeland, Fla., has been retained to provide golf course maintenance services on a contractual basis for Valdosta (Ga.) Country Club. This marks IGM's first major contract in the state of Georgia, one of several states included under the umbrella of

IGM's Atlanta-based Southeast Atlantic region.

Under the agreement, IGM provides turnkey course maintenance services for three highly-acclaimed nine-hole, par-36 courses at Valdosta Country Club — the 3,324-yard Bellemeade, 3,350-yard Plantation and the 3,327-yard Bottom,

which is currently undergoing a \$690,000 facelift. IGM also maintains the grounds of Valdosta Country Club's modern clubhouse.

"We are excited to be able to include the highly-regarded Valdosta Country Club in our rapidly-expanding portfolio of clients. Our goal is to transform

the three golf courses at Valdosta Country Club into the best-maintained and most attractive and playable private courses in south Georgia," said Scott Zakany, vice-president and general manager of IGM.

All maintenance is directed by Howard Hulsebosch, who supervises an 18-member maintenance crew as IGM's resident superintendent at Valdosta.

He reports to Greg Plotner, IGM's business development manager for the Southeast Atlantic region. Steve Parlee is Valdosta Country Club's head golf pro, Ray Bennett is greens' committee chairman and Larry Rogers is president of the private club's board of governors.

Valdosta Country Club's newest course, the par-36, 3,324-yard Bellemeade, opened in 1988 and is known for its unique fourth hole, a par-3 featuring an island green 190 yards from the back tee. This flat, heavily-wooded course, featuring pines, oaks and a cypress swamp, was designed by noted golf course architect Joe Lee.

The 3,350-yard Plantation course, another Joe Lee creation originally opened in 1977, was recently refurbished under an \$800,000 Bobby Weed-designed project which yielded completely new greens, tees and bunkers. This course offers two signature holes — the par-5 sixth, which features a 100-foot elevation change from the tee to the green, and the seventh, a short par-3 which requires golfers to hit their ball with great precision, using a four to nine iron, into a small pocket at the lowest elevation of the course.

The Bottom course, so named because it is situated at the 350-acre club's lowest elevation along the banks of the Withalacoochee River, has been closed since March for a \$690,000 renovation calling for new bunkers along the fairways and greens, improved drainage and a new irrigation system. The Bobby Weed re-design of this 1977-era Joe Lee-designed course, is being carried out by Southeastern Golf. The Bottom course is slated for completion in late July.

In addition to the three nine-hole golf courses, Valdosta Country Club offers two practice greens; modern clubhouse featuring a lounge, banquet facilities and two private dining rooms; tennis complex with eight fully-lighted tennis courts; swimming complex; and a self-contained sports facility, which includes a pro shop, snack bar, mens and ladies locker facilities and an underground cart storage area.

Located at 3500 Country Club Road, Valdosta is a private club boasting 810 active members, including 460 golf members. The club is open for golf throughout the year and offers two residential communities, featuring both single family homes and condominiums, called the Plantation and Bellemeade.

Valdosta opened in 1913 with an 18-hole course featuring sand greens. Some of the holes of the original 18-hole course were subsequently incorporated into the

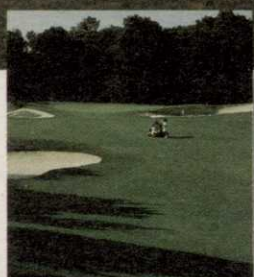
Continued on next page  
GOLF COURSE NEWS



### Brown Patch And Dollar Spot Give You Two Choices.

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**TWO excellent preventative/curative fungicides with different control spectrums.**

**PROSTAR®** Fungicide controls brown patch, plus 7 other common turf diseases including fairy ring. With 2 to 3 weeks residual (versus 1 week), its unique class of chemistry is ideal for resistance management rotated with other fungicides. It also tank mixes with many other turf products.

**PROSTAR® PLUS™** Fungicide controls both brown patch and dollar spot. A premix that utilizes the lowest labeled rates of PROSTAR® and Bayleton®, the combined "synergistic" action is more effective than either agent alone. And it provides up to 30 days protection, even at these lowest labeled component rates.

**PROSTAR** and **PROSTAR PLUS** both have premeasured water-soluble packaging. Both are non-phytotoxic to all fine turfgrasses, and neither will interfere with growth regulator programs.

Go with the obvious choice for best results.

**ProStar® and ProStar Plus™**  
FUNGICIDE

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A company of Hoechst and NOR-AM

Bayleton® is a registered trademark of Bayer, Inc. Read and follow label directions carefully. AgrEvo USA Company, Wilmington, DE 19808 ©1996

CIRCLE #135



## IGM opens two Florida offices

LAKELAND, Fla. — International Golf Management, Inc. (IGM) has opened a pair of regional offices in the Florida communities of Ft. Myers and Tavares.

"Our regional offices will enable us to provide existing clients with a higher level of service and will also be an asset in securing new business in the rapidly-developing Southwest and Central Florida markets which we view as tremendous growth areas for our business," said Scott Zakany, CGCS, vice-president and general manager of IGM.

Located at 1419 Courtney Drive, the Ft. Myers office houses John Carlin, CGCS, Southwest Florida regional manager. From this office, Carlin oversees maintenance at several IGM-maintained Southwest Florida golf courses, including the Mirror Lakes and North courses at the Admiral Lehigh Resort in Lehigh Acres; Hideaway Country Club and Golfview Golf & Racquet Club in Ft. Myers; Brooksville Golf & Country Club in Brooksville; and Tarpon Springs Golf Course in Tarpon Springs.

The Tavares office, located at 1617 East Alfred Street, houses Jim Wells, CGCS, Central Florida regional manager. Wells' golf course portfolio includes Kissimmee Golf Club, Kissimmee Bay Country Club and Poinciana Golf & Racquet Club in Kissimmee; Bella Vista Golf Resort and Yacht Club in Howey-In-The Hills; Highland Fairways in Lakeland; Pelican Bay Country Club in Daytona Beach; and Aquarina Golf Club, Spessard Holland Golf Course and The Habitat at Valkaria in Melbourne.

Headquartered in Lakeland, IGM provides facility leasing and contractual course maintenance services for private, semi-private, public and municipal golf courses. IGM services more than 30 Florida golf courses including Palm Beach County's 27-hole Okechee golf complex in West Palm Beach, a recent addition.

## IGM in Georgia

Continued from previous page

much newer Plantation and Bottom courses.

Headquartered at 2101 E. Edgewood Drive in Lakeland, Fla., and with a regional office at 1895 Phoenix Boulevard in Atlanta, IGM specializes in facility leasing and contractual course maintenance. IGM provides ongoing course maintenance for more than 30 courses in Florida, Georgia and other states in the Southeast.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## Multiple-use software available on national basis

Tournament Director Software is now available on a national basis.

Tournament Director was developed in the Phoenix market for facilities that handle hundreds of outings per year. It is currently in use at Grayhawk, Troon North, and the Camelback Inn in Scottsdale; the TPC at The Canyons in Las Vegas; the Westin Mission Hills in Palm Springs, Calif.; and 20 other Southwest U.S. courses.

Tournament Director prints pairing sheets, cart signs, score cards with handicaps, proximity event signs, and score boards. The software also personalizes contracts, welcome letters, thank-you letters, and guest surveys. It is distributed by Pactum Factum Inc., a Scottsdale-based software firm. Those interested can request a color brochure and video by contacting Jim Schamadan at 602-922-9097.

## NGP ACQUIRES TWO SOUTHEAST GOLF COURSES

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — National Golf Properties Inc. has acquired Baymeadows Golf Course in Jacksonville, Fla., and The Golf Club at Bradshaw Farm in Woodstock, Ga. It will lease both facilities to American Golf Corp. NGP recently announced funds from operations of \$11.7 million in the quarter ended March 31.

THEY'LL BE A FORCE  
IN YOUR TEE BOX.

THEY'LL HAVE NO  
PROBLEMS PLAYING  
THROUGH YOUR ROUGH.

THEY'LL WORK YOUR  
FAIRWAYS LIKE PROS.

THEIR HUNGER FOR GOLF  
IS VORACIOUS.

THEY'RE  
GRUBS

AND IT'S TIME THESE  
LITTLE BUGGERS FIND  
A NEW SPORT.

Tee Time®

Fertilizer with  
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Andersons

CIRCLE #136



GRUBS  
WOULD  
LOVE TO  
SPEND THIS  
SEASON HACKING-AWAY AT  
YOUR GOLF COURSE.

Tee Time® Fertilizer with MERIT® provides you with a premium formulation of the most effective season-long white grub control on the market today plus a granular turf fertilizer that allows you to maintain a green and grub-free course.

### A SINGLE APPLICATION PROVIDES MULTIPLE BENEFITS

A single application prior to egg hatch protects all season long against grubs. Grubs however, aren't the only insects that MERIT® controls. A single spring application applied at peak adult activity also controls billbugs, bluegrass weevils, and mole crickets. The granule particle sizing allows for the uniform and effective distribution of both the fertilizer and MERIT® right where it needs to be.

### EFFECTIVE AND SAFE.

### A WINNING COMBINATION!

Tee Time® Fertilizer with MERIT® is remarkably effective and can give you residual soil insect control up to four months or longer in turf. And it has an exceptionally low application rate of only 0.3 pound of active ingredient per acre.

The lower environmental load of the insecticide's active ingredient means lower toxicity to workers, birds and fish when used as directed.

### THREE FORMULATIONS TO FIT YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS

Tee Time® Fertilizer with MERIT® comes in three different formulations to control grubs wherever they threaten your turf.

- 18-0-18 WITH 50% SCU & 0.2% MERIT®
- 10-4-24 WITH 50% NUTRALENE® & 0.2% MERIT®
- 18-3-18 WITH 80% NUTRALENE® & 0.2% MERIT®

TEE TIME® FERTILIZER WITH  
MERIT® CONTROLS GRUBS  
BEFORE THEY BECOME PLAYERS  
ON YOUR COURSE.

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Contact your nearest distributor  
or call 1-800-225-ANDY to order  
Tee Time® Fertilizer with MERIT®.



**PERSONNEL CORNER**

By VINCE ALFONSO JR.

Out of the mouths of babes? Buzzzzzz!!! Too Slow! Guess what? I don't know either. In fact, I don't think anybody knows when, where or by whom this wonderful old cliché was first uttered.

But, I do know who said, "Kids say the darnedest things"... Art Linkletter (way back in the TV land that time forgot).

It was Saturday morning and I had to open The Rail (my old course). My daughter, Liza, was seven years old at the time and had come to work with Dad. We were looking forward to a great day together. Never would I have guessed the lesson I was about to learn.

I assigned Liza the job of handing me the small range baskets from the floor behind the counter (pre-range-servant days). She caught on quickly and was beginning to talk about turning professional when the Bean brothers (Tom, Jim and Bob) showed up for their weekly Saturday morning tee time. Bob Bean leaned over the counter and said, "Who's the new assistant pro?"

Before I could introduce Liza, the other two Bean brothers leaned over the counter to hear my reply. I put my arm around Liza, looked up at the Bean brothers as they craned their necks over the counter, and said, "This is my new assistant, Liza. She is seven and thinking about turning professional."

Then I turned to Liza and said, "Liza, meet the Bean brothers."

Tom said, "Hi Liza, pleased to meet you."

Jim said, "Hi Liza, pleased to meet you."

And Bob said, "Hi Liza, pleased to meet you."

Then almost as if rehearsed, they said in unison, "We're the Bean brothers."

I started to ring up their greens fees, but Liza kept tugging on my pant leg trying to tell me something.

"What, Liza?" I asked, almost annoyed.

"Daddy, the Bean brothers look like the three Musketeers!" she said.

Well, when the Bean brothers heard that, their chests swelled out and they grinned from ear to ear. They started mumbling things like, "Isn't she cute;" "What a sweetheart;" and "That girl's gonna go a long way."

And you know what? They kept it up all day. When they came in to get a soda at the turn, they

# A kind word yields the best results

checked in with their little sweet-heart and again before they left for the day.

Early in the afternoon and shortly after the Bean brothers had left, I got a call from my wife, Sally. Of course, she was inquiring about Liza and how things were going. I could hardly wait

to tell her how Liza had charmed the Bean Brothers with her Musketeer comparison.

No sooner had the words rolled off my tongue, when Sally burst into uncontrollable laughter.

I kept asking, "What's so dadgum funny?"

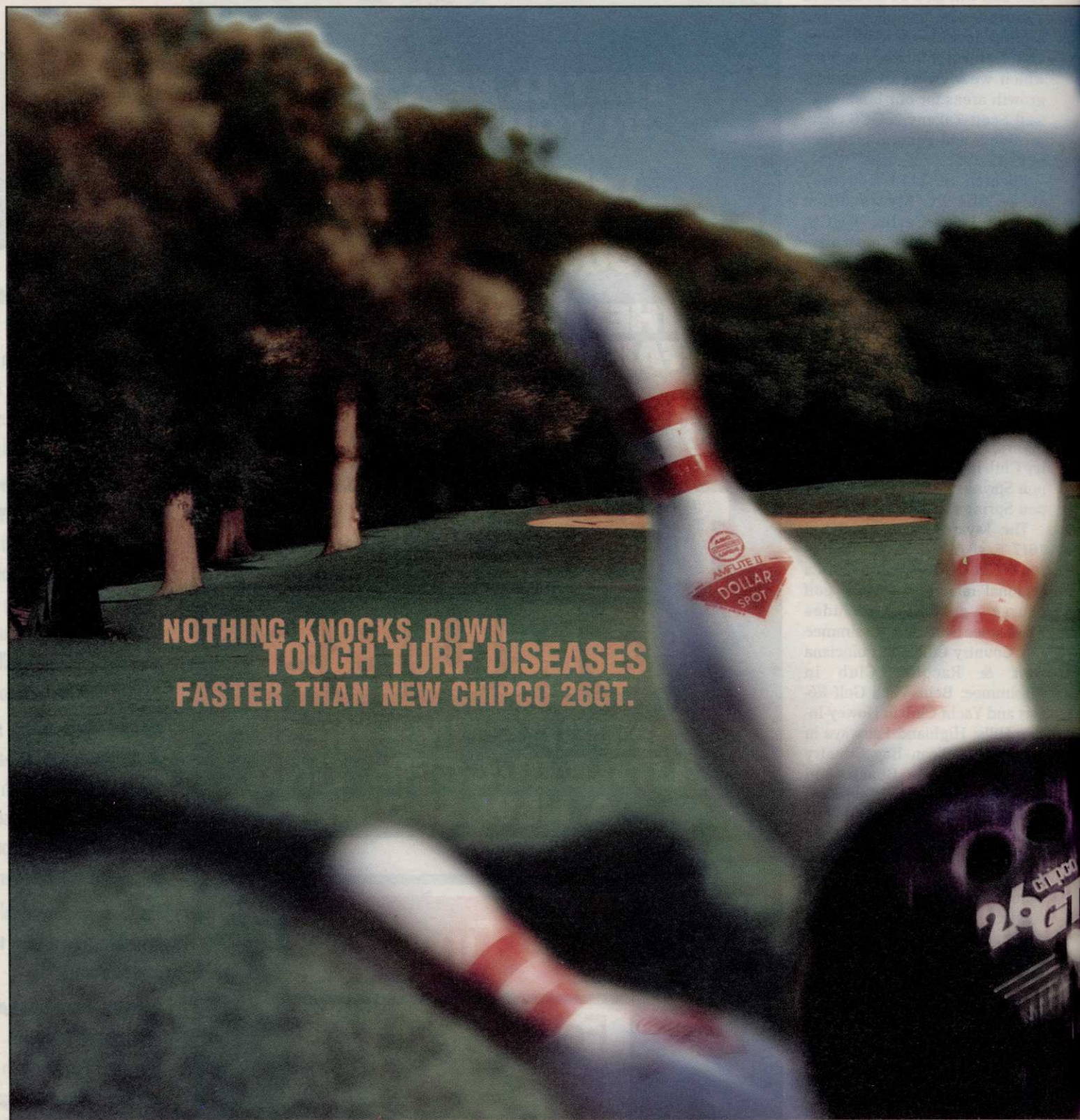
She couldn't speak for laughing so hard. Finally, she blurted out, "Vince! Liza thinks the Three Stooges are the Three Musketeers!"

Luckily, the Bean brothers never found out what Liza was really trying to say. The truth is, however, Liza really liked the

Three Stooges and thought they were funny. So, from her perspective, she was complimenting them, even though it would have taken another 7-year-old to understand.

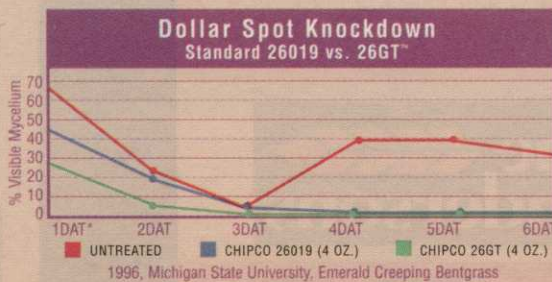
But the good was done. Those very flattering words of Liza's had done the trick. The Bean brothers were no longer just customers. They were very

*Continued on next page*



**NOTHING KNOCKS DOWN TOUGH TURF DISEASES FASTER THAN NEW CHIPCO 26GT.**

For years, you've relied on CHIPCO® 26019 brand fungicide to deliver the best brown patch and dollar spot control available.



But, sometimes, when soaring summer temperatures made you feel the heat, you've turned to contact materials to give you the quick disease knockdown you need. Now, you can get the same powerful, long-lasting disease control you've come to expect from CHIPCO® 26019, plus the quick knockdown you demand. Introducing new CHIPCO® 26GT: • University trials prove that new CHIPCO® 26GT provides consistently quicker knockdown of dollar spot and brown

*Vince Alfonso Jr. is a 40-year golf industry veteran, president of Alfonso Creative Enterprises Inc., and owner of Kimberling Golf Course near Branson, Mo. He can be reached at 417-739-4370.*



## Greenwell joins Troon Golf as sales/marketing chief

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Troon Golf, a Scottsdale-based golf development and management company, has added a long-time member of the Arizona golf scene to its corporate management team.

Timothy J. Greenwell has been named the firm's new director of sales and marketing. Prior to

joining Troon Golf, Greenwell worked in several key golf-industry positions including the past six years as Tournament & Marketing Director for the Southwest Section PGA. He also spent five years as Assistant Executive Director for the Arizona Golf Association and four years as Executive Director of the Jun-

ior Golf Association of Arizona.

Troon Golf President and Chief Executive Officer, Dana Garmany, commented on Greenwell's hiring, "Tim has a wealth of golf knowledge and strong marketing background. His respect for the history and tradition of the game will bring to Troon Golf a perspective that

we believe will better serve all of our clients."

Troon Golf's current list of golf courses include Troon North Golf Club and Legend Trail Golf Club in Scottsdale, the Golf Club at Vistoso at La Paloma Country Club in Tuscon, Ariz., and Primm Valley Golf Club in Las Vegas. Scheduled to open in 1997 are The Ridge Course at Castle Pines North in Denver and Talking

Stick Golf Club in Scottsdale.

Born in Chicago, the 40-year old Greenwell is a 1979 graduate of Arizona State University's College of Business.

His list of playing achievements include being selected Most Valuable Player of Scottsdale Community College's 1975 golf team, a two-time representative of Arizona's Pacific Coast Amateur Team and a participant in three USGA Championships.

He also served as a panelist for *GOLF Magazine's* course rating committee. His wife of 12 years, Jeane, also works in the golf industry as a Golf Shop Merchandiser.

## Granite to build new Texas links

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Newly capitalized Granite Golf Group Inc. (see story page 3) has signed a preliminary agreement with the Industrial Development Corp. of Universal City, Texas, to design, build and operate a \$5.5 million golf facility.

In addition to designing and building the 18-hole course, Granite will develop state-of-the-art training and practice facilities and a driving range.

It will also supervise the design and construction of a clubhouse, community conference center and banquet facilities.

Total projected costs are in the \$5.5 million range.

## Alfonso comment

Continued from previous page  
happy customers.

I certainly don't want you to think for a minute that I'm advocating that you trump up some bogus positive comment just to woo a customer.

That would be the farthest thing from the truth.

No, I think Liza's Musketeer mistake teaches us to look for ways to compliment our customers at every turn.

It's like my Daddy once said, "Son, you'll catch more flies with honey, than you'll ever catch with sour pickles."

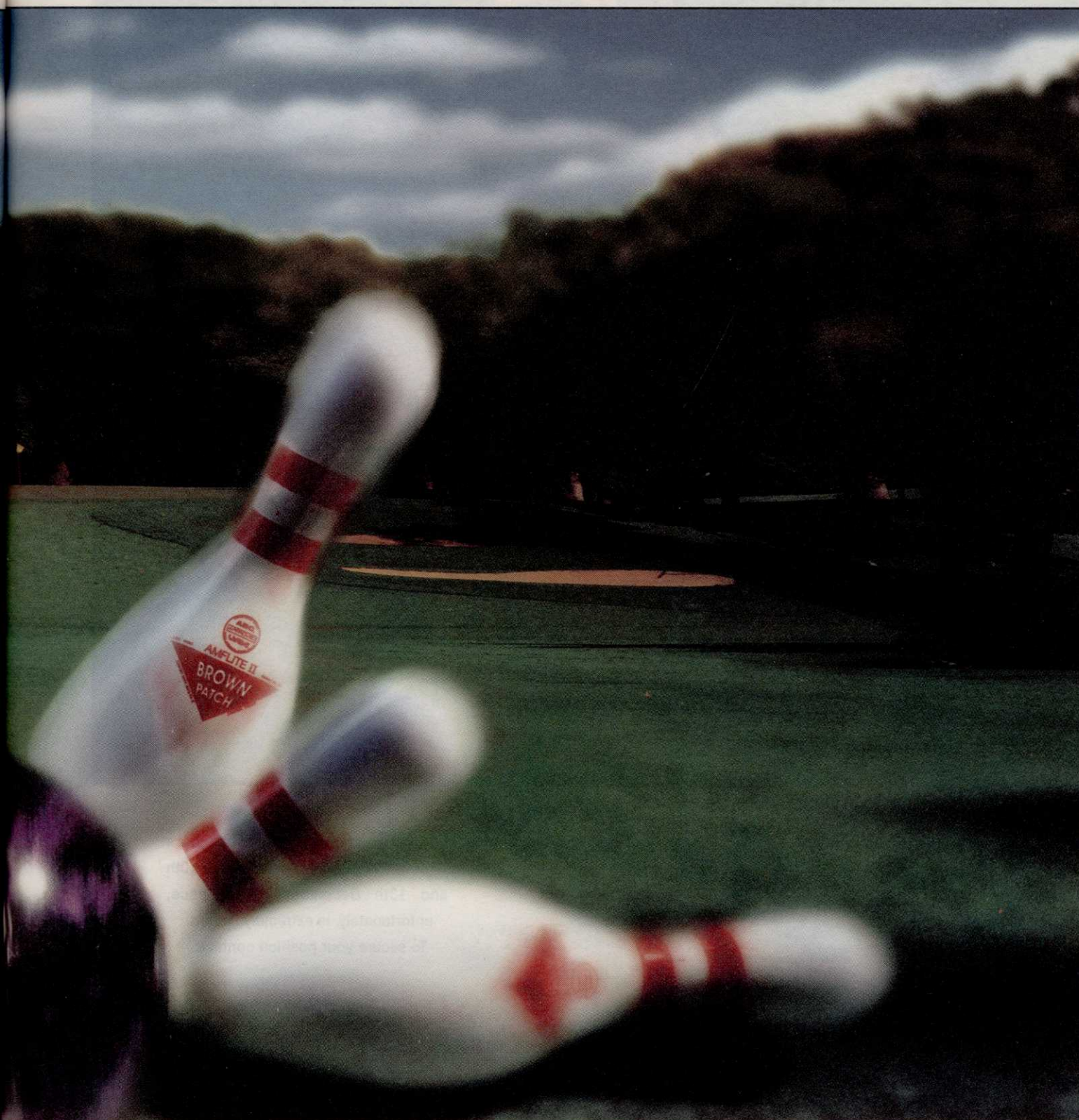
Wait a minute. Was it my dad who said that or was it Erma Bombeck?

Whatever.

The truth is, it works. Customers, employees, spouses and children: everybody likes to hear something nice said about them.

Why don't we all work on it this month? What do you say? We might just be surprised at just how far a few kind words can take us.

How about it? Let's look for the good in others. It can be life changing.



patch than the standard CHIPCO® 26019 • In fact, CHIPCO® 26GT™ was as much as 48 hours faster. That means you'll see activity against disease mycelium within just 24 hours after application. And that means faster turf recovery. You can also count on CHIPCO® 26GT™ to give you both preventative and curative activity against dollar spot and

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	0DAY*	1DAT	2DAT
UNTREATED	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT
CHIPCO® 26GT™	PRESENT	NONE	NONE

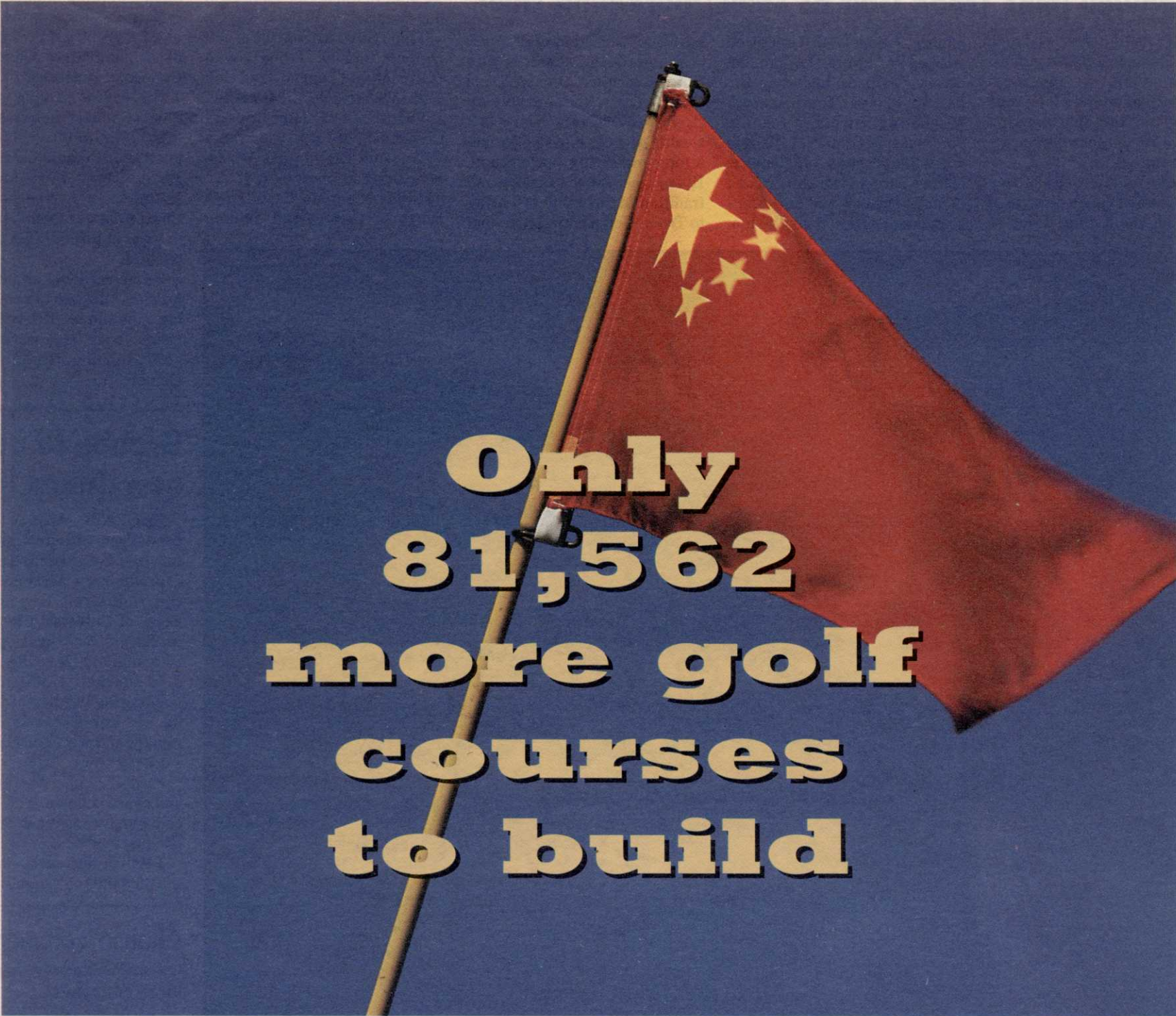
\*ODAY = Spray applied; DAT = Day(s) After Treatment  
1996, Ohio State University, PennCross Bentgrass

brown patch. • Best of all, new CHIPCO® 26GT™ gives you the same powerful, broad-spectrum, long-lasting disease control you've come to expect from CHIPCO® 26019. Now you don't have to sacrifice quality and duration for quickness.

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81,562  
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to build**

In 1949, the Shanghai Golf Course closed forever. It was the only one in China. It took 40 years to build another. Golf in China hasn't looked back since.

The United States has 17,000 golf courses serving 250 million people, China, with a population of 1.2 billion and as keen to play golf, has just 38 - 81,562 fewer per capita. With the world's third largest economy and the fastest growing, golf course construction in China is set to explode.

To fast track into this gargantuan market, the 3rd International China & Hong Kong Golf Exhibition is the one event no golf supplier can afford to miss.

Last year, our Golf Exhibition attracted over 10,000 of the rich and powerful, China's business elite. For the many leading golf course architects, designers, landscapers, irrigators, equipment suppliers and developers, it proved a runaway success. The right contacts were made and the big developments initiated. This year, visitors are expected to quadruple.

The Exhibition will take place in Shanghai's prestigious INTEX Centre between the 10th and 13th December 1997. Space, unfortunately, is extremely limited. To secure your position contact:



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BRIEFS

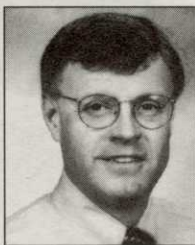


CHANGE OF PLACE FOR GCIS

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. — Golf Course Irrigation Services has changed its mailing address. The firm can now be reached at P.O. Box 156, Olive Branch, MS 38654-0156. The phone number is 601-895-1114; the fax is 601-895-1107. Note: The shipping address for Golf Course Irrigation Services remains 8765 Old Craft Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654-0156.

GAGNE JOINS REGAL CHEMICAL

Regal Chemical Co. announces the addition of its newest management team member, Ronald A. (Ron) Gagne, who brings to Regal nearly 30 years experience in sales and marketing in the professional turfgrass and ornamental industries. His previous employment includes 25 years with The Scotts Company, where he attained the position of vice president, professional business group.



Ron Gagne

# Industry seeks alternatives to field burning

Expect specific changes in cultivars, and their growers

By BOB SPIWAK

OLYMPIA Wash. — With all field burning outlawed next year, turfgrass seed growers here are scrambling for new methods of crop management and several ideas have emerged, although none yet are as economically sound as the traditional incineration.

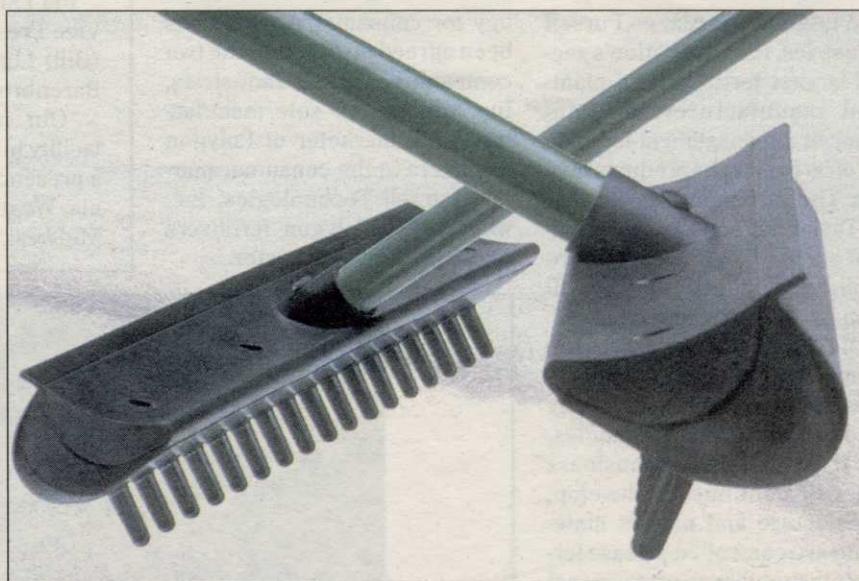
Fields are burned to remove stubble, kill weed seeds and, some maintain, enhance seed production. However, a groundswell of environmental opposition has been growing in the Northwest for some years. Oregon imposed a partial ban in 1991 which still allows 40,000 acres to be managed by fire. Washington took more Draconian measures, requiring total cessation of field burning by the end of 1998. That leaves Idaho as the only state with no anti-burning legislation, but farmers and industry people expect this to change.

Oregon State University (OSU) crop physiologist Dr. Tom Chastain, who studies how plants respond to management practices and affect the economics of crop production, said that while OSU has found economically viable alternatives to burning, these practices may not apply to eastern Washington, whose climate is different than Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Chastain refers to "an evolutionary process," where the industry, not the plants, must evolve to produce turf without fire. "In the '80s, it was all burned," he said of Oregon turf crops, "while in the '90s only 20 percent is being burned. Washington is in a different phase than us." (Oregon's burning reduction began a decade ago after errant smoke from field burning caused a tragic freeway pile-up.)

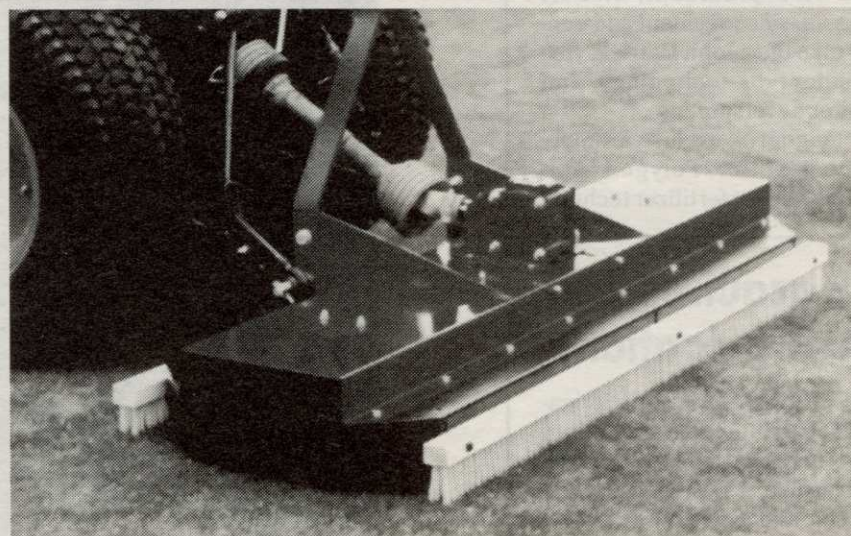
A "bare-bones program for non-thermal

Continued on page 55



NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Par Aide has introduced its new BunkerPro, the bunker rake that's designed to deliver years of use. A full 15 inches wide, the dual-sided, nylon-filled plastic head displays tines for smoothing on one side with a flat blade on the other. Since comfort plays an important factor in player participation in course upkeep, the extra-long, 54-inch handle with molded rubber grip surpasses conventional rakes by a full 6 inches. But perhaps the biggest selling feature is affordability. Priced well below \$20, this rake satisfies the needs of bunkers and budgets. For more information, contact Par Aide at 612-779-9851.



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The unique, new Verti-Brush® cleans surfaces with one simple pass. Even when the surface is wet. It's a new way of brushing sand into aeration holes or other types of surface undulation.

Unlike rotating or reciprocating brushes, the open helix Verti-Brush picks up the sand and forcefully disperses it over the surface.

It has a working width of 5 feet, is PTO driven and can be used on various equipment from greensmowers to tractors. There are lots of other unique applications such as dew removal from greens or brushing sand off brick pathways. To find out more, why not call for a demo or free literature?



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**GroWeather** monitors weather conditions to help you make optimal decisions about Pest Control and Irrigation. It calculates Evapotranspiration, Growing Degree-Days, and Heat Stress Index. Stores highs, lows, and accumulated readings. Station alarms can be used to activate your sprinkler or drip system when temperature, humidity, and leaf wetness factors call for it. Using our data logging/computer option, data may be graphed and compared. Software enables you to track development of individual pests with powerful degree-day feature. Choose thresholds to measure hours of Daylight, Chill, Leaf Wetness, Soil Temperature, and Temperature/Humidity.

For information, call

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## Pursell's professional products wing untouched by reorganization

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Industries, Inc., the nation's second-largest fertilizer and plant-food manufacturer, has announced a management-led buy-out of its consumer products division. The business will be headed by Taylor Pursell, 42, as president and CEO. Citicorp Venture Capital has joined the Pursell team as an equity investor.

The recapitalization leaves the company's professional products division intact. That company becomes Pursell Technologies, Inc. It remains a family business and will continue to develop, manufacture and market state-of-the-art, controlled-release fertilizer technology to professional golf, nursery, lawn care, specialty agricultural and agricultural markets worldwide.

Jim Pursell, 66, becomes chairman of Pursell Technologies, Inc. David Pursell, 37, will serve as president and CEO. The management team also includes: Arnold Cleghorn, COO and senior vice president; Robert Lukasik, vice president and general manager; John Detrick, vice president of technology and market development.

A long-term, exclusive supply agreement for Polygon controlled-release fertilizer technol-

ogy for consumer markets has been agreed on between the two companies. Pursell Industries, Inc. will be the sole manufacturer and marketer of Polygon fertilizers to the consumer market. Pursell Technologies, Inc. will market Polygon fertilizers to the professional sector.

## ICE acquires Fox River Irrigation

PEPPERELL, Mass. — Irrigation Consulting & Engineering, Inc. (ICE), an irrigation engineering firm specializing in commercial and golf course irrigation, has acquired Fox River Irrigation Consultants, Inc., of Elgin, Ill. The acquisition enables ICE to fully serve the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin markets with an established office and clientele in the region.

ICE is based here, with offices in Cleveland and plans for one in Charlotte, N.C.

"This acquisition enables us to enter the Chicago golf course and commercial markets, which we have had an interest in for some time," said company President Brian Vinchesi. "Fox River's attention to detail and stature in the Chicago area, coupled with our progressive technical engineering expertise and authority, make this a win-win situation for Chicago and Indianapolis area golf course superintendents."

Glenn Bowlin, founder of Fox River Irrigation Consultants, will continue to manage the Elgin office of ICE.

ICE can be reached at 508-433-8972, and the new Elgin, Ill., office at 847-695-6407.

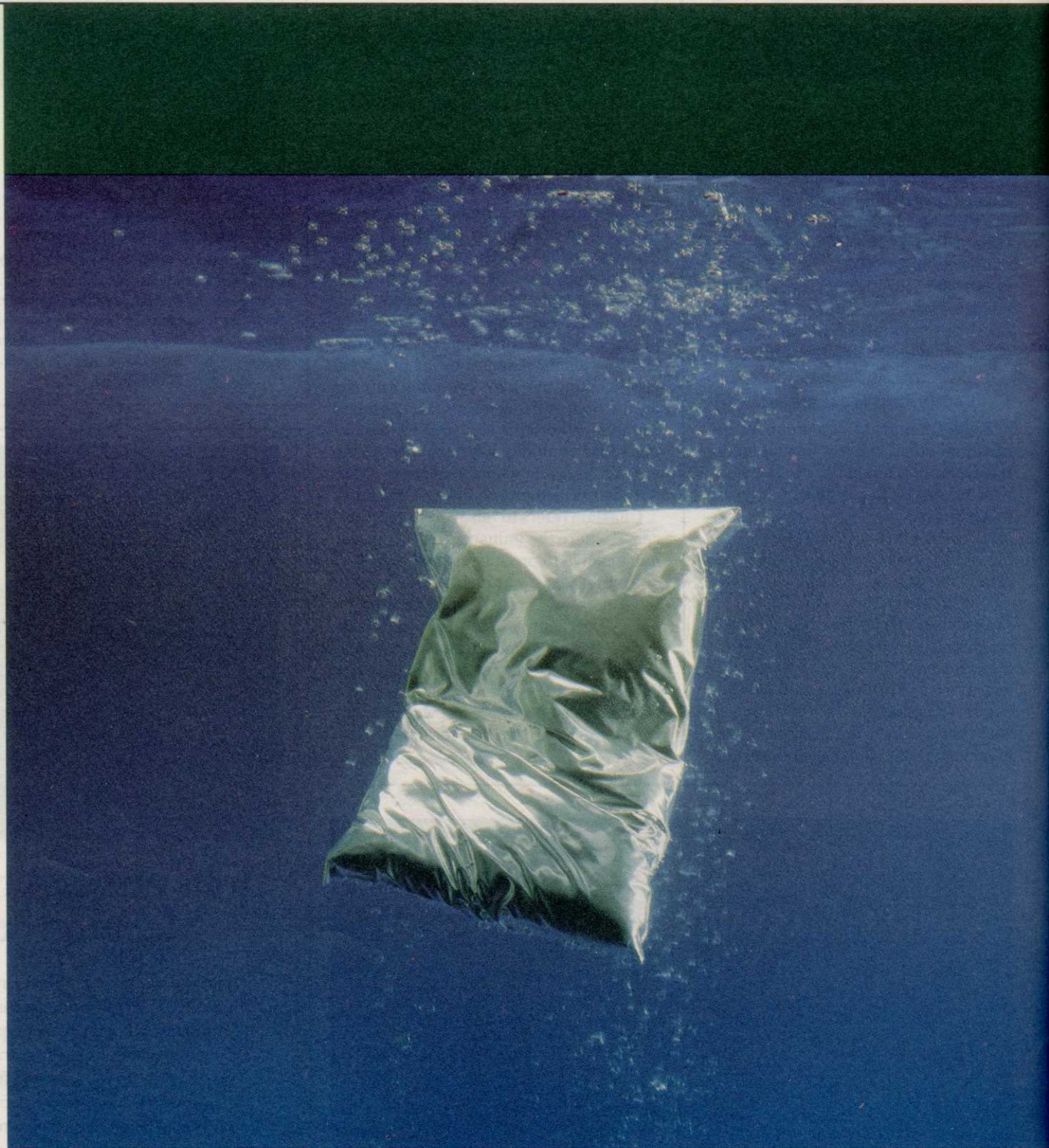
## Suvak to run new Barenbrug Northeast office, in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Barenbrug Northeast's Vice President and General Manager William (Bill) Lind has announced the opening of the Barenbrug Northeast Pittsburgh Division.

"Our new sales, production and shipping facility in Pittsburgh will enable us to establish a presence in Central and Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other parts of the Midwest," said Lind.

Al Suvak, formerly of Mock Seed Co., has been selected as general manager of the Pittsburgh Division. The Barenbrug Northeast Pittsburgh Division is located at 2246 California Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. For more information, call Suvak at 412-321-1272.

Also, Barenbrug USA, headquartered in Tangent, Ore., will move into its new office/warehouse facility there this month.



# ALL FORE® ONE...

The team approach is a proven way to attain success. All for one, and one for all. And to build the best team, you need a star; a single player from which to build a strong foundation. Fore® fungicide takes the offensive in a number of ways when it comes to controlling tough turf diseases.

First, Fore handles tough diseases like brown patch, pythium and slime mold, while offering the same level

of control as Daconil® and Chipco® 26019. In fact, Fore controls every major disease—fourteen in all—and has never shown a record of disease resistance. Those stats are hard to beat.

Next, Fore is a great team player. Studies have proven and time has shown that a tank mix of Fore plus Aliette® is the best treatment available to combat summer stress complex. Tank-mix with Eagle® to get both contact and



**SRO HONORS COURSE AND SUPER OF THE YEAR**

Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. awarded Eagle Point Golf Course located here its 1996 "Golf Course of the Year" award. For their hard work and dedication, architect Robert Trent Jones II, and golf course superintendent, Dave Stephens received their awards at this year's Golf

Course Superintendents Association of America's International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas.

Seed Research also presented Paul Ellwood, CGCS, formerly of Club Terravita in Scottsdale, Ariz., its 1996 "Golf Course Superintendent of the Year" award in Vegas.

**Field burning**

Continued from page 53

management of Kentucky bluegrass" is at the heart of the Washington ban, Chastain said. OSU's recommendations are in five parts:

- 1) Remove most of the straw by baling;
- 2) Reduce the height of the stubble by flail mowing to less than 2 inches. A standard farm flail can be used, as well as a J-blade knife;
- 3) Remove the straw

and stubble after harvest as quickly as possible. Waiting 30 days can reduce crop yield by 30 percent; 4) Use a vigilant program of test monitoring and control. Without burning, there may be more pests remaining, such as weed seeds; and 5) Find the lowest-cost approach to production.

One method which has been tried is vacuuming the crop residue, which Chastain said is not economically sound. He main-

tains that today's baling and raking equipment is better than that of even a decade ago.

The crop physiologist concedes that burning is still the most cost-effective method, but argues that changes will have to be made. He has some concerns that, unlike Oregon, Washington has not allowed enough time for farmers to examine alternative measures. Again he stressed that what works in Oregon may not in Washington's turf-growing region, 300 drier miles northeast.

Oregon created an entire industry out of the residue of turf crops, using baling and flailing after mowing. Developed during the six years of the burning phase-down, straw barns were erected to store the stubble, which is compressed and sent to Japan as animal feed.

"But, it took years and years to build those facilities in Oregon," said Chastain. "In Oregon our yields are right up there with Washington's without burning and using the bale and flail method. But, the caveat is that it is more costly when done under Oregon conditions."

According to Skip Allert of Jacklin Seed Co. in Post Falls, Idaho, just across the Washington state line, growers tried to bale the straw after being combined, but without much success. It is more expensive and does not kill weed seeds or diseases. (Chastain noted that OSU had not seen an increase in diseases when fields weren't burned, but added that the studies were not extensive and, again, what works in Oregon may not work the same in another area.)

Time, or the lack of it, appears to be the major obstacle facing the Washington growers. Whereas Oregon, which still allows burning of 10 percent of its 400,000 acres of turfgrass, gave its growers years to develop new methods, Washington effectively slammed the door on burning, reducing it by one-third each year to total abstinence next year.

As Allert noted, "We need more basic research... what genes to change... But there is a costly time lag — a year before we get the crop out, another year to see the results."

There is little question that alternatives to burning are available. From all indications these are more costly than incineration. Those growers with the financial resources to make the change will probably survive, and marginally capitalized growers may go out of business.

In the meantime, researchers in the private sector and at universities are continuing their efforts to find an economically feasible way to manage turf crops, for there is also little question that smoking fields, like smoking tobacco, is now taboo.



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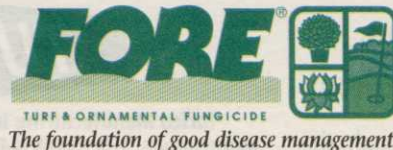
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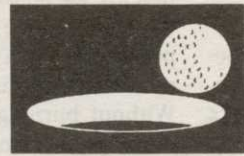
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CIRCLE #140

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

## IPM Systems promotes Trioli, Prusik, Moya

APEX, N.C. — Responding to growing demands for its services, IPM Systems, Inc. has announced three staff promotions. John Trioli has been promoted to GPS mapping coordinator, Steve Prusik has been promoted to geographic information systems (GIS) coordinator, and Raul Moya has been promoted to contract services manager.

Trioli spent 30 years in the Army, 15 of which were in GPS mapping, conventional

mapping, aerial photography, topography mapping and personnel management. Working out of the corporate offices in Apex, Trioli will be responsible for coordinating both national and international projects.

Prusik has served as GPS mapping technician at IPM Systems for the past year. His background and experience in GPS mapping and his training in computer aided design (CAD) and Arch View led to his promotion. Prior to working at IPM, Prusik was project manager for the landscape architecture firm of Paton/Zucchini & Associates and an environmental planner with Parsons Corporation, an environmental engineering firm. He also works out of the Apex office.

Moya works out of both the corporate offices in North Carolina and IPM's Florida office. He covers soil fumigation needs east of the Rockies, and internationally. His background includes employment with three soil fumigation contractors, as well as PGR, insecticide, and herbicide contract application services.

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### SHADDAY NAMED PRODUCT MANAGER OF T&O AT R&H

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Christopher R. Shadday has been named products manager for Rohm and Haas Co.'s Turf and Ornamental Products business. He will be based here in the company's home office. Shadday brings to his position substantial experience in the industry. He has been with Rohm and Haas for eight years, serving most recently as market research manager and product manager for Adjuvants and Formulated Turf Products. Previously he was a technical sales representative for the company's Agricultural Chemicals. His new responsibilities include marketing, business development and management duties for the company's line of turf and ornamental products.



Christopher Shadday

### LEGACY HONORS PIE SUPPLY AS DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

MILFORD, Conn. — Legacy Golf Irrigation has named P.I.E. Supply Company its 1996 Distributor of the Year. Based here, P.I.E. is Legacy's exclusive distributor for New England and eastern New York state. According to David Truttman, vice president of sales and marketing for Legacy Golf Irrigation, P.I.E. was Legacy's leading distributor for 1996 in terms of both sales and services. J. Anderson III, president of P.I.E. Supply Company, accepted the award on behalf of his entire team, which is responsible for P.I.E.'s success, he said. "We are excited to have been recognized for this award and are equally proud to represent Legacy Golf Irrigation," said Anderson. "We appreciate Legacy's commitment to understanding what makes our customers' projects successful and for providing us with the product and the training to succeed."

CIRCLE #141

GOLF COURSE NEWS



## Ransomes looks to streamline parts process

LINCOLN, Neb. — A new parts rebate program from Ransomes America Corp. is designed to help turf equipment maintenance personnel streamline the parts-ordering process and reduce downtime. The program offers an initial replacement parts pack, which carries a 10-percent instant rebate, along with the purchase of new Ransomes, Cushman or Ryan equipment.

Available through Ransomes America Corp. dealers, the pack contains all the parts golf course or grounds-care equipment mechanics would need to perform regularly scheduled maintenance for the first three months of the equipment's life.

The program covers the following equipment (if purchased after Jan. 1, 1997): Ransomes E-Plex electric greens mower; 250, 305, 405 and 3500 fairway mowers; T-Plex 185D triplex mower; Greensplex 160, 160D and GS 55 greens mowers; several rotary mower decks and engines; 951 series of riding "wing" rotary mowers; Cushman Groom Master bunker and infield grooming vehicle; Ryan Greensaire 24 and GA 30 aerators; Cushman GA 60 fifth-wheel aerator implement; Turf-Trucksters For more information call 1-800-228-4444 for your closest dealer.

Ransomes' patented Turf Protector oil is now available on a greater range of mowers, including the Ransomes 250 and 305 fairway units, the Greensplex 160 greens mower, as well as the 951D and AR 250 rotary mowers. Turf Protector is an organically based fluid, which is designed to be more environmentally friendly than mineral-based hydraulic fluids. It is engineered to eliminate permanent turf damage in the event of a leak or small spill. Factory-installed — and standard on the 250, 305 and 160 reel mowers as well as the 951D and AR 250 rotary mowers — Turf Protector is fortified with anti-wear additives and oxidation inhibitors.

Ransomes has announced the hiring of Galen Stoffel as a territory manager in the Turf and Professional Lawn Care Divisions. In his new position, Stoffel handles sales and dealer relations activities in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Ransomes America, Stoffel was a sales representative for Terra International. From 1977 to 1987, he was the golf course superintendent of the La Fontaine Golf Club in Huntington, Ind.

## Prolink gains Mich. foothold: Legacy, Brigadoon & Copper Hills

OXFORD, Mich. — Prolink, the Chandler, Ariz.-based electronic yardage and information system, has gained its first three Michigan installations: Brigadoon Golf Club in Grant, The Legacy by Arthur Hills in Ottawa Lake, and Copper Hills here in Oxford.

Prolink is a golf car-based yardage system that gives the golfer a full-color graphic layout of the hole, position on the hole, distance to the pin and

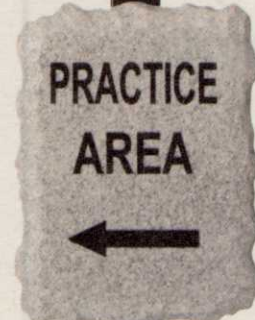
various hazards, as well as other features. The system also facilitates real-time tracking of the golf car fleet, two-way communication via messaging, and an advertising medium called Adlink.

"Establishing a presence in key golf markets such as Michigan is an important element in our growth strategy," said Tim White director of sales & marketing for Leading Edge Technologies, Inc., manufacturer of Prolink.

## CALIF. EPA OKAYS BANNER MAXX

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The California Dept. of Pesticide Registration has approved the use of Novartis' Banner MAXX fungicide for control of common turf and ornamental plant diseases. Banner MAXX is a water-based, systemic fungicide. It is formulated as a microemulsion concentrate (MC), which does not use petroleum solvents as a carrier

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## Progressive offers wire & valve locator

Progressive Electronics, headquartered in Mesa, Ariz., has introduced the Model 528 Wire and Valve Locator for troubleshooting electronically controlled zone-irrigation systems.

The Model 528 locates the path, finds breaks and determines the depth of direct-buried control wiring. It will also pinpoint the exact location of buried solenoid valves or locate a specific valve in a multiple-valve location. Features include automatic shut-off on both transmitter and receiver, load matching transmitter output, and a rugged, portable design.

The unit comes complete with the transmitter, receiver, and ground stake, all of which are housed in a compact carrying case. For more information on this and other Progressive products, call (800) 528-8224.

CIRCLE #301

## TMI reports positive field trials for First Cut

Turf Merchants, Inc. (TMI) has announced its First Cut overseeding mixture scored a triple play when it topped all three categories in North Carolina State University's 1995-96 overseeding trials. First Cut, which included Manhattan 3, Blackhawk, and Laredo perennial ryegrasses topped the trial with a 6.5 in seasonal mean turf quality, the closest entry to it being Palmer III with a 6.3. Though two other varieties Palmer 3 and R2 tied with First Cut for best color, "First Cut" rose to the top again with a number-

one ranking for turf density over varieties such as Palmer 3, Cutter, Morning Star and Top Hat.

The winter over-seeding plots were located at the Landfall Country Club in Wilmington, N.C., on dormant Tifway bermudagrass. The plots, 4 feet by 6 feet, were hand-seeded and replicated four times.

The soil type was a sandy clay with a pH of 5.7. A starter fertilizer was applied after germination. Subsequent fertilization included 200 pounds of 25-3-10 per acre at intervals to retain acceptable color. Plots were irrigated to prevent wilt and maintained at a 5/8-inch cut.

For a copy of the complete trial, please contact TMI at (800) 421-1735 or SPT@turfmerchants.com

CIRCLE #302

## Acid-based fertigation now okay by Agri-Inject

Agri-Inject, Inc. now offers fertigation systems capable of handling acid-base fertilizers and solutions containing sulfuric acid. According to Erik Tribelhorn, Agri-Inject general manager, addition of the special acid-handling was in response to demand in the marketplace.

"We were receiving calls from growers in the Northwest who are applying fertilizers with an acid base and in California where they are fertigating with products containing sulfuric acid to correct pH problems in the water," he said. "We did some research and were able to develop an acid package upgrade to our fertilizer injection systems that works well with those applications."

In addition to fittings and plumbing made of materials that stand up to acidic solutions, the acid set-up includes special corrosion-resistant steel alloy pumpheads on the mRoy metering pumps featured on many Agri-Inject fertigation systems.

For more information, contact your local Agri-INJECT distributor or call toll free: 1-800-4-INJECT.

CIRCLE #303

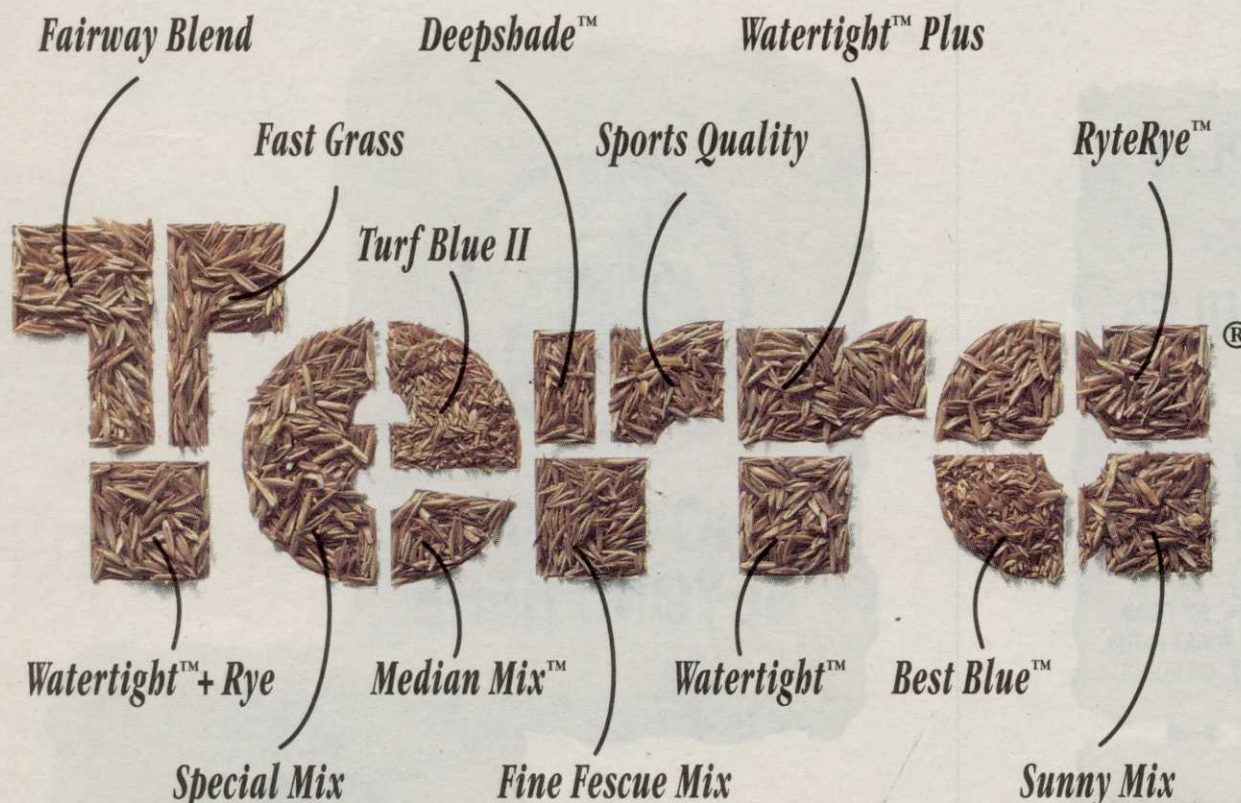
## Portable, economical chemigation from Neptune

The new Model CIS-30 "E" Linator from Neptune combines a Series 500E hydraulic diaphragm metering pump with a lightweight, 30-gallon tank to offer a portable and economical chemigation system. This new chemigation system eliminates pests, while avoiding soil compaction and crop damage caused by tractor-pulled rigs. The "E" Linator allows precise uniform chemical application by using the center pivot as a spray boom. Its small tank is convenient to use and eliminates having to handle large, cumbersome injection systems when applications require only small volumes of chemicals.

Model CIS-30 is available with a choice of pumps, including Neptune's Series 500VS high-viscosity pumps for handling more difficult chemicals.

For more information, contact Neptune Chemical Pump Co., at 800-255-4017.

CIRCLE #304



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CIRCLE #143



## Mobile canopy shields 12 golfers at once

Designed with golf courses in mind, CoverShots driving range canopy system offers true mobility and, in most places, year-round protection from the elements. A 937-square-foot coverage area provides ample practice room for up to 12 golfers while shielding them from the hot sun, aggravating showers, or any other inclement weather condition.

Large 90-degree pivoting wheels and strong 110V motors located at each end of the structure assist in positioning. The motors are operated via a single, tower-mounted control box, allowing personnel to merely walk alongside CoverShots for repositioning. Better still, CoverShots' heavy-duty towing assembly allows it to be used anywhere on a course — not just the range.

Fully assembled, the standard CoverShots system is 15 feet tall, 62.5 feet long (41.5- and 83.5-foot models also available), provides 12 feet of canopy clearance and has a canopy width of 15 feet. Options include back drapes and ceiling fans; other soon-to-be available options include misters, lights, heaters and sound systems. CoverShots is also backed by a one-year limited warranty/five-year limited canopy warranty and supported by a toll-free service line with 24-hour response.

For more details, call CoverShots LLC, toll-free at (888) 881-2433.

CIRCLE #305

## Ransomes goes 26" & 30" with its T-Plex 185

The Ransomes T-Plex 185 D triplex mower is now available in two models for a choice of cutting unit sizes with 26- or 30-inch widths.

The T-Plex 185 D's three fully floating cutting units closely follow ground contours for a quality cut and smooth finish. Available in seven- or 11-blade configurations, the 26-inch units are interchangeable with other Ransomes mowers, including the 305 and 405 fairway models. A five-blade fixed-head cutting unit is also available for general-purpose mowing.

Reel to bedknife adjustments can be made by hand, thus reducing down time for maintenance. Total cutting width is either 71 inches (26-inch head model) or 84 inches (30-inch head model). The cutting units fold within the width of the front wheels for transport and storage.

Constant three-wheel hydrostatic drive, combined with a variable weight transfer system, help deliver superior traction on a variety of terrain. Conveniently located hand controls operate the raising and lowering of cutting units, while the transmission is controlled by a single foot pedal. Large 20-by-10-by-8-inch flotation tires help reduce ground pressure.

For more information, contact Ransomes America at (800) 228-4444.

CIRCLE #306

# Golf Course Classifieds

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## HELP WANTED

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Shapers, finishers and laborers needed. Must be willing to travel (Midwest & East Coast). Experience necessary. Mail or fax resume to: **Quality Golf Inc. Attn: Ron Stambaugh 13001 N. Old 3C Rd., Sunbury OH 43074. Fax (614) 965-2956.**

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### GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

WANTED- Crown Golf Construction is currently seeking qualified and experienced superintendents, irrigation specialists, shapers and finish operators. **Mail resume or fax to: Crown Golf Construction, Attn: Bob Steele, 3703 West Lake Avenue, Suite 300, Glenview, IL, 60025-5823, Office#: (847) 832-1800; Fax#: (847) 832-1834.**

### GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Mid-America Golf & Landscape Inc. seeking experienced shapers, supervisors and construction superintendents to work in the Midwest. Please forward resume to **Rick Boylan/Mid-America Golf & Landscape Inc. 620 SE 291 H'wy, Suite 104, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.**

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Golf Course Construction-Shapers needed. Experience with heavy earth moving essential. Willing to travel (North East Asia). Send Resume to: **Intergolf, PO Box 209, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522; Fax:(914)693-9506; Tel:(914)693-2024.**

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For more information, call 207-846-0600, ext. 264.



June

13-15 — *Medfest '97 in Post Falls, Idaho.* Contact Brandie Beebe at 800-568-8873.  
 18 — *SUNY Cobleskill's Turfgrass and Landscape Workshop in Cobleskill, N.Y.* Contact Robert Emmons at 518-234-5644.  
 27 — *Turf-Seed Inc. Field Day 15 in Rolesville, N.C.* Contact Melodee Fraser at 919-556-0146.

July

13 — *Texas Turfgrass Summer Conference and Field Day at College Station.*  
 29 — *Midwest Regional Turf Field Day in West Lafayette, Ind.* Contact Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at 317-494-8039.

August

3-5 — *Georgia GCSA Summer Conference at Callaway Gardens Resort.* Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.  
 5 — *Golf Course Seminar at SUNY Delhi, Delhi, N.Y.* Contact Dominic Morales at 607-746-4413.  
 13 — *Golf and Fine Turf Tour at Rutgers University/Cook College in New Brunswick, N.J.* Contact Richard Caton at 980-821-7134.  
 19 — *Cornell Field Day in Ithaca, N.Y.* Contact Frank Rossi at 607-255-1629.

September

4-5 — *Southwest Horticultural Trade Show in Phoenix.*

October

6-8 — *West Texas Turfgrass Conference in Lubbock.*  
 26-28 — *Public Golf Forum in Oak Brook, Ill.* Contact Golf Course News Conference Group at 207-846-0600.

November

2-4 — *18th Annual Irrigation Association International Exposition and Technical Conference in Nashville, Tenn.*  
 3 — *Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association Annual Meeting in Savannah.* Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.  
 4-7 — *Turf and Grounds Exposition in Syracuse, N.Y.* Contact 800-873-8873.

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CIRCLE #152

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# Golf Course Marketplace

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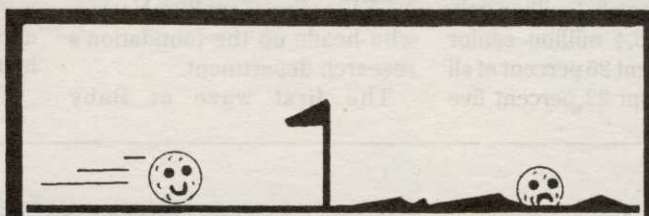


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## Participation

Continued from page 1

designed and built the successful Tidewater Golf Club & Plantation in the heart of the city with the most golf holes per capita in the country.

"There are many courses that probably should not have been built in certain places or built for different markets. There's a right way and wrong way to build

courses. If you do your homework and do it the right way, a new course should do well."

According to the annual *Golf Participation in the U.S.* report, the senior golfer segment [age 50 and over] has shown the most growth in recent years. Since 1991, senior golfers have grown 16 percent, approximately 1 million golfers. Today's 6.4 million senior golfers represent 26 percent of all golfers, up from 22 percent five

years ago. All other groups have decreased or remained steady.

"We've been saying for several years now that, when they leave their child-rearing years and begin to approach retirement, today's 78 million Baby Boomers will be one of the driving economic forces in golf," said NGF Vice President Rick Norton, who heads up the foundation's research department.

The first wave of Baby

Boomers turned 50 last year. The reasoning goes that if they act like their parents and play more as they get older, the golf industry should benefit.

"Today's seniors are among the game's most avid players," Norton commented. "They not only average about 36 rounds a year, which is about three times what it is for all other golfers—they also spend half again as much on golf."

The NGF also takes heart in

the fact that, while participation has remained fairly level, spending on golf has increased dramatically, from \$7.8 million in 1986 to \$15.1 million last year.

"It would appear," Norton said, "while they might not be playing more, today's golfers are willing to spend more on everything from equipment to lessons and fees."

And golf travel, hopefully. Michigan, which has led the nation in course openings the past four years, has made a major financial commitment to attracting golfers to its many golf resorts.

"People here are very aware of the participation rates," said Michigan Golf Course Owners Association Executive Director Harry Klingeman. "We have to continue developing our customer service programs and be aggressive in bringing tourists to the state. We scratch our heads every year when the new course figures come out and there is Michigan at the top. I don't know why. Maybe it's the natural beauty and the distinct topography. Our operators need to be sharp, just like in any other business."

Developers need to be sharp, as well, said Samuel Sakocius, president of Sajo Construction, winner of the *Golf Course News*' 1996 Builder of the Year Award.

"We can't disregard the participation figures," he said, "but they haven't changed much the past few years. We're still building courses and people seem to be playing them."

"We've been successful in the smaller markets, cities in the 150,000 to 300,000 range," he added, noting the firm has projects underway in Kingsport, Tenn., Jonesboro, Ark., and York, Pa. "There are plenty of spots where courses are lacking and that's where they are being built."

At the other end of the spectrum are beginning golfers. Over the past 10 years, that group has grown by 2 million annually, led by the 18-29 age segment. Prior to 1996, 18- to 29-year-olds accounted for 35 percent of all beginning golfers. Last year it jumped to 42 percent. The first of the Echo Boomers turned 18 last year.

"We expect to see the 18- to 29 age group be even more predominant among beginners as Echo Boomers move into their 20s," Norton said. "And, of course, one of the big unknowns here is the influence that players like Tiger Woods and Karrie Webb will be having on these young men and women."

Added Klingeman: "The demographics seem to be good for golf. And Tiger Woods could bring in a whole new breed of golfer. Golf should never be viewed as just an old-timers' game."

The national mail panel survey of 30,000 households was conducted for the NGF by Market Facts Inc. of Chicago, a major market research firm.



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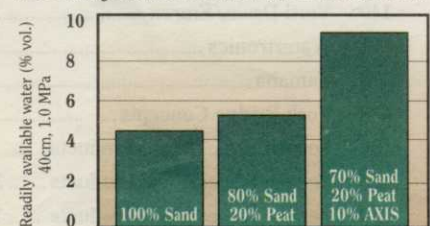


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