

BRIEFS



AREA'S COURSES AGREE: NO SPIKES

OCEAN CITY, Md. — In "a unified effort to provide superior playing conditions for resort golfers," the golf courses of Ocean City Golf Getaway have agreed to prohibit the wearing of metal spikes in 1998. The Bay Club's East and West Courses, The Beach Club's InnerLinks and OuterLinks, Eagle's Landing Ocean City Golf and Yacht's Seaside and Newport Bay, Nutter's Crossing, River Run and Rum Pointe Seaside Golf Links announced the commitment through their marketing company, Ocean City Golf Getaway, Inc.

RUTGERS HONORING STUDENTS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The 8th Annual Turfgrass Awards Banquet will be held here Saturday, Nov. 1. The Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association, New Jersey Turfgrass Association, and Center for Turfgrass Science at Cook College will honor the 1997 graduates of the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School, Advanced Golf Turf Symposium attendees, Cook College undergraduate and graduate student scholarship recipients, and honorees from the turfgrass industry. For more information contact Linda McAteer at the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, 732-932-9271, ext. 626.



WELLS A CERTIFIED AGRONOMIST

LAKELAND, Fla. — Jim Wells, regional manager for International Golf Management here, has been named a certified professional agronomist by ARCPACS, a federation of certifying boards in agriculture, biology, earth and environmental sciences. Wells is also a certified golf course superintendent and holds a degree in turfgrass management from Mississippi State University.

PENN STATE ACCEPTING 1998 APPS

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Applications are being accepted for Penn State's two-year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September 1998. There is an application fee of \$35 and the deadline for applications is Dec. 31. Applications can be obtained by calling 814-863-0129, or by writing to: Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 221 Ag. Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, Pa. 16802-3504.

Baltimore CC's roofed rinse station raises bar

By MARK LESLIE

TIMONIUM, Md. — It's the perfect — well, nearly perfect — equipment wash station. And its co-creator, superintendent Doug Petersan, is about to make it completely perfect.

"I probably will install some kind of elevated retractable hose, so when the guys are done washing the equipment, the hose will wind up above so it doesn't lie on the ground," said Petersan from his office at Baltimore Country Club here.

When the club built two new maintenance structures and refurbished an old barn and existing maintenance facility, the wash station was a key element of the plan.

"We looked at other maintenance facilities, chose things we liked and didn't like and developed this wash area," said Petersan, who worked with architect Jack Reinhardt of Charlottesville, Va. "We wanted it covered so we could work in it in less than ideal weather conditions. It's lighted, too, and has a couple of hoses and a high-pressure power washer. So, when people finish working, they have a good place to clean their equipment.

The wash area is adjacent to Baltimore CC's cold equipment storage facility in its office and shop area.

Other important aspects of the station are its dollards at each entrance ("which should be standard procedure," Petersan said) and a special drainage system for the rinsate.

Rinse water, Petersan said, goes through an oil grit separator which retains any sediment, oil or fuel. The then-



Photo by Terry Baughman

Washing equipment has never been made easier and more efficient than at Baltimore Country Club.

clear water flows to a second, swirl-and-baffle chamber, then to a water-quality lagoon adjacent to the separator.

"In that lagoon we have wetland plants," Petersan said. "At the base of that, which is completely lined, we have a 12-inch filter bed of organic matter and sand which the water percolates through. At the bottom of the filter bed is a tile which directs the water into a second lagoon. From there it goes into the irrigation lake and back onto the golf course."

The steel-pipe dollards, he said, are filled and cemented in place with concrete.

Petersan, who has been head superintendent at Baltimore CC for six years, was superintendent for 12 years at Prairie Dunes in Hutchinson, Kansas, before that.

Course design and maintenance a crucial marriage

By DR. MICHAEL HURDZAN

Last month I focused on the physical factors of design, and their relationship to maintenance as well as the professional relationship between designer and superintendent. Now I will address the single most important specification related to maintenance: the turfgrasses to be used. No other specification under the control of the golf course architect will dictate the overall maintenance practices, or playing conditions more than the selection of turfgrasses; and the choices are many.

A few years ago this was not the case and routine and standard specifications were acceptable. But in view of the enormous advances in turfgrass breeding and selection over the past few years, this is not the best practice. In fact, I believe that each individual golf course site

LAST OF 2 PARTS

should be studied for its inherent climatic and edaphic qualities, along with local environmental restrictions and attitudes, before turfgrasses are selected and specified.

Ideally, a probable maintenance regime should also be defined, with any budgetary limitations, before turfgrasses are selected. Then knowing specific site factors (drainage, soil fertility and texture, quantity and quality of irrigation water, proposed pesticide schedules, mowing equipment and height, etc.), climatic factors (wind, normal rainfall patterns, air drainage, and length of playing season), along with edaphic factors (soil chemistry, soil biology, and physical limitations), social factors, (EPA or conservation re-

striction, probable total play, country club or public golf course, existing competition, etc.), and budget factors, only then should turfgrasses be selected.

Let me give you some considerations in making this selection. Few golfers would deny that the finest playing surface in northern latitudes is bentgrass and there are many to choose from. It gives you the best tee, fairway and putting surface, but in the transition and Southern areas it is less practical because of summer heat stress.

Many new bentgrasses show good potential, but they are still susceptible to many insect and disease problems, require similar fertility, water management, cultural practices, and for a much longer and intense period.

Improved bluegrasses, on the other hand,

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The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System has enrolled the Country Club of the Poconos in Marshalls Creek, Pa., in its program. The Tom Fazio-designed course is operated by Resorts USA.

CC of Poconos, 'a living thing,' joins Audubon program

MARSHALLS CREEK, Pa. — Country Club of the Poconos, which encompasses 150 acres of wetlands, forest, rock walls and mountain streams, has joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

Operating on the notion that a golf course is "a living thing that is always evolving," superintendent Bob Meaney oversees maintenance of the property and its wide-ranging habitat.

"Our course design accommodates the natural contours of the land and preserves the wildlife habitats," Meaney said. "But it also plays like a dream. The holes challenge golfers of every skill level, play for reasonable par, provide scenic views, and

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By TERRY BUCHEN

How many times throughout a typical work day, during some agronomic practices, do we think to ourselves that we have solved one problem and created one, or maybe two others? An old example is when a riding bunker rake has come on the market throughout the years from different manufacturers, and it smoothly rakes the bunker sand but its teeth "fluff up" the sand and pull up stones into the sand while driving over a shallow sand layer.

One of my favorite examples is the "Two-Day Rule" when a course decides to skip mowing greens one day a week — usually on Mondays, or during inclement weather. The greens will receive a rest from the rigors of mowing, but they will not return to the speed and firmness that they were on Sunday until not one but two days later on Wednesday.

Another example of the Two-Day Rule is when a course receives a significant rainfall, resulting in a spurt of growth two days after the rain.

I, like most superintendents, have a recurring dream of better things happening during real-world situations. Like:

- Our course has the best reputation for conditioning in our area of the country.
- Our course is in tournament condition all season long.
- Our course always looks good and plays good.
- The turf-care center is large

CC at Pocono

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also deter players from entering environmentally sensitive wetlands and brush."

Faced with steep slopes and ravines, Meaney and his crew relied on sod and wildflower plantings to prevent erosion, installed a drainage system which directs surface runoff directly to the wetlands, and applied an organic soil enhancement program that promotes healthy turf while protecting those wetlands.

An upgraded and expanded irrigation system delivers water only where and when the drought-resistant ryegrass is dry. Using less water, coupled with less mowing, reduces spread of turf diseases, said Meaney, whose chemical-free program relies on slow-release organic fertilizers, biostimulants and wetting agents.

"The technology at our disposal is better every year," he said. "As we understand more about the impact of chemicals, we discover friendlier ways of preventing and combating disease and infestation."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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prove our maintenance and capital-outlay budgets.

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