

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Identify and Supply

First Tee Executive Director Tod Leiweke delivers State of the Program Address to the industry 11

Irrigation & Pump Stations

The key to a solid agronomic program is great irrigation. Here's the latest news and product info 27



Photo by Bob Spivak

THRONSON HAS DESIGNS ON ARCHITECTURE

Eagle Crest Resort superintendent John Thronson moonlights as a golf course designer. His latest project was as construction supervisor at Running Y Ranch in Oregon, a Palmer Golf Design Co. layout. See story page 19.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Michigan pilots self-audit program 15
- Heat, drought drub the South 23
- Birdwatching Open shows course diversity 24

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Q&A with Hall-of-Famer Gary Player 31
- Weiskopf eyes Michigan opening 35
- International report: from Ireland to China 38-40

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- Reebok's Fireman buys mgt./brokerage firm 4
- AG-UK takes St. Mellion 41
- Management firm telephone listings 45

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

- Toro partners with Carnoustie 47
- St. Andrews links up with Barenbrug 47
- Griffin ready with global team 48

Medallist, Troon launch Australia operations

By PETER BLAIS

SYDNEY, Australia—An Australian development company has joined forces with an American-based management firm to form an international course development and management company that will also call on the expertise of famed professional golfer Greg Norman.

Medallist Golf Developments, a golf course and residential development company with offices in Australia and the United States, and Troon Golf, a high-end management/development firm based in Scottsdale, Ariz.,

Continued on page 46

Photo by Scott Bessette



Assistant superintendents Ron Kugler, driving, and Brian Coates check the progress of a wetlands fire at LPGA Golf Course's three-hole practice facility in Daytona, Fla.

Fla. fires: Golf escapes catastrophe

By MARK LESLIE

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — With a wildfire leaping across LPGA Boulevard here and licking at his doorstep, LPGA International Golf Course superintendent Scott Bessette turned the irrigation heads on his new course toward the rough and flipped on the water.

When fire cut electricity to River Bend Golf Course in Ormond Beach, superintendent Bobby Gonzales couldn't turn on the sprinklers, but the course's fairways and greens

served as a fire break that may have saved a community of homes.

When a "wall of flames" jumped U.S. Route 1 and reached the 3rd and 4th holes at Matanzas Woods Golf Course in Palm Coast, the last two evacuees were superintendent Andy McGuire and Michael Fabrizio, director of golf maintenance and construction for Matanzas and Palm Coast Resort's four other golf courses, who kept the sprinklers going until the last

Continued on page 22



On Whistling Straits (#16 above): "In my lifetime I've never seen anything like this. Anyplace. Period." — Pete Dye (see pg. 31)

Abbott jumps into market with organic nematicide

By M. LEVANS

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. — Abbott Laboratories' Chemical and Agricultural Products Division has officially entered the golf course market with the

recent release of its new biological nematicide, DiTera WDG.

According to Abbott — a manufacturer and marketer of nutritional, pharmaceutical, diagnostic, hospital and agricultural products that did more than \$11 billion in sales in 1997 — DiTera has been produced from a naturally occurring microorganism (*Myrothecium spp.*) isolated from a cyst nematode.

"The non-toxic profile of DiTera is its key differen-

Continued on page 49

PGF Development Track: Get the balance right

By M. LEVANS

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — If you're ready to break ground on a new public course or put a new spin on a

faithful old layout, this year's Development Track at Public Golf Forum was designed to help you save time and money in the process.

Six Development sessions are slated at this

Continued on page 54

By M. LEVANS

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — The city of Chesapeake is finding that as industry booms public golf is sure to follow.

In the last year, Chesapeake has seen Chubb Insurance, Panasonic, Canon and Volvo, among others, expand existing physical plants and add well over 1,000 employees to

Continued on page 54

What they're saying about **The New Penn Pals**

"Penn A-4 enhances the game of golf. It is my personal feeling that Penn A-4 is one of a number of significant contributions to the game of golf by Dr. Joe Duich." "Awesome."

Cutler Robinson, CGCS, Supt.
Bayville GC, Virginia Beach, VA

"Simply stated, everyone who has played Bayville comments the greens are 'the best they have ever puttied.' This grass allows our members to experience 'tour' quality putting and green speed without jeopardizing fairness and enjoyment. Properly managed, Penn A-4 is, in my opinion, the best grass to date and has set a new standard for excellence."

Dean Hurst, PGA Professional
Bayville GC, Virginia Beach, VA

"Even though summer temperatures can reach 115-120°, we've cut our Penn A-4 at 7/64" for more than a year with no problems."

Doug Anderson, CGCS, Supt.
The Vintage Club, Palm Desert, CA

"For me, the lower the cutting height, the better the management (Penn G-6)."

Pete Gerdon, Supt.
Grandfather Golf and CC, Linville, NC

"Because of the short season at our 7,500 ft. elevation, we sodded our rebuilt greens with 42" wide rolls of Penn A-4 from West Coast Turf in California.

There, we found a source for rootzone sand that closely matched our own, and the long, wide rolls minimized seams. We re-opened 5 weeks after sodding, and dense, fibrous roots reached 10-12" in a matter of months."

Kevin Ross, CGCS, Supt.
CC of the Rockies, Edwards, CO

"Quality of the Penn A-4 putting surfaces at The Estancia Club is beyond comparison. Ball roll and the pace of the greens are excellent. I would not hesitate using Penn A-4 again."

Carl Rygg, CGCS, Supt.
The Estancia Club, Scottsdale, AZ

"Penn A-4 Greens do not cost more. While they do need more topdressing and aerification, they require significantly less water, fertilizer, and pesticides."

Ted Hunker, Supt.
Tartan Fields GC, Dublin, OH

"We've overseeded Penn G-6 into our Poa/bentgrass greens after aerifying a total of five times. We fill the holes within 1/4 to 1/8" with sand, seed with one lb. per 1,000 sq. ft., then topdress. When the Poa stresses under heat pressure, Penn G-6 will re-populate that area."

John Lof, Supt.
Michelbook CC, McMinnville, OR

"Penn A-4 greens do not mean more work, more trouble, and do not cost more money to maintain. In fact, just the opposite may be true. We have found that they require fewer cultural practices such as vertical mowing and brushing.

In two years of managing Penn A-4, we have not observed any brown patch or dollar spot, and greens require limited amounts of fertilizer."

Kurt Thuemmel, CGCS, Supt.
Walnut Hills CC, East Lansing, MI

"I overseed our 18 old greens with 1/4 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. of Penn A-4 each time we aerify. Now, with single cut and roll, our green speeds are consistently fast at 12 to 12-1/2'. Where ball marks tend to tear older bents, they just make dents in Penn A-4."

Pat Franklin, Supt.
Plum Creek CC, Fishers, IN

"We resodded high stress areas in our PennLinks fairways with Seaside II, and are very pleased with its performance. I selected Seaside II with improved dollar spot disease resistance and salt tolerance to address two major turf challenges; the coastal influence and potential sodium buildup from irrigation.

We find Seaside II a strong ally to our PennLinks fairways, and in the future, will slit seed with Seaside II where needed to enhance turf quality."

David Major, CGCS, Supt.
Del Mar CC, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

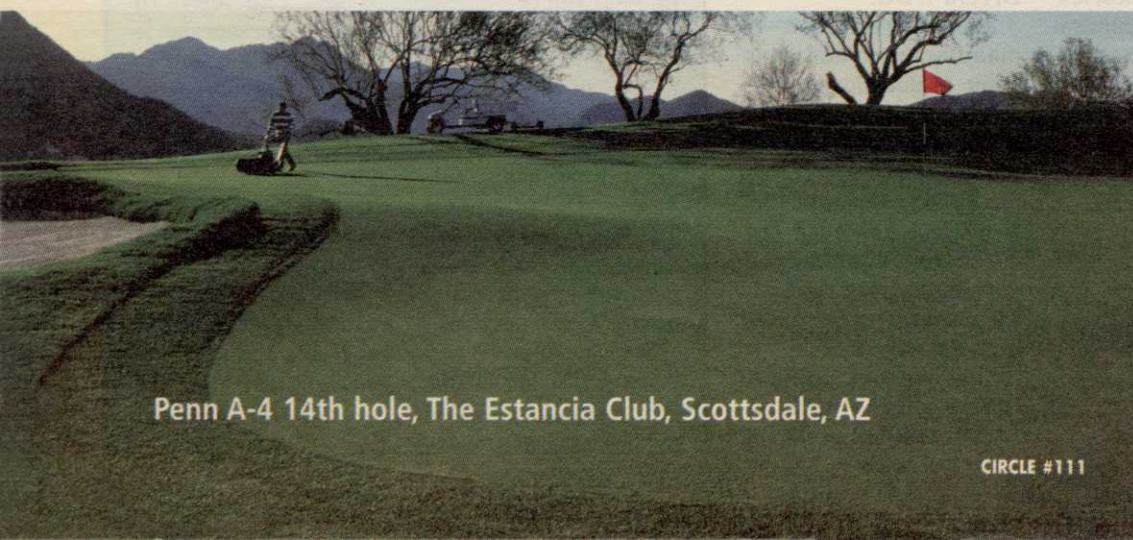
"We have 36 putting greens and 4 practice greens that have been converted from Toronto C-15 to Penn A-4 Creeping bentgrass.

When the greens were placed in play the spring after conversion, comments from our golfing membership were very positive even though turf maturity had not been reached. Putting trueness and turf appearance were among the positive remarks most often mentioned. Now that the putting surfaces have additional development, comments are the greens are superior to anything they've played."

Bill Byers, CGCS, Supt.
Des Moines G & CC, West Des Moines, IA

"Comments from golfers have been extremely positive (Penn G-2)."

Jeff Hill, CGCS, Supt.
Pinehurst Resort and CC, No. 8, Pinehurst, NC



Penn A-4 14th hole, The Estancia Club, Scottsdale, AZ

Penn A-1
Penn A-2
Penn A-4
Penn G-1
Penn G-2
Penn G-6
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BRIEFS

GILBERT, Ariz. — Ground has been broken on an 18-hole course at Meadowbrook, a residential area here being developed by UDC Homes and Sunbelt Holdings. Arizona-based architect Dick Bailey is designing the track. This is the second time Bailey has teamed with Sunbelt. The firms have also worked on the Arizona Traditions golf course in Surprise. The new links is expected to be open by March 1999.

• • •

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Keith Foster has been hired to design an 18-hole course as part of a 900-acre, master-planned community here. SunCor, an Arizona development firm, is developing and will manage the daily-fee facility. Plans are to begin construction in early 1999 and open the course sometime in 2000.

• • •

ARDMORE, Okla. — A nine-hole, \$1.3 million expansion has been approved for the Lakeview Golf Course here. Architect Tripp Davis said the current 18-hole course gets a great deal of use and the greens will eventually have to be rebuilt. The addition of nine holes will allow the greens to last longer, said Davis.

Responsible golf development topic of worldwide conclave

By MARK LESLIE

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — The custodians, protectors and leaders of the golf world for the next millennium should be guided by the concept of "affordable, accessible and sustainable," according to golf course architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan.

Keynoting the World Scientific Congress of Golf here July 22, the former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects said:

- "affordable" means keeping the game within economic reach of all citizens by building simplistic, low-cost golf courses as well as upscale facilities;
- "accessible" means to build those courses near population centers, train or bus lines, or within bicycling or walking distance; and

• "sustainable" means building courses that will be maintained with the fewest maintenance inputs as possible to produce an acceptable golfing venue.

"It means applying emerging science to conserve or efficiently use every possible liter of water, kilogram of fertilizer, gram of pesticide or drop of fossil fuel,"

Hurdzan said. "It also means changing the attitudes of golfers to accept less-green turf, the maintenance techniques of our greenkeepers, and the public view of a golf course's worth to the environment."

Hurdzan, who holds a bachelor's degree in turfgrass management and master's degree and doctorate in environmental plant physiology, said the same turfgrass sciences that produced products that allowed golf courses to reach their "ultimate perfection" are causing the pendulum to swing back toward "a sustainable middle ground."

"The final test of success for this research and development will be if the golf courses of the year 2020 look like golf courses of 1920," he said.

Continued on page 9



Dan Maples-designed Dunegrass in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, opened recently in this Southern Maine coastal town. The 17th hole, pictured here, is located among the inland sand dunes that are a major feature of the 18-hole, daily-fee course. Local businessman Ron Boutet is the developer.

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Mass.' Fireman purchases GRA

MASHPEE, Mass. — Willowbend Development Corp. (WDC) of Mashpee, Mass., has purchased Golf Realty Advisors, Inc. (GRA) of Norwell, Mass.

GRA is a privately held firm, specializing in the development management and brokerage of golf courses. Since the firm's establishment in 1992, GRA has been involved in more than 100 course consulting and development projects. Recent GRA projects include: Olde Scotland Links, in Bridgewater; Acushnet River Valley in Acushnet; and Widows Walk Golf Course in Scituate.

In the past three years GRA has exclusively brokered the sale of seven courses representing more than \$26.8 million in total production. Most recently GRA represented the sellers of Steel Canyon Golf & Country Club, a 27-hole property in San Diego.

"We were approached by several firms for potential merger," said Rowland Bates, president of GRA. "Willowbend offered us the best opportunity to expand further into high-profile golf development, brokerage and management assignments throughout the world, due to WDC's deep financial resources and common business goals."

Willowbend is a privately held company organized in 1991 by Paul & Phyllis Fireman. Willowbend specializes as owner, developer and operator of golf and hospitality-related resort fa-

cilities. Current developments include: Willowbend, an 18-hole private residential golf community, on Cape Cod; The Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort and Casino, a 600-room, four-star hotel with casino, two 18-hole championship courses, and country club located in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico; Dorado Del Mar, an 18-hole cham-

pionship golf resort in Dorado, Puerto Rico; and La Posada, a 150-room spa-hotel located adjacent to the Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort, in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

Said Willowbend Chief Executive Officer David Southworth, "Our goal for GRA is to continue to grow their brokerage services nationally, and to utilize their development skills to strategically expand our golf and resort portfolio."

NICKLAUS TRACK OPENS IN VERMONT

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. — The front nine holes of the first Jack Nicklaus-designed course in New England have opened, while the back nine of the Vermont National Golf Club here are slated to open by Labor Day. The project will also include 190, single-family homes and 40 condominium units. Ownership has changed hands recently to general contractor/developer Jim McDonald of Lyndon Center. Paragon Construction International Inc. is the builder and ArborTech Inc. of Colchester, Vt., the landscape designer.

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stay perpendicular to the ground longer for a cleaner hole. In addition, belt drive instead of chains makes it quieter, more forgiving, and easier to maintain.

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Palmer enters Jack's backyard

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Tartan Fields Golf Club, an Arnold Palmer-designed track here, is scheduled to open later this summer.

The developers of the 511-acre residential golf community spent \$4 million acquiring land for the course and \$12.5 million to build the track and clubhouse. Palmer was given first choice of the land to build on, so he could compete with some of Columbus' top-notch courses, including neighboring Muirfield Village Golf Club, a Jack Nicklaus design.

Palmer's championship course has a mix of sand, grass, water and trees and at least five tee areas on every hole.

SILVA UNVEILS MASS. DESIGN

ACUSHNET, Mass. — The municipal Acushnet River Valley Golf Course is scheduled to open August 16. The team of Cornish, Silva and Mungeam designed the 18-hole, upscale public layout. Johnson Golf Management will operate the facility once it opens.

A foxy tale unfolds at Maryland's Longview GC

TIMONIUM, Md. — Longview Golf Course this fall is celebrating the 10th anniversary of "The Fox" on its Ed Ault-designed, 18-hole layout here.

Longview's legendary fox was mentioned in *Golf Digest*, on the Paul Harvey radio show and in numerous other media in the late 1980s. It also serves as the name-

sake of Longview's decade-old Silver Fox Senior Men's Group.

To salute Longview's four-legged friend, the Baltimore County Revenue Authority — owner of Longview and four other golf courses — recently unveiled the new Longview logo, appropriately depicting The Fox.

The tale/tail of "The Fox" goes

like this: In fall 1988, golf balls began disappearing from fairways and greens at Longview Golf Course. Sightings of The Fox picking up golf balls at the 4th, 6th and other holes were numerous.

On No. 11, The Fox would hide in the weeds next to the green, where its den was located, and dart out to capture a ball when it

hit the green. There were days when golfers lost at least one golf ball per foursome.

Finally, a trapper was called to humanely capture The Fox. The trapper not only caught The Fox, but also 18 of his sly accomplices. One of the dens had more than 150 golf balls from countless, frustrated golfers. In a 10-year span, more than 80 foxes were trapped at Longview.

New Hurdzan course coming to central Ohio

ETNA, Ohio — An 18-hole public course and residential development on 366 acres is coming to central Ohio.

Cumberland Trail borders the town of Pataskala and is being designed by Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design Inc. The par-72, 7,200-yard course will include bentgrass tees, fairways and greens on 183 acres. Bordering it will be single- and multi-family homes and condominiums.

Hurdzan said he wants to build a track here that will be a first-class neighbor to the Etna/Pataskala community by incorporating the site's wetlands into the design.

The land planner for the project is Bird/Houk & Associates Inc. of Dublin. The developer is Ron Huff. Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton Inc. of Gahanna is the engineer.

The track will be ready for play by mid-1999.

Pevely Farms opens in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, Mo. — The semiprivate, 18-hole Golf Club at Pevely Farms has opened, while an additional nine holes are planned.

The track is built on a 208 acres of retired dairy farm property near the Meramec River basin and is owned by Arthur Kerckhoff Jr. The \$7.5 million championship course has zoysia fairways and tees, the greens are bentgrass and the roughs are bluegrass. The architect is Arthur Hills.

Homes, a conference center and rustic cottages will also be built on another 700 acres of land.

MICH. EXECUTIVE TRACK UNVEILED

HOLT, Mich. — An executive-length, 18-hole course is about to open on an 80-acre parcel south of town here. The architect of Ironwood Links is Frank Theroux, a civil engineer. Opening of the front nine was scheduled for Aug. 1 with the back nine opening a year later. Theroux Development Co. Inc., the owner, is doing the construction. Prominent Lansing golfer Marvin Engerski will manage the course. Owen Phillip, formerly of Lansing Country Club, is the superintendent.

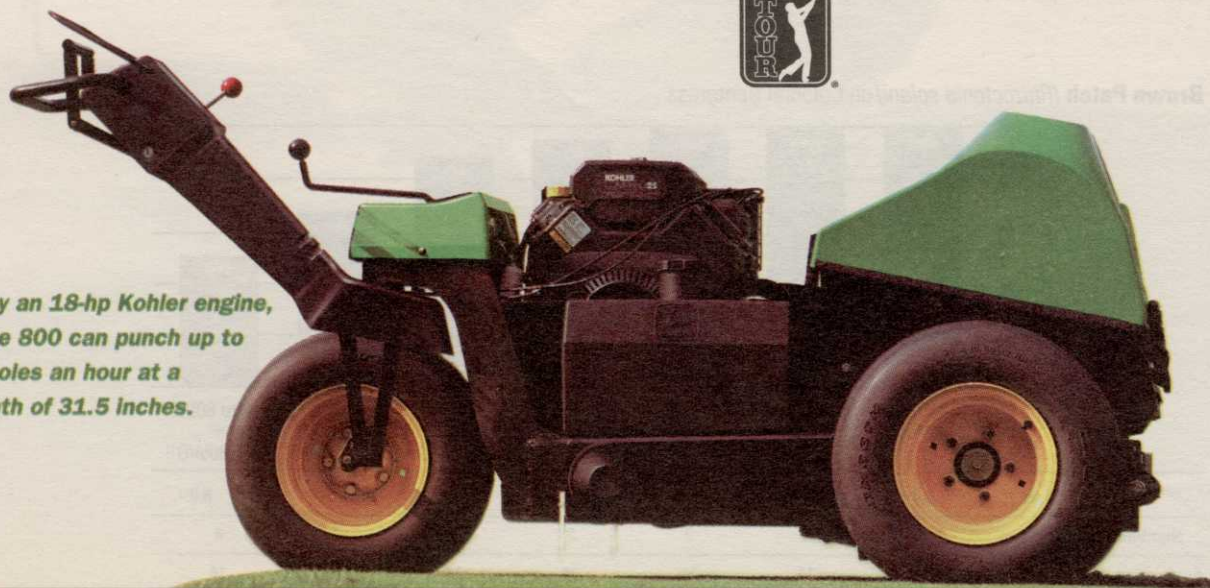
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NGF honors Watson, Dyes

JUPITER, Fla.—Tom Watson, whose character both on and off the course has made him not only a role model for children and young adults but also one of their great benefactors, was presented the National Golf Foundation's Graffis Award for 1998 during the U.S. Open.

The NGF also honored the family of Pete and Alice Dye, who, with sons Perry and P.B., are fashioning one of the great legacies in golf course architecture. The Dyes were named Golf Family of the Year for 1998.

The Graffis award recognizes contributions to the game in the tradition of Herb and Joe Graffis, who co-founded the NGF in 1936 and worked diligently to promote the ideals and the growth of the game.

"While Tom is undeniably one of the great players of our time, he's also quietly become one of the game's most giving people," said NGF Board Chairman Bob Maxon, vice president/group publisher of *Golf Digest*-The Golf Co. "Few people know, for example, of the millions of dollars he has helped raise over the years for the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., through his annual golf clinics, exhibitions and special charity golf tournaments."

He was also the driving force behind establishment of the Kansas City "Clubs For Kids" program, the goad of which is to introduce as many youngsters as possible to the game of golf. To help youngsters further develop their skills, Watson designed and helped fund the Blue River Junior Golf Learning Center, which opened last June at Kansas City's Swope Memorial Park Golf Course. A three-hole golf course, it is a state-of-the-art practice and play facility.

The Dye's award, which is known as the NGF/Jack Nicklaus Golf Family of Award, recognizes families that have made significant contributions to the game and, in so doing, have also exemplified the ideals of golf and family. It is the outgrowth of an NGF campaign that was developed in 1986 with the

help of Jack Nicklaus to increase public awareness of golf as a game that can be enjoyed by the entire family—as a family.

Between them, Dye family members have designed more than 150 golf courses across the United States and overseas.

The presentation of the award will take place later this year.

Fla.-based GCA secures major financing boost

ORLANDO, Fla. — Golf Communities of America has completed an \$86.5 million financing transaction by Credit Suisse — First Boston in New York.

Golf Communities President Warren Stanchina said: "This will provide the capital necessary to take the company to the next level. In addition to replacing our secured debt, First Boston has provided funds to complete

the next phase of our golf community projects."

Golf Communities specializes in the acquisition, development, operation and marketing of golf-related properties. The company owns 10 projects, comprised of 3,000 acres. Three projects are located in Orlando, with others in Naples; Palm City; Portland, Texas; Pinehurst, N.C.; and St. George, Utah. The company has 230 employees, with plans to immediately expand staffing

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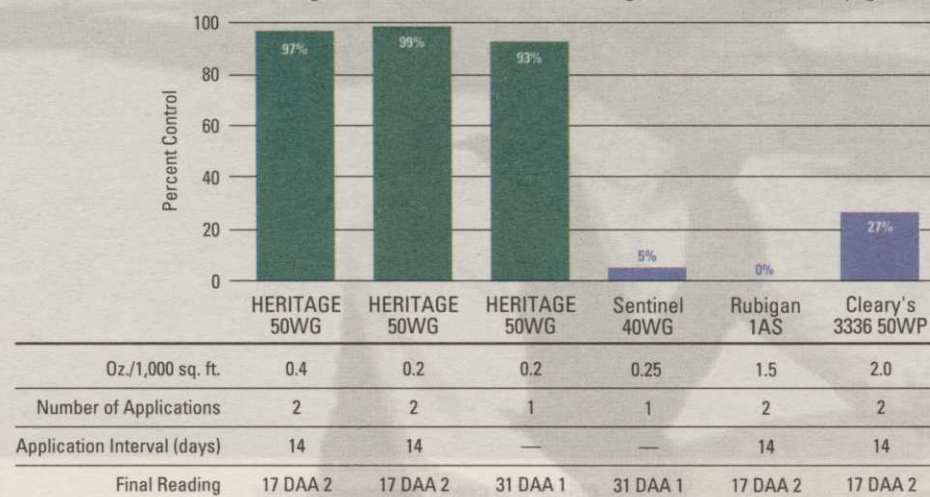
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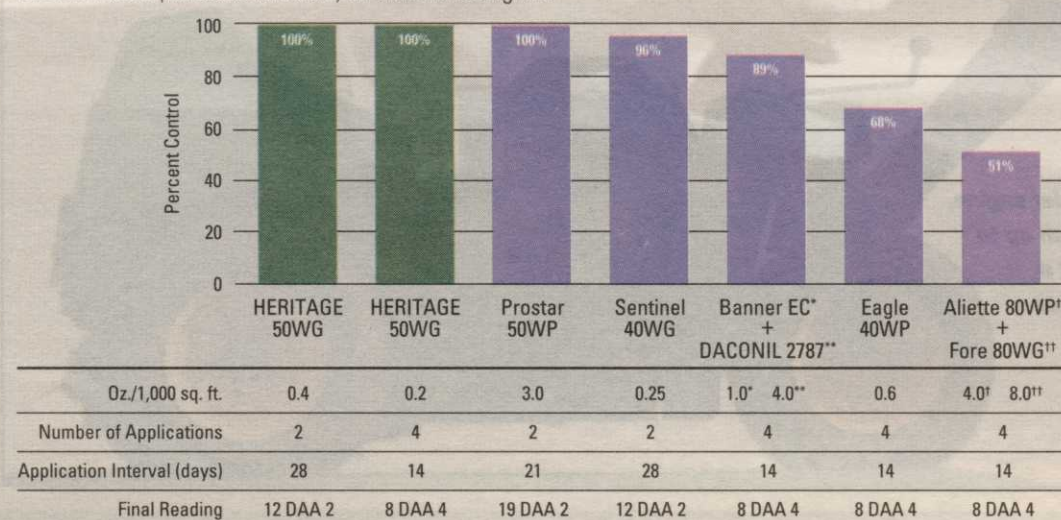


Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995

¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Curvularia*.

US 67-95-P354

Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994

US 66-94-P356

NEW TPC LAYOUTS FOR ORLANDO

ORLANDO, Fla. — Lake Nona Property Holdings has purchased 1,000 acres next to the Lake Nona development. The firm plans to incorporate the land into a master plan for three new Tournament Players Club golf courses and a hotel. Arnold Palmer, Tom Fazio and Pete Dye will design the three new TPC layouts. Construction is scheduled to start in September. Lake Nona already boasts a Fazio design that opened back in 1982.

Crenshaw moves into ownership

DALLAS — Ben Crenshaw has formed Crenshaw Golf Properties to build, acquire and take ownership positions in golf operations throughout the United States.

Crenshaw, winner of 19 PGA Tour Championships and captain of the 1999 U.S. Ryder Cup Team, will serve as president and chairman, and will be an active

participant in the operation in addition to being active in strategic and long-term planning.

Crenshaw is joined by five equity partners in Crenshaw Golf. C.J. McDaniel, formerly senior vice president of marketing for CCA, will serve as chief executive officer. Joe Conner, previously chief financial officer

(CFO) for Silverleaf Resorts, assumes the role of CFO. Jerry Diamond, most recently general manager of Stonebriar Country Club in Frisco, Texas, is executive vice president of club operations. Bill Dowling, formerly director of golf at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas is executive vice president of golf operations. And, Stan Wreyford, regional director of agronomy for

CCA in Dallas, will be the executive vice president of agronomy.

Credit Suisse First Boston Mortgage Capital is providing the financing for Crenshaw Golf Properties and will be instrumental in assisting in the acquisition.

The company's primary operation will be in Dallas, but it will also have an office in Austin. Crenshaw also designs golf courses in a partnership with Bill Coore.

Texas facility plans upgrade

BANDERA, Texas — The Flying L Ranch Golf Course and resort is upgrading its 18-hole course following the sale of the ranch in February.

Fairways are being improved by overseeding to keep the grass green year-round and several fountains are under construction. About 50 oak wilt-infected trees have also been removed.

The 542-acre ranch was purchased by John Junker and ranch broker Trip duPrier from the Minneapolis-based Hill Country Management Co. The 52-year-old Flying L was converted from a working ranch to a leisure facility in the 1970s, and into a corporate retreat in 1994.

NC State seeks links developer

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State University has leased 1,000 acres of land to various developers for the building of an 18-hole course and a new planned development called the Centennial Campus that will consist of a hotel conference center, classrooms, research centers and laboratories.

Development officials are currently reviewing design plans by course designer Tom Fazio.

The research facility will include studies on turfgrass, entomology and nonpolluting options for building courses, according to Claude McKinney, coordinator of the Centennial.

Plans heat up for Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — On the west side of Jacksonville, golf course contractor Kent Curley is considering a 27-hole, daily-fee golf complex, including a driving range and clubhouse, east of Deerwood Park.

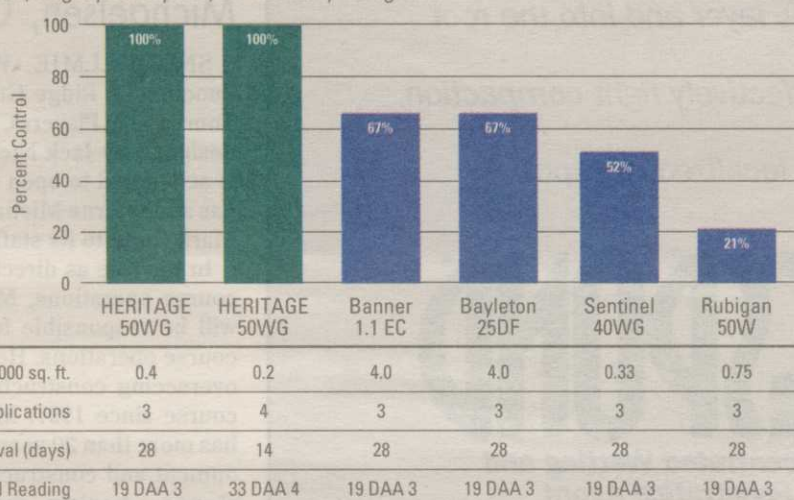
Wetland studies will determine Curley's next step for the project, called Panther Creek Golf Club Inc.

Construction could start by October and be completed by the fall of 1999. Tentative plans call for about half of the almost 600-acre parcel to be used for the links.

The property is jointly owned by Boyd Timber Inc. and Boyco Inc.



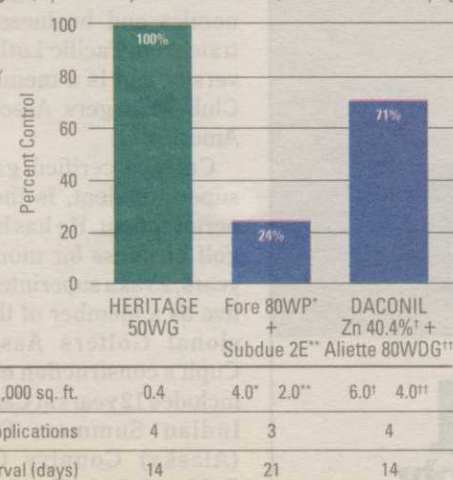
Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994

US 66-94-P362

Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial Ryegrass



Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996

USNP-96-P030

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California firms combine development forces

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Kollstar Golf Co., an owner, developer and manager of high-end golf courses, and The Stonebridge Group, a real-estate company specializing in golf course development and construction, have established an alliance to build and acquire high-end, daily-fee courses.

Kollstar and The Stonebridge Group together will construct new courses in high-profile locations, according to Joe Woodard, CEO of Newport Beach-based Kollstar.

Kollstar was formed in February as a joint venture between Koll Resorts International, a member of the Koll family of real

estate companies specializing in planned golf resort communities, and NorthStar Capital Investment Corp., a New York investment banking firm.

The Stonebridge Group, according to Woodard, will use its expertise in both development and construction, combined with its extensive experience and net-

work of local contractors, to act as the building arm for the group's new golf courses.

Jointly, the two companies expect to roll out three to five new courses per year.

"Our goal with this joint venture is to grow Kollstar through the development of championship quality golf courses in high-profile communities," said Woodard. "This alliance with

The Stonebridge Group allows Kollstar to significantly augment its capability to reach this goal."

Based in Salt Lake City, The Stonebridge Group, through its principals, has provided construction, engineering and consultation services on more than 100 golf courses and hundreds of commercial developments throughout the United States.

Many of The Stonebridge Group's golf courses have been high-end, daily-fee projects located in the western United States and include such courses as Desert Canyon Golf Course in Columbia, Wash., Wingpointe Golf Course in Salt Lake City, Utah, and The Course at Wente Vineyards, a Greg Norman-designed layout cut out of an active winery in Livermore, Calif.

The key principals of The Stonebridge Group are co-chairmen Earl S. Kemp, Richard A. Haws and, director of development, Gary Stapley.

Kollstar owns, operates and manages five courses in the United States and Mexico. Most recently, KOLLSTAR purchased the 36-hole Tennwood Golf Course facility in Houston. It was repositioned to a high-end, daily-fee facility and renamed Houston Oaks Golf Club.

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CIRCLE #136

Wash. TPC names Michaelson, Cupit

SNOQUALMIE, WASH. — Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club, a Tournament Players Club course designed by Jack Nicklaus that is scheduled to open next year, has added Arne Michaelson and Mark Cupit to its staff.

In his role as director of golf course operations, Michaelson will be responsible for all golf course operations. He has been overseeing construction of the course since 1997. Michaelson has more than 20 years of development and construction experience, having worked at Canterwood Golf & Country Club (G&CC) in Gig Harbor, Indian Summer G&CC in Olympia and Fircrest Golf Club. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and business administration from Pacific Lutheran University and is a member of the Club Managers Association of America.

Cupit, a certified golf course superintendent, is the new superintendent. He has been in the golf business for more than 30 years, 23 as a superintendent and five as a member of the Professional Golfers Association. Cupit's construction experience includes 12 years at Canterwood, Indian Summer, Fairbanks (Alaska) Country Club and Golden Pebble Beach in Dalian City, Peoples Republic of China.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

World Congress

Continued from page 3

Science has already made vast advances toward that goal, Hurdzan said.

He predicted even more dramatic improvements in global positioning systems; plant breeding and genetic engineering; "seeding" of root zones with soil micro-organisms; an array of techniques and soil amendments to modify a root zone to a more ideal state; and systems to improve the quality of irrigation water.

Specifically, he said:

- "As the accuracy of satellite imagery improves, it can be used to monitor migration patterns of animals through or to the golf course site, assess the health of the turf, and evaluate the efficiency of irrigation systems."

- "Scientists are developing turfgrass cultivars that have been selected or genetically designed to provide better adaptability to heat, shade, drought, compaction; better resistance to weeds, disease, insect and mechanical injury; and require less water, fertilizer and cultural manipulation. Planting better-adapted and genetically superior plants means less environmental impact while producing outstanding playing conditions at lower costs. It is truly 'doing more with less.'"

- "Research on *mycorrhizae* [an endophyte that lives in the root and helps plant absorb nutrients and water] in turfgrass is just starting and holds great promise."

- "Soon, 'seeding' root zone with soil micro-organisms may be a normal part of golf course construction or maintenance. Science is making the future today."

- The promise of short supply and poor quality of irrigation water in the future requires specialists to tackle the problem in several ways, he said. "One is to product turfgrass varieties that can cope with the limitations of lower-quality irrigation water, such as high tolerance to salt. Another is to improve the quality of irrigation water through bioremediation, or passing it through a series of ponds planted to selected vegetation capable of cleansing the water."

"Perhaps irrigation water will be improved by passing it through inexpensive osmotic filters, or an electromagnetic field that changes the polarity and, hence, the properties of the water. Such techniques are in their infancy, but show promise."

- "Scientific and engineering research has recently introduced the first economically priced and easily calibrated soil-moisture sensors for golf course use. Installed at various depths in the root zone, these sensors and computer software programs al-

GOLF COURSE NEWS

low irrigation applications to be matched to soil-moisture reserves to small areas around the golf course, resulting in enormous water savings by tailoring water application to each small area."

- "Irrigation head design and control systems continue to advance so water can be placed exactly where it is needed, in the proper amount, and at a rate that the soil and plant can receive it."

- Along with calcine clay, diatomaceous earth and zeolite products, "polyacrylamide gels to retain water and nutrient are finding application in turfgrass culture as they did in agriculture in the arid areas."

- "Systems for pumping air under root zones of greens are applying a vacuum to drain greens down. [This has] made troublesome microclimatic sites

more predictable, healthier for the plants and hence reduced the need for artificial cures like preventative pesticide treatments."

- "The 'seeding' of soil organisms that increase the health of turfgrasses and act as antagonists to pests may soon be standard practice in golf course construction."

Citing great advances in pesticides, turf-grade fertilizers and biological-control products,

Hurdzan said: "Properly applied modern pesticides and fertilizers used on golf courses pose no significant health threat to golfers, greenkeepers, neighbors or the environment."

"I welcome any peer-reviewed research to the contrary and, in fact, I have challenged the United States Environmental Protection Agency at the highest levels to do that, and none has come forth."

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The kids are alright

Come on, don't tell me you didn't get massive chills up your spine when you saw that kid Justin Rose chip in for birdie at 18 at the British Open. A fairy-tale week with a fairy-tale ending for the 17 year-old — and, I predict, the beginning of a youth golf-boom in the U.K.

There has never, ever been a better time to be in this business.

The great play and great smiles of these blushing "new pros" have energized the game on every level. Last year we had that shot of the legions of kids following Tiger down the fairway at Augusta. This year we had the shot of the kids running behind Rose's cart as it made its way to the first tee of his final round. At every turn the kid was bombed with applause, behind each gallery rope young faces beamed as he strolled by, every eye taking in his uncomfortable, teenage awkwardness.

Yet Rose never folded.

The golf industry is turning a corner and we're gonna have these kids — the ones on the fairways and the ones in the gallery — to thank.

Last year we were bewildered at how an industry that wasn't gaining any new customers could continue to add facilities at record numbers. When the new National Golf Foundation (NGF) numbers hit the streets we finally saw some positive movement — the industry let out a collective sigh. We can breathe a little easier when we think of the fate of those more than 900 courses that are going to open in the next two years.

Go on, that's OK. You can think I'm just adding fuel to yet another media bonfire. But I'm not going to let this issue go. These kids are inspiring kids. Golf has been waiting a decade for this spark and we're going to hammer away at it in news and editorials.

As a matter of fact, our newest section, Reaching Out, will be covering the breaking news of The First Tee, Hook-a-Kid On Golf and other nationwide and worldwide initiatives designed to aid the development of affordable, accessible public golf for kids and everyone who wants to participate.

I'm stepping on a plane for England in four days. I can't wait to see the media circus surrounding Rose, his turning pro and his debut at the Dutch Open.

The industry should be letting out a collective smile.

By the way, cut out the little box to the left and add it to your Rolodex. Any time you have news with an international slant, forward it to Trevor Ledger, *Golf Course News'* international bureau chief.



Michael Levans,
editor

How green are these greens?!

OK, class, here's the question: Does producing *Audubon Magazine* cause more impact on the environment than Augusta National Golf Club?

Now, don't all answer at once and don't leap to a conclusion. You could be wrong. Scrutinize the facts, get an indication, and then venture an answer.

Of course, you've done your reading and you all know that *Audubon Magazine's* July-August edition contained a feature story, "The Greening of America," about golf courses and the environment. And you know it states on the front page of the story: "More than 700 new golf courses will open this year, paving this country with manicured grasses. The question is: How green are these greens?"

(Aside No. 1: If you can get by the use of "paving" and the glaring mistake forecasting 700 courses, please tell me what they mean by "How green are these greens?")

(Aside No. 2: I must say that despite a number of factual errors, this article sheds a far fairer light on golf than one might expect from such a nemesis of past distortions.)

To the point of my original question, the article does pick on Augusta National Golf Club. A sidebar categorizes courses as The Good, The Bad and The Formerly Ugly. Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla., Old Westbury (N.Y.) Golf and Country Club and Widow's Walk Golf Course (GC) in Scituate, Mass., are numbered as The Good because they are so friendly to the wildlife and environment.

Bay Harbor (Mich.) GC, Coyote Hills GC in Fullerton, Calif., and Old Works GC in Anaconda, Mont., are named the Formerly Ugly because they reclaimed ugly land.

The Bad? The author selected the spectacularly manicured and much-maligned Augusta National; Shadow Creek Golf Club in North Las Vegas, which uses 1 million gallons of water a day; and Golf Club of Miami, which suffered a major fish kill a few years ago when an unexpected heavy rainfall followed a Nemicur application.

So, I ask again: Does producing *Audubon Magazine* cause more impact on the environment than Augusta National Golf Club?

Before answering, let's consider the environmental impact of producing *Audubon Magazine*, which in March-April contains 122 pages produced on high-gloss paper and sent to 453,750 paid subscribers in North America.

• Paper source. Paper, of course, comes from trees. Gasoline and oil, among other things, were consumed to cut the trees and transport them to the paper mill. At the paper mill, various chemicals and water were used to transform the pulp into paper, and electrical power was used to operate the machinery. Was that power generated by a nuclear or coal-generated facility, or from the more environmentally friendly hydro plant?

Continued on page 50



Mark Leslie,
managing editor

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

GUEST COMMENTARY: PUBLIC GOLF AROUND THE WORLD

Public golf in Germany: Time for the doors to open

By THOMAS ADKISSON

As more and more Germans are getting a taste for this great game of golf, either on holiday or through watching a certain Mr. Woods blast a 360-yard drive, their desire to play continues to grow.

To many "would be" golfer, the opportunity to experience golf here in Germany is limited due to an underdeveloped public golf infrastructure and the traditional club-membership mentality. A crucial link is missing for the continued growth of the industry.

Of the 580 or so golf facilities in Germany today, only 30 are public with a further 120 being partially open to all. Unlike the United States or the United Kingdom, where municipal courses are woven into common society, golf in Germany evolved as an exclusive sport and, for the most part, remains reserved for members of private clubs.

Holiday destinations such as Spain and Portugal have embraced open-access courses in promoting tourism and increased revenues whereas German tourist towns have been slow to appreciate the value of offering golf to their visitors.



Golf in Germany can not expand with the confines of the private golf club.

There is a distinct need for better access to golf facilities which are both convenient and financially viable for the prospective player. Furthermore the golf industry in Germany must be viewed from a business standpoint: creating investment opportunities at the same time as opening the sport to a wider public.

Today public golf is forcing fundamental changes to how golf in Germany is perceived. Many private golf clubs are now experiencing a slowdown in new members. As a result of the insufficient number of public facilities, potential new members do not have the opportunity to hone their skill and confirm their interest in golf before making the substantial financial commitment of joining a golf club.

Many new golf developments, along with redesigns at existing courses, are now incorporating public facilities and/or access to the driving range and practice greens. A good many of the public courses are integrated with an 18-hole private course. One good example of this arrangement is the Golf Course Schönbuch near Stuttgart, which recently expanded from 18 to 27 holes, 9 of which are public. This dual function generates increased income while providing the structure for seeding future club members.

Time required to play golf is another burden inherent in encouraging new golfers, especially in our "time is money" society. Execu-

Continued on page 50

Thomas Adkisson has been involved in German golf architecture as a freelance landscape architect since 1995 developing public golf facilities. Before Germany, he worked in San Francisco for Guzzardo & Associates designing communities in co-operation with Robert Trent Jones II. Since moving to Germany, Adkisson has worked with Harradine Golf GmbH and Weishaupt Golf Design creating courses.

The First Tee: Identifying places for kids to play

Tod Leiweke is executive director of The First Tee

By TOD LEIWEKE

Throughout the United States, communities are embracing the idea that golf can play an important role in the life of kids. As our society continues to explore alternative means of engaging the minds of our young people, the concept of youth golf facilities is resonating in the public and private sector.

This has become abundantly clear since the World Golf Foundation's First Tee initiative was announced last November, as literally hundreds of interested communities and golf associations have contacted The First Tee offices in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

The First Tee's mission is to provide affordable access to golf by creating facilities that provide special learning and playing opportunities for kids.

These communities that have contacted The First Tee recognize golf as more than simply a recreational alternative. Golf truly is unique among sports in that, when embraced by its fundamental rules and merits, it instills such values as honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, self-discipline and self-respect... qualities that can have a positive influence on young people everywhere.

This said, a fundamental barrier to providing kids the opportunity to play is a place to play. Unlike other sports, such as basketball and baseball, the investment necessary to provide golf to kids is substantial.

Research bears out the need for youth golf facilities: The average age of a beginner golfer is 29 years old and 98 percent of kids ages 12 to 17 simply do not engage in the sport.

These numbers can be viewed one of two ways. On one hand, they might be considered discouraging. But the many golf, governmental and private organizations that have unified in support of The First Tee choose to see them as an extraordinary opportunity.

The goal of The First Tee is to have in development 100 facilities by the end of the year 2000. The First Tee will support local not-for-profit chapters in the development of facilities with a host of benefits, including design services, donated and discounted equipment, a teaching curriculum and certification program featuring The First Tee Card, and up to \$100,000 in project seed funds.

There have been, and continue to be, many commendable initiatives to introduce golf to those who otherwise might not have an opportunity to play. But never

before has golf experienced such a remarkable, collaborative effort involving the public and private sectors to broaden the game's reach.

For this to happen requires outstanding leadership, and it begins with The First Tee Oversight Committee: Chairman Tim Finchem, Commissioner of the PGA Tour; Jim Awtrey, chief executive officer of the PGA of America; LPGA Commissioner Jim Ritts; U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Past President Judy Bell; and Jim Armstrong, general manager of Augusta National Golf Club. We also are proud and honored to have former President George Bush serve as our honorary chairman.

In recent months, we have made a series of announcements reflecting progress with The First Tee. These have included:

- The identification of 24 sites that we expect to have under contract by year's end, and hopefully operational in 1999.
- The PGA of America's \$6 million commitment to The First Tee, half of which is an incentive program for its 41 sections to collaborate with First Tee facilities.

• The USGA's \$1 million commitment in 1999, with an additional \$1 million annual commitment anticipated over the next two years.

• \$500,000 raised for The First Tee at a golf outing organized by Herb Kohler at Whistling Straits golf course near Kohler, Wis.

• Ritts and Awtrey announcing the collaborative effort between the LPGA and PGA of America on the development of baseline policies for The First Tee curriculum.

• A memorandum of understanding signed by the Bureau of Land Management supporting The First Tee, which includes identifying public lands suitable for development of First Tee facilities.

• The Arnold Palmer Golf Co.'s donation of 15,000 junior clubs and 3,000 golf bags to The First Tee.

We can be proud that so many organizations and individuals share the vision and mission of The First Tee.

And because of this unified commitment, we also can be confident that vision will become reality, and that the lives of literally thousands of kids will be enriched through this remarkable effort.



Tod Leiweke will lead a First Tee panel discussion on Day 2 of Public Golf Form (Oct. 27) at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort, Palm Springs Calif.

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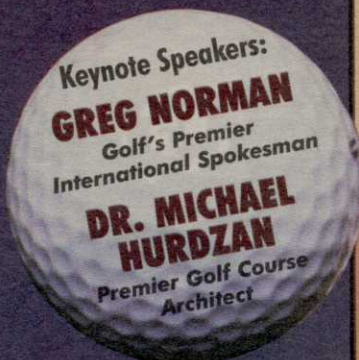
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	10:00 - 10:50 AM	Business Factors Changing The Face of Public Golf Management	Renovation: Putting New Life Into The Old Track	Poa Annua Control: The Solution Is Here!
	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	LUNCH & EXHIBITS		
	2:00 - 2:50 PM	Developing New Markets: Resurrecting a 9-Holer in a Resort Marketplace	Pitch-and Putt as a First Step Into Regulation Course Development	Country Club-type Fertility On A Public Course Budget
	3:00 - 3:50 PM	Owner Focus: What Do Top Management Companies Look For in a Public Access Course	New Developments: The Advantages of The Totally Organic Course	Widow's Walk: The First Results/The Proof's In the Pudding
	4:00 - 4:50 PM	PGA of America's Career Links Program: Golf Pros As Golf Course Managers	Access For All: The Barrier-Free Design Concept	Pros and Cons of "Going For the Top"
OCTOBER 27	5:00 - 7:00 PM	RECEPTION AND EXHIBITS		
	9:00 - 9:50 AM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Tomorrow's Player Starts at Today's Public Venues—Greg Norman		
	10:00 - 11:30 AM	GENERAL SESSION The First Tee Roundtable		
	11:30 AM - 2:00 PM	LUNCH & EXHIBITS		
	2:00 - 2:50 PM	Leasing vs. Buying: What's Best For You?	Permitting Made Easy: A Step-By-Step Guide	Team vs. Zone Approach to Maintenance Crews
	3:00 - 3:50 PM	How A Municipality Should Select A Management Firm	Built For Speed: Pace of Play Begins On The Architect's Drawing Board	"Put-A-Pencil-To-It" Savings for Superintendents



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BRIEFS



GLORIOSO RECEIVES PTC SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Tim Glorioso of New Kensington, Pa., graduated from the Pennsylvania State



University Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program in March and was chosen to receive the Pennsylvania

Turfgrass Council Scholarship. After beginning his career at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, Glorioso worked his way up to superintendent at Hill Crest Country Club in Lower Burrell. He will return to Hill Crest as superintendent upon graduation.

TURF, LANDSCAPE FIELD DAYS SET

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The Turfgrass Research Conference and Field Day and the Landscape Management Research Conference and Field Day will



update developments for landscape professionals, Sept. 15 and 16, at University of California — Riverside (UCR).

The events are organized by environmental horticulturist Dr. Victor Gibeault and Dennis Pittenger under the sponsorship of the University of California Cooperative Extension, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, and the Agricultural Operations unit at UCR. For further information and registration materials, contact Susana Velez at the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, 4106 Batchelor Hall, University of California, Riverside, Calif. 92521-0124; telephone 909-787-4430.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF PROMOTES

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf Maintenance has promoted Gregg Swanson to regional superintendent and named Mike Robson as course superintendent at Cross Creek Golf Club in Atlanta, Ga.; Stan Overton superintendent at Birkdale Golf Course in Huntersville, N.C.; and Brad Rook as superintendent at Silver Lakes CC in Helendale. Swanson will be responsible for overseeing golf course maintenance programs Canyon Lake Country Club (CC) in Lake Elsinore, Bernardo Heights CC in Rancho Bernardo and Silver Lakes CC in Helendale. A superintendent since 1988, Swanson has extensive experience in golf course operations, turf management and horticulture. From 1992-1995, he was a director of the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association and is a Class A member of GCSAA.

Michigan pioneers environmental self-audit

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program was officially launched June 25 at Michigan State University here, pioneering new ground for golf courses.

Golf turf representatives from throughout the state attended the first Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar to learn how to improve water quality, prevent pollution and increase compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Russell Harding and Michigan Department of Agriculture Deputy Director Keith Creagh provided opening comments and welcomed participants to this new partnership.

"As this groundbreaking initiative gains momentum, we expect to see increased levels of environmental protection and habitat enhancement statewide," said Harding. "This effort holds tremen-

dous promise and will no doubt serve as a model for other states."

The program is the first of its kind in the nation and is supported by Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Golf Association of Michigan, Michigan Golf Course Owners Association and environmental advocacy groups.

Continued on page 16

Dwarf hybrid Bermudas need special regimen

By BRUCE SHANK

TIFTON, Ga. — The latest generation of dwarf hybrid Bermudagrasses is changing the way golf greens play and are maintained in warmer regions of the United States. And, according to Dr. Wayne Hanna of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station here, as with any quantum change in turfgrass management, superintendents face a learning curve with these Bermudagrasses.

Hanna, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Bermudagrass expert for two decades, is in the final stages of publishing a booklet on how to manage the new Bermudagrasses.

The advantage of the new Bermudas is their absence of seedheads and preference, not tolerance, for cutting heights below 5/32 inch. They also exhibit finer texture and higher density.

Because they are very aggressive and very dwarf, they are maintained to prevent predictable problems, such as thatch.

"You can only see the differences among the new Bermudagrasses at close mowing heights," said Hanna, who developed the dwarf TifEagle. Only trials mowing the new Bermudagrass below 3/16 inch provide a true comparison of qualities. Test sites at 33 golf courses and universities enable superintendents to see the differences first-hand.

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS COUNTS

The prevention steps Hanna recommends are typical for many golf courses — grooming, top dressing, verticutting and aeration. The difference is frequency and consistency. While standard Bermudagrasses perform better at longer heights of cut, the new varieties don't perform as intended when allowed to grow much above 1/8 inch.

Grooming (light verticutting with greensmowers) should be performed every week or two, followed by light top dressing, according to Hanna. More aggressive verticutting and top dressing should take place two to three times during the summer. Intervals between aerations should be shortened and cores removed.

Continued on page 21



ON THE GREEN

Filling a truckster-mounted or towable sprayer with water is easier with this simple devise.

A snappy fill-'er-up

By TERRY BUCHEN

TIMONIUM, Md. — Pull-behind golf course sprayers and those mounted on a turf truckster come in a variety of sizes, the most popular in the 100- to 400-gallon range. No matter the size, they can take a long time filling — if your set-up is inefficient.

Douglas W. Petersan, superintendent at Baltimore Country Club here, uses a time-honored way that "fills up our sprayers in virtually no time at all," he said.

He uses a simple but effective overhead piping system using 2-inch-diameter galvanized steel pipe with a 2-inch ball valve and a 2-inch-diameter canvas fire hose con-

Continued on page 21

GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As we live & breathe: Golf courses as open space

By RON DODSON

As we live and breathe, could it be that golf courses provide some value to the environment? Part of the answer to that question can be found in the air around us. The quality of air depends on open space and, consequently, open space is an essential environmental management tool.

"Open space" is an area with a natural cover of soil, water and plants, where there is usually minimal or low-impact human activity and where legal restrictions limit the development of facilities or structures. There are a variety of different types of open space. We most often

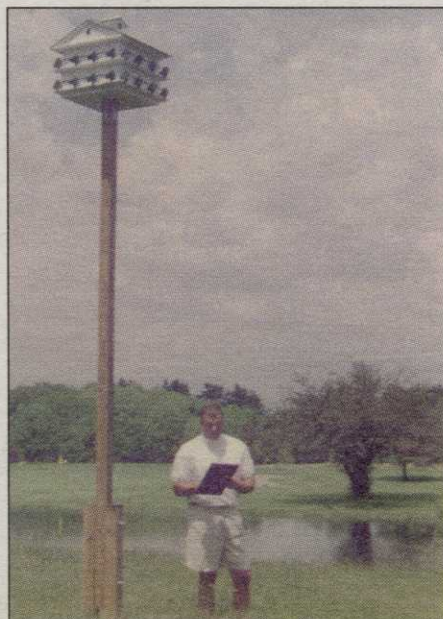
Continued on page 25

Colonial Acres joins world's elite 135 fully certified

GLENMONT, N.Y. — Superintendent Patrick A. Blum, who said he learned from his superintendent father that golf courses can and should help to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources, has led Colonial Acres Golf Course to full certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

Colonial Acres Golf Course is the sixth course in the state and 135th course worldwide to receive the designation, for which a course must demonstrate a high degree of environmental quality in the areas of environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education,

Continued on page 25



Superintendent Patrick Blum records the species of birds and other wildlife on Colonial Acres GC.

Mich. pioneers

Continued from page 15

The unique aspect of the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program is that it provides golf courses with a mechanism to evaluate environmental management practices through a voluntary, self-assessment procedure.

"The Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program consolidates a number of environmental and wildlife initiatives into one model that has been developed specifically for golf courses," said MDA Director Dan Wyant. "By completing a three-step process, they obtain information and assistance to help improve fuel storage, protect well heads and better manage pesticide and fertilizer handling, application and storage. Over the next year the scope of the program will also include environmental-enhancement materials to promote water quality, wildlife habitat and native vegetation."

To become a program member, a golf course representative must first attend a Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar. At the seminar, the program is explained and the materials, consisting of seven modules, are distributed. Second, the modules must be taken back to the property and completed. Finally, a site visit from a Turf Stewardship Team is made where the modules are reviewed and an environmental action plan is developed with the golf course superintendent.

Golf courses must pay between \$75 and \$150 to attend the seminar and \$200 for a half-day site visit.

Approximately 50 courses throughout the state have taken the first step and attended a program seminar. They are currently completing the materials and will be developing an action plan to establish priorities for the next three years. Upon completion of the process, they will receive state, university and industry recognition and be awarded a certificate of achievement. There will be a second opportunity for golf properties to join the program as another Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar will be scheduled for late fall.

As more people learn about the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program it is expected to grow. The program was recently featured in a July media event at the Tournament Players Club of Michigan in Dearborn. Directors from the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality, the dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the president of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

and the general manager of the TPC of Michigan discussed the merits of the program in conjunction with the Ford Seniors Tournament.

For more details on the program contact Debbie Spakoff Swartz at 517-353-3208 or Greg Lyman at 517-353-0860. They can also be reached via e-mail at swartzd@pilot.msu.edu and lyman@msue.msu.edu, respectively.

Morris succeeds Shearman as NTEP's executive director

BELTSVILLE, Md. — The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) has appointed Kevin Morris to the executive director position, the NTEP Policy Committee announced at its recent semi-annual meeting in Blacksburg, Va. Past executive director Dr. Robert Shearman was named special projects coordinator.

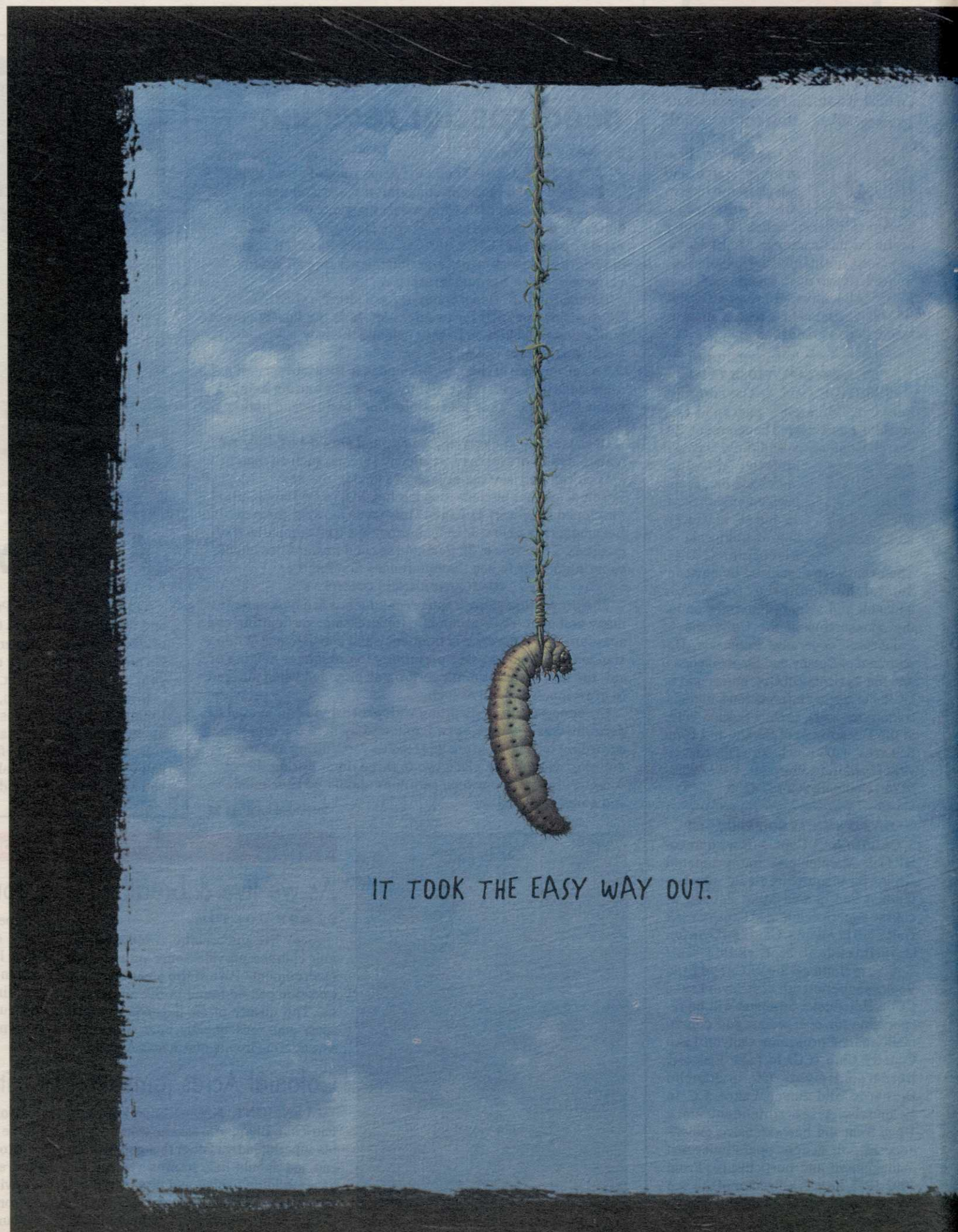
Morris has been employed by NTEP since Nov. 1, 1982, first as technical coordina-



Kevin Morris

tor, then national director and most recently as national program coordinator.

He is the first and longest-tenured employee at NTEP. As executive director, he coordinates national turfgrass tests in the United States and Canada; administers and manages NTEP facilities and personnel; and represents NTEP to local, regional, national and international turfgrass organizations.



IT TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT.

State-of-the-art kitchen means happy crew

By TERRY BUCHEN

TIMONIUM, Md. —
Treat the employees
right and they will
treat you right.

Modern and efficient golf course maintenance centers have all of the state-of-the-art conveniences to make jobs more efficient in a pleasant

setting. The employees' lunch room is no exception as nothing will get done on the golf course without good, faithful employees and what better way to treat them than to provide a home-like atmosphere in the work place?



"When we added our new main turf-care center, we wanted a large and efficient employee lunch room that could serve as the hub of our operation," said Douglas W. Petersan, superintendent at Baltimore Country Club here.

"Virtually all employee-related items originate in our lunch room," he said, "such as the time clock, job assignment board, first aid and other safety items, right to know/haz-com, glass-enclosed bulletin board with work posters and job-related information, two-way radio base station, men's and ladies' [Americans with Disabilities Act] ADA-equipped bathrooms, lockers and individual shelves on one large wall for employees to store their stuff."

To make the crew's meal times more enjoyable, Baltimore CC provided a state-of-the-art kitchen with everything needed to prepare lunch. Installed were two microwave ovens, a toaster oven, dual stainless steel ADA-equipped sinks with a garbage disposal, a large coffee maker, ice machine for employee water jugs, refrigerator, and large overhead and under-counter storage cabinets.

"For a long time we contemplated whether to install a stove/oven combination unit and decided, for our particular situation, that it was not needed," Petersan said. "But, I think it is worthwhile at many other golf course maintenance facilities."

Employees take turns cleaning up Baltimore CC's lunch room. "Because we have 36 holes, our lunch room is quite large and can seat the entire crew for lunch or safety and training meetings," Petersan said. "Our lunch room lends itself quite well to showing training and safety videos to all of our staff whenever the need arises."

Baltimore CC staff worked closely with the building architect to include the desired amenities in our lunch room. The lunch room, bathrooms and locker areas are fully heated and air-conditioned and windows were added as much as practical for an open-air feeling. All the walls are heavy-duty drywall, with enamel painted surfaces for easy cleanup. Lighted exit signs are above each appropriate door.

"Our employees have repeatedly said it best, that they are very pleased with their lunch room," Petersan said. It is appreciated and not taken for granted.

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THE FINEST UTILITY VEHICLES IN THE WORLD.™

John Thronson has designs on expanded role in construction

By BOB SPIWAK

Central Oregon bills itself as "The Golf Mecca of the Northwest." On the dry side of the Cascade Mountains, it boasts 300 sunny days a year, clean high-desert air and 23 golf courses, mostly clustered in the Bend-Redmond area. To the west, volcanic and lesser peaks stab the sky like the spikes of a giant upended golf shoe.



John Thronson

Eagle Crest Resort, near Redmond, sprawls along the Deschutes River on a flat plain on which lie the 18 holes of Eagle Crest golf course. The resort climbs a substantial hill westward which is crowned by its Ridge course. An 18-hole putting course twists and turns near the clubhouse, and to the south-east an 18-hole "long-iron" course is under construction.

To refer to 44-year-old John Thronson as superintendent of this domain would be accurate, but woefully inadequate in describing the man —

and what he does. Under the tutelage of his mentor, designer Gene "Bunny" Mason, he helped build the original Crest course. Thronson designed and built the 18 holes of the Ridge, the putting course and the new, shorter 18 under construction. He is involved in the design of three courses on a planned 7,000-acre destination resort in Washington near the town

of Roslyn, home of TV's Northern Exposure.

He also was involved in building the Running Y course in Klamath Falls, an Arnold Palmer design which will have its grand opening at the end of August. As if these are not enough, Thronson is working on a course at a Superfund site near Kellogg, Idaho.

Thronson's employer, Trendwest, Inc., owns Eagle Crest and is in turn 80-percent owned by Jeld-Wen, the largest door and window manufacturer in the world. This corporate giant develops



Landscaping is a key ingredient at The Ridge Course.

properties for golf resorts. And since his Ridge Course opened in 1992, Thronson has been Trendwest's man. If not actually designing the courses, he is involved and serves as construction superintendent on all courses as well.

He works hand-in-hand with Terry Anderson, Eagle Crest's director of golf. The pair met 12 years ago when both went to work at Eagle Crest.

"We have an unusual thing here," said Thronson. "On many courses there is an antagonistic relationship between

the superintendent and pro. But we have both taken the time and effort to educate each other on what we do, why, and its importance. We've been the best of friends from the beginning."

Working as a team, the pair have had other job offers, but are sticking with their current situation.

"These people in management are so good, so nice," Thronson said of corporate managers Jerry Andres and Bill Liche, "that we prefer to stay here,

Continued on page 20

ICONS OF DEPENDABILITY



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By BOB SPIWAK

Running Y Ranch, a resort within a working cattle ranch in south-central Oregon, will celebrate the official grand opening of its golf course on Aug. 26, with designer Arnold Palmer playing an inaugural round.

Built by John Thronson of Jen-Weld Corp., the course wanders through picturesque Payne Canyon, playing from 4,886 to 7,165 yards.

Water comes into play on five holes and more than 30 bunkers are strategically

Thronson a key in Running Y Ranch

placed, eight of them surrounding the 9th green.

Traversing an open meadow, with views of Klamath Lake and the Crater Lake Range, the front nine hosts the signature 5th hole, a short par-3 at 4,200-foot elevation and dominated by water on the right. It measures 140 yards from the middle tees.

The back nine is a nature walk, with a mixture of juniper, pine and other trees, frequently occupied by bald and golden eagles and ospreys, with deer wandering beneath.

Wildflowers are an important part of the design, adding color to the fescue roughs, bluegrass-ryegrass fairways and bentgrass greens.

According to Thronson, it took 10 months over two seasons to build the course, despite abnormally difficult mud and rock conditions.

Thronson designs in hands-on way

Continued from page 19

even though we have had more lucrative offers."

Thronson is a man who, literally, has his hands in the dirt. He designs a course, but does not use a computer for three-dimensional renderings.

"What I do for each hole is take them [constructors and shapers] out and find a place with loose dirt," he said. "Then we sculpt it by hand into how the hole should look. They get a better feel for it than off a piece of paper, and we can easily change something on the spot."

What Thronson sculpts is a course that is kind to the typical resort player "... who is generally hitting woods for the second shot." The rough is cut to 1-1/8 inch, the fairways to 5/8 inch.

Thronson defines the holes at the Ridge with mounding which, "echoes the far backgrounds." Where volcanic peaks dominate the background, the course's contours are sharper. Where the background is lower, gentler mountains, the course is more rounded.

"It's not something I would do in the Midwest," Thronson laughed. "The features must be in keeping with what nature has provided."

The courses at the resort have two trademarks: acres of wildflowers and fast greens. "Stimping" at around 9, the greens are PennLinks bentgrass, mowed to about 1/8 inch. Every two weeks they are top dressed with a light layer of sand.

"They're firm, but they hold shots well and they putt at the same speed in the afternoon as in the morning," Thronson said. He explained that he keeps the putting surface "lean" by minimal fertilization — no more than 3-1/2 pounds per 1,000 square feet per year of nitrogen.

Thronson is excited about the new Running Y course at Klamath Falls. "It was tough to build, muddy and rocky. We had to blast some of the hard rock. And we used a lot of the pieces as decorative features," he said.

The average piece of rock was the size of a dining-room table and some of them required two D-8s to move. At the end, 101 people were working to finish the course which took only 10 months to build, with a winter layoff in the middle.

Running Y is half meadow

Continued on next page

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Bermuda care

Continued from page 15

Hanna said superintendents should operate from the standpoint that dwarfs can produce 20 to 25 percent more thatch than taller members of their species. Their internodes (branching points) are much closer together, so the foliage produced in a given space is greater. That can be managed by mechanical and nutritional practices.

More foliage means a slightly higher nitrogen requirement. Hanna recommends balancing nitrogen with potassium while keeping track of micronutrients. When starting to manage a Bermuda like Tifeagle, he said, regularly test tissue samples for nutrient levels, then adjust applications to meet the turf's needs without generating excess growth.

One important point of comparison among the new Bermudagrasses is the way they accept overseeding, Hanna said. Any time a turf's density is increased, its ability to receive seed broadcast on the green can be decreased. Since the seed of poa trivialis is smaller than perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), it overseeds in the dwarf Bermudas better. Overseeding performance is one reason Hanna feels it is impor-

tant for superintendents to see one or more of the 33 trial sites before choosing a variety.

"The denseness of the dwarfs forces the overseeded turf to be more erect," Hanna said. That provides a better turf year-round.

However, some varieties can be so dense they rapidly become thatchy. Select one that fits your management program from a qualified sod producer who can guarantee purity, he urged.

The changes in maintenance are worth the benefits of faster and truer greens, both summer and winter.

"We encourage superintendents to become familiar with the dwarfs before they switch," said John Foster of West Coast Turf in Palm Desert, Calif., which worked closely with Hanna during the development of Tifeagle. "There are differences which you need to know about."

Fill-'er-up!

Continued from page 15

nected to the end of the pipe.

"The sprayer operator simply drives under the fire hose, lining up the sprayer fill-up hatch and making for a very fast fill-up."

All the galvanized piping is hooked up to the irrigation system, which has an operating

pressure of about 125 pounds per square inch when it leaves the pumphouse.

Another 1-inch-diameter pipe, ball valve and high-pressure hose can be used to wash off the equipment or fill up smaller, under-100-gallon sprayers.

A 24-inch-diameter concrete cylinder was installed to protect all of the galvanized piping from an accident.

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The game of golf is centuries old, yet it continues to evolve, flourish and grow. The GCSAA Foundation's endowment campaign, "Investing in the Beauty of Golf," is an opportunity for all who love the game to participate and reap the rewards by answering the call to action. The threshold financial goal of this campaign is \$3.5 million. Together, everyone associated with golf can help meet this ambitious goal. The success of the campaign will have an enormous impact on the game. It will:

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To make a pledge, contact The GCSAA Foundation at (800)472-7878, ext. 445, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Daylight Time. For more information, see the GCSAA Web site at www.gcsaa.org.

The first 500 callers to make a pledge of \$25 or more will receive a commemorative campaign golf ball!

The GCSAA Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thronson hands-on

Continued from previous page

and wetland and half in tall pines. It measures from 5,250 to 7,187 yards.

Trendwest hired Palmer Design to create the course, but wanted Thronson's participation.

"Ed Seay and Eric Larsen [of Palmer Design Group] were just wonderful to work with," said Thronson. "They were receptive to a lot of my ideas. We've built a playable, fun course with five sets of tees that can be enjoyed by any golfer."

Trendwest's Mountain Star destination resort in Washington is still in the permitting process. Thronson's design is well under way, but he estimates two to five years before construction will begin on the 54-hole complex.

Meanwhile he and Anderson are actively involved in promoting junior golf at Eagle Crest.

"I have to give so much credit to Terry for not just giving lip service," Thronson said. "He allows the kids to play for free after 3 p.m. on slow days."

Thronson's ultimate plans are to be a full-time course designer. "I look at it, from beginning through construction to completion, as a piece of art," he said. "When you're a painter, you need a canvas. My canvas is the earth. Course design is something that gets into your blood."

Fire, drought beat on Floridians

Continued from page 1
moments.

Nearly all the golf courses escaped harm in the lightning-generated fires that swept through Florida, especially in the north and east-central portions of the state, in June and July. But one and all saw what can happen when temperatures reach the high-90s for days on end while the heat index soars above 105 and the relative humidity hovers around 30 to 40 percent.

"It was scary from the standpoint that I didn't think fire could travel that fast," said Fabrizio. "You could not outrun it. At times it was moving 20 to 25 miles per hour."

"We had no warning," said Gonzales. "When I left work it was on the west side of I-95. I didn't think it could jump a four-lane highway with a big median. They had firetrucks waiting for it and it just blew right by them."

Drew Rogers, a lead golf course architect with Arthur Hills & Associates who designed LPGA's second course here, told of flying into Daytona's airport: "As far as I could see everything was fried."

With 200 surrounding acres scorched, the LPGA's heavily wooded 4-year-old Rees Jones-designed course fared worse than Hills', which is expected to open in October.

"The flames burned everything on the north [Jones] course right up to the rough," said Pam Phipps, director of golf at LPGA International, whose headquarters is on the site and was threatened by the blaze on July 1 and 2.

The new Hills course, meanwhile, suffered damage to the perimeters of the 2nd and 3rd holes, the tee areas of the 4th and 6th holes and a stand of oak and pine trees behind the 5th green, according to Bessette. He said most of the oak trees survived and palmettos that were burned

will come back quickly.

In Palm Coast, Fabrizio was thankful that three separate fires scared but stayed clear of four of his courses, coming within two miles of Palm Harbor, one mile of Pine Lakes and 1-1/2 miles of Cypress Knoll. Those three and Grand Haven were all opened a week later, while the future of the Arnold Palmer-designed Matanzas Woods was in question in mid-July.

The woods along the Matanzas Woods' front nine was all burned, but the back nine was spared. A bathroom and rest shelter burned down and the clubhouse sustained fire and water damage. "It's the slower part of the season, so we're taking our time to make the right decision concerning renovation, restoration or rebuilding," Fabrizio said.

In addition, he said, "almost every day more trees fall. Smoldering fires beneath the base of the trees weaken their root structure and knock them down."

Some mid-July rains helped soak the ground — the only way to stop the subsurface smoldering.

An arborist will consult on which trees to cut down, but Fabrizio said, "It can be upwards of a year before you know for sure."

The Palm Coast Resort was so close to the middle of the fires that it served for awhile as a command post and, for weeks, housed 200 to 300 firefighters.

Gonzales, meanwhile, told how the fires affected golf courses many miles away. "We've been breathing smoke for three weeks," said the River Bend superintendent, "especially in the morning. It settles in over the night. It's so thick that I've had to send the guys home after mowing the greens."

That was confirmed by John Foy, director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Florida Region and headquartered in Hobe Sound, far south of Daytona.



A wall of flames approaches the 2nd fairway at LPGA Golf Course in Daytona, Fla.

"When the fires were really raging," he said, "upper-level wind patterns were blowing the smoke a couple hundred miles south. It was very unpleasant. Haze and smoke aggravated people's allergies and breathing problems."

"Probably the biggest thing was having to work all day in that kind of heat."

FIGHTING THE DROUGHT

In the meantime, as they pray that weathermen are wrong in forecasting a 100-year drought worse than the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, Florida's superintendents have faced the more immediately consequences of four months of what Gonzales called "brutally dry and hot" weather.

Bobby Weed Design Business Manager Mike Matthews reported that when they took up the grass during a renovation of Ponte Vedra Golf Course in Ponte Vedra Beach "it was nothing but dry, powdered dirt. It looked like the beach."

Superintendents reported less than 1

inch of rain over 120 days leading up to July. The torrential rains that tormented Florida superintendents in November and December therefore proved to be a god-send.

"We got down to a day's worth of water at Pine Lakes, an older [Arnold] Palmer course," Fabrizio said, "and we were down to 2 inches in the reservoir at Grand Haven, our new [Jack] Nicklaus course." But a timely, 2-inch rainfall saved the day, giving the turf a boost and adding 9 or 10 inches to the Pine Lakes reservoir.

"You can pump all the irrigation you want, but it never compares to a good rain," said the USGA's Foy.

Foy said the extremes — from the heavy rains to the drought and extraordinarily hot temperatures — "have complicated things" agronomically.

"Central and north Florida had rough times coming into transition from overseeding," he said.

Heavy rains and lack of sunlight meant weak root systems. Then the extreme hot and dry weather quickly burned out the overseeded grasses, whether it was ryegrass, poa trivialis or bentgrass. And the Bermudagrass was slow to grow back.

Kevin Downing at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart explained that the transition from the overseeded grasses back to Bermuda was "really, really painful."

The overseeding, he said, "did not handle the arid conditions. There was just no moisture in the air."

Superintendents responded by spreading more seed to make it through the season. When the transition period arrived, the Bermuda was patchy.

"A lot of courses in the central Florida and Tampa areas have been more affected," Downing said. "But at this point [mid-July] the Bermuda is coming back."

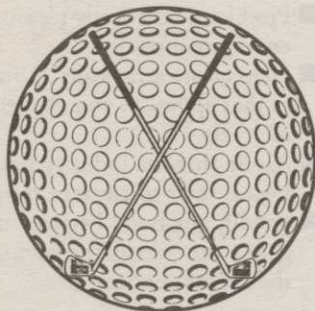
In July, officials in a couple of areas were discussing water restrictions and some had been invoked on the Gulf Coast.

"I'm surprised they didn't come sooner," Downing said. "But we still had high levels of ground water throughout the state."

Meanwhile, Fabrizio put the impact of the fires on the golf industry into perspective. "It's only grass," he said. "There are people who lost their homes. There are 150 homes in Matanzas Woods, and eight or nine were destroyed."

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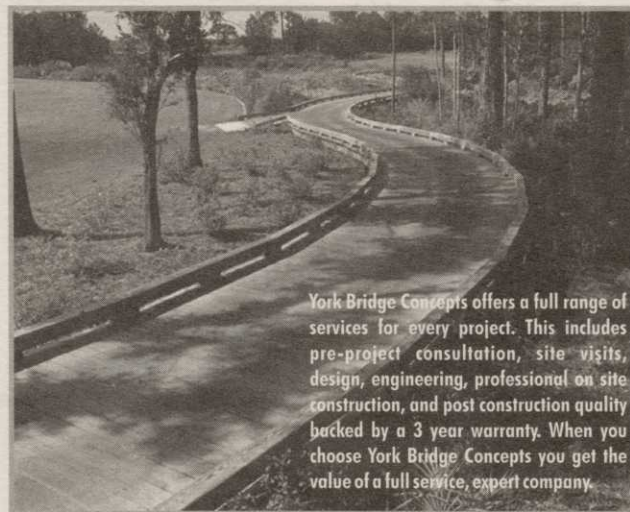
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Heat, drought tax Texas and the South; humidity adds to Ga. woes

By MARK LESLIE

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Extensive fires have avoided states outside Florida, but drought, triple-digit temperatures and high humidity are plaguing golf courses across the South.

"Excessive high temperatures and high humidity are the threats in Georgia," Patrick O'Brien, director of the Southeast Region of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section.

In Texas, where it has been hot and dry, the USGA's Jim Moore said: "What everybody is so worried about is that the heat started so early. We usually have a hot stretch of weather, but usually not until August. The biggest concern is that we have 60 days of it left."

Green Section South Central Region agronomist Brian Malloy even nighttime and soil temperatures are staying above 80 degrees, not allowing the turf canopy to cool.

Poa annua greens were "the first to check out" in Texas, Malloy said. And O'Brien said from Georgia that bentgrass greens, especially on courses without heat-tolerant cultivars, are in trouble in many areas.

"Our water tables are in good shape for the most part," O'Brien said. "But we have many areas that have already had 15 to 20 days over 100 degrees."

To remedy the situation, O'Brien said, superintendents are installing fans at sites with poor air circulation.

"I'm seeing clubs pulling lots of electric wire onto sites now if they don't already have fans up. They might have been able to survive the last two summers with those [non-heat-tolerant] bents, but not this year."

"Tree-pocked sites have the most problems," he said. "We have so much humidity that syringing is not done. What cools the grass is keeping evapotranspiration working."

Malloy said many Texas superintendents are installing fans as well — the 5-horsepower models that move a far greater volume of air than the 1-hp fans. He pointed out that research indicates that canopy temperatures can be decreased 15 degrees with a 4-mile-per-hour breeze.

Push-up-style greens are the first to show stress, Malloy said. "If they have inadequate surface drainage, they are the first to go. And also the ones with no sub-surface drainage, or internal drainage."

Moore pointed to the importance of water. Irrigation systems are designed according to the average annual rainfall, he said. "When we get this far away from that average, you will see deficiencies in the coverage. To

compensate for that it means a lot more daytime watering and golfers have to put up with that.

"Agronomically, you will see a real split between how bentgrass greens survive."

For superintendents who have good water quality, a drought puts the superintendent in total control of how much water the

greens receive.

For superintendents who have poor-quality water, this drought is a serious problem, and in some towns nobody has decent water quality, Moore said. "They need the flushing rains of good pure water. When you don't get that to flush the salts out, it is a real tough deal."

All those superintendents can do is repeatedly flush the greens as best they can.

"The heat's tough, but water management is a bigger issue on grass in the South," Moore said.

"Combine poor water with the temperatures we're having, and now you have some problems,"

he said. "Depending on green construction and the amount of play, a lot of times the greens will fade on them no matter how hard they try."

"It gets so hot in the root zone that no matter what you do, the bentgrass roots die off."

On the fairways, he said, the

Continued on page 24

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EUROPEAN BIRD WATCHING OPEN REAPS REWARDS

DORKING, Surrey, England — The public image of golf courses as environmental showcases received a boost May 17 with the European Golf Association's Birdwatching Open. The EGA's Ecology Unit staged a similar event last year, The Birdwatching Ryder Cup, with 12 courses on either side of the Atlantic making up two teams. The lighthearted competition saw European courses scoring 217 different species of birds against 238 from the United States. Because of the percentage of species on the respective continents, Europe won the competition. This year the format changed. All courses in Europe were invited to participate, with the aim of logging valuable ecological data.

North American Birdwatching Open proves point

OCEAN CITY, Md. — The Club at Seabrook Island in South Carolina, Summerlea Golf & Country Club in Quebec, Canada and Rum Pointe Seaside Golf Links won the honors at an international birding competition held during early May.

In the North American Golf Course Birdwatching Open,

sponsored by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, those courses finished first through third, respectively, for most birds sighted, while Rum Pointe won the award for best birds.

Volunteers at 36 Audubon-registered courses across North America spent May 9 counting birds. The effort provided

Audubon with information on the importance of well-managed golf course habitats for wildlife.

"We hope that the true winners of the Golf Course Birdwatching Open will be all wildlife and, in particular, migratory birds," said Jean Mackay, education director for Audubon International. "The Golf Course Birdwatching Open will illustrate the potential that various types of land have as wildlife habitat in North America."

At the Club at Seabrook Island, 77 species were spotted, while at Summerlea 75 were sighted and at Rum Pointe there were 70 different species.

"We could have had a lot more species, maybe even another 20 or 25 that we normally see on the course," said David Ciekot, environmental coordinator for Rum Pointe, "but the weather was so bad. We had a Northeaster blow in that day, with heavy rain and 30-knot winds, so I'm still very pleased with the numbers."

"Certainly our site on the coastal bay near Assateague Island helped our sightings," said Ciekot. "We had a great number of gulls, waterfowl, and wading birds, like willets and several species of sandpipers. It was pleasantly surprising, though, that as a newer course still initiating habitat management plans, we sighted such a diversity of forest, upland, and meadow favoring species. Wood thrushes, towhees, and various sparrows and finches really helped our count."

Across North America the Birdwatching Open produced a wide range of results, from the top count of 77 all the way down to a low count of 14 species. Audubon International attributed the wide spread to a number of factors, including weather, diversity of habitats and the skill levels of the people conducting the counts.

"Everyone here at Rum Pointe is excited about our Best Birds award in the Birdwatching Open," said superintendent Chuck Poole. "This shows that not only can golf courses be good for a few types of birds, but that they can be quality habitat for a wide diversity of species as well."

Southern drought

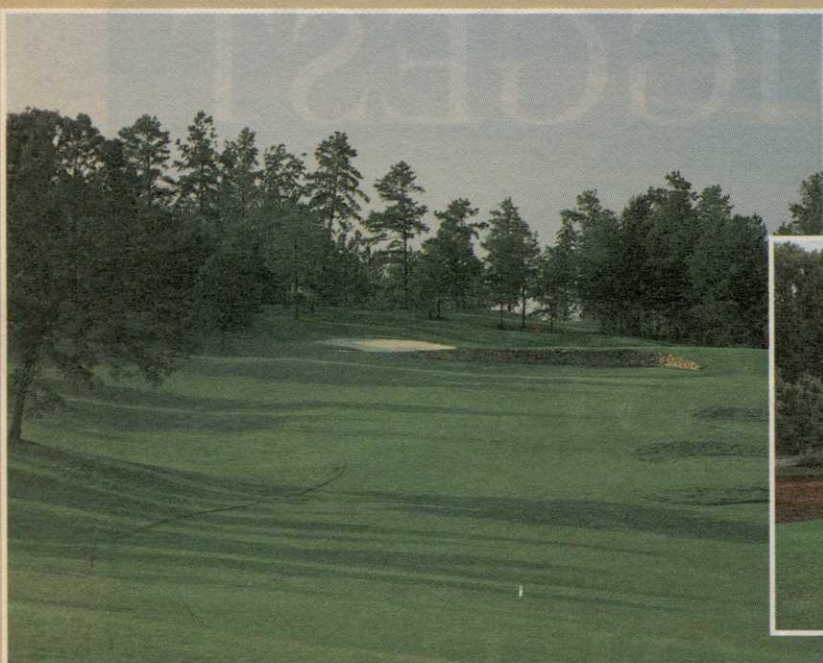
Continued from page 23
damage at first is thin and dry turf. But that leads to other problems later on.

Soil as well as water quality has made a big difference from course to course, Moore said. "Some soils hold three times as much water as others. Obviously those survive a lot better."

"It promises to be a really long summer for superintendents when it comes to greens management," Moore added.

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As we live and breathe

Continued from page 15
think of parks.

Others are:

- "Resource open spaces," where land or water is devoted to some form of non-structural production activity. A forest, range lands, water-storage lakes or rivers are examples.

- "Utility open spaces," which include flood-control and drainage lands, and lands used as wildlife refuges, or reserved for urban development.

- "Corridor open spaces," where space is allocated for the movement of people and material from one point to another. Examples include right-of-ways such as highways and streets or railroads, and the areas associated with the terminals or interchange areas.

- "Green open spaces," where recreation or relatively non-structural uses are sought and where natural vegetation tends to dominate the area. These are national and urban parks, buffer areas, golf courses, and greenbelts that may be mixed with urban development.

Open space, in its natural or manipulated state, can have a varied and far-reaching effect on regional air quality. It is well documented that open spaces, particularly when planned as base soil or as bodies of water, can act as "sinks" for many air pollutants. Through the natural process, pollutants generated by urban land uses can be entrapped by these areas. From a planning point of view, open space has been used as a buffer to contain urban development and its resulting air pollution.

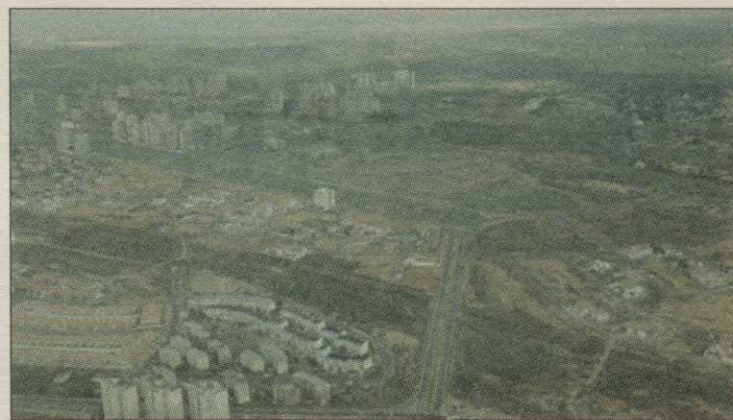
Perhaps more thought should be given to locating some golf courses to serve a role in helping regional air quality. This would result in looking for areas that could serve to form an important "link" in an urban

greenbelt, for example. This siting process could also benefit some forms of urban wildlife that need habitat corridors.

Properly sited, well designed and appropriately managed golf courses, particularly in urban and suburban areas, may help regional air quality more than they are presently given

credit for. The next time you are in an airplane flying into a major metropolitan area, look down. You will be amazed at the mosaic of the landscape and the prominence of golf courses in it.

They are frequently the only remaining "open spaces" on the landscape and, as such, can benefit air quality in areas heavily impacted by human development and activity.



It's obvious that green space is crucial for cities.



Colonial Acres

Continued from page 15

integrated pest management, water conservation, and water-quality management.

In 1997, Colonial Acres Golf Course joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

Almost one-third of Colonial Acres contains woodland, water and naturalized areas, some of which are within or in close proximity to playing areas. Nobody playing the course can miss the many bird houses, especially the 24-apartment purple martin "condo" rising above the 9th tee.

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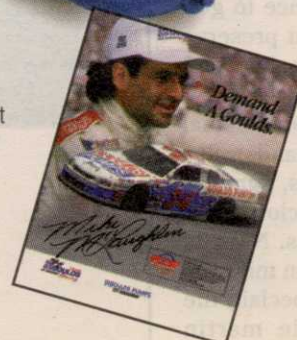
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Don't let your irrigation system fall behind

By BRUCE SHANK

Irrigation systems used to be something superintendents chose to live with rather than improve. Dating back to the days of the night waterman, superintendents delegated responsibility for the performance of their irrigation systems to a staff specialist or assistant superintendent. That person's job was

Bruce Shank is with Irricom, the communications arm of the Irrigation Association

to prevent budget-busting blow-outs, wet and dry spots, and pump station breakdowns.

Those days are over in most parts of the country. Superintendents understand that tweaking a golf course's irrigation system can make dramatic improvements in budget, turf quality, and reputation. Overlooking irrigation performance is an invitation for disaster in today's competitive world of golf.

One important reason to stay informed about irrigation is the

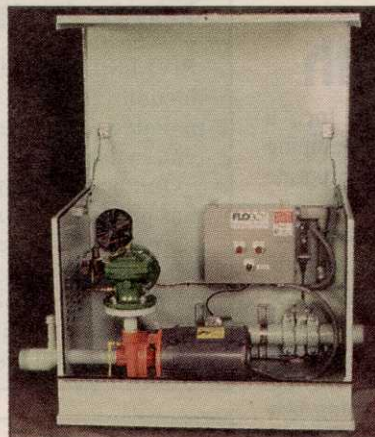
fast-paced introduction and significant cost of the latest heads, controls and weather stations. Doing nothing is going backwards and can ultimately cost your course more money than staying reasonably current with irrigation technology.

Irrigation isn't just about supplying moisture for plants anymore. It's about fertigation, pest management, recycled water, water and energy conservation, soil conditions that provide prof-

Continued on page 30



Overlooking irrigation performance is an invitation for disaster in today's competitive world of golf. (Photo courtesy of Rain Bird)



The new Flowtronex Floboy S

FLOWTRONEX EXPANDS, ANNOUNCES FLOBOY S

DALLAS—Flowtronex PSI has teamed up with Flowtronex Europe Ltd, a sister firm designed to provide pumping systems and service to courses throughout the United Kingdom and Europe (see GCN July).

The company also recently unveiled its new series of lower gallonage

Continued on page 29

Toro/Watertronics team on new testing facility

By MICHAEL LEVANS

HARTLAND, Wis./RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Watertronics has completed the first phase in the construction of a priority pump station for a new testing facility at Toro's irrigation plant in Riverside.

The project is part of Toro's renovation work at the Riverside facility.

"When Toro acquired the Hardie line it didn't have a lot of history of testing that product,"

said Rick Reinders, vice president of Watertronics. "So they redid their entire test lab and put in a number of new testing stations."

The new testing area is based around an "Olympic-sized swimming pool" with an overlying steel deck on which the new test fixtures are housed.

"We're supplying a pump and a VFD in their 75-125hp pump that is dedicated to each test fixture," said Reinders. "They put

their components in a test fixture, they go to the PC back in the lab and they can program their tests. For example, Toro will be able to test fixture #9, testing the valves for a month, cycle them on and off so many times a second and monitor all that information."

The new Watertronics system handles all the testing information, conducts the tests, puts it in a file and graphs it out for easy test reporting.

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SyncroFlo celebrates 25th

NORCROSS, Ga.—SyncroFlo, Inc., a manufacturer of packaged water pumping systems, is celebrating its 25th corporate birthday.

One of SyncroFlo's founders and current President, David Hanson, rededicated the mission of the company by saying, "Our progress throughout the years has been the direct result of our close adherence to the SyncroFlo 'vision.' Today, over 10,000 SyncroFlo pumping systems are operating worldwide in all kinds of municipal, plumbing, HVAC, fire protection, and landscape and golf course irrigation applications. Over the past 25 years we have turned our original vision into the company's mission."

Watertronics adds to staff

HARTLAND, Wis.—During the last few months, Watertronics has added several experienced irrigation industry people to key positions. The new moves include:

William Lakel, who has joined Watertronics as Sales Manager for the Pacific Northwest, U.S., Western Canada and the Asian Pacific Rim. He recently moved to Seattle from Singapore, where he represented Rainbird's International division;

Mike Gimmelfarb, formally of Thompson Sprinkler Company, is now based in Boston with sales responsibility for the Northeast. He has 14 years of irrigation pump station sales experience;

Kevin Rickwood, is the new southeast district manager based in Atlanta. He is well known to many industry people through his years with SyncroFlo and other packaged water pump system manufacturers;

Skip Muench joined Watertronics in January 1998 for direct coverage in Southern California. He has many years of experience with General Motors in the aerospace industry, working on various government projects;

Jay Stellmacher, based at Watertronics Hartland headquarters, now has sales responsibility for the upper Midwest;

Peter Beaudoin joined Watertronics in June as a technical support associate. He will be responsible for quotations, submittals and normal customer communications for all outside salesmen.

Watertronics has also made a commitment to expand its factory service network by the addition of two remote service technicians and the purchase of an existing Florida service center.

Jim Walsh, formerly a service technician with a northern California irrigation distributor is based near Sacramento, Calif., for service coverage nearer Watertronics' growing California market.

Bill Cox has been relocated from the Hartland headquarters to Salt Lake City to provide more responsive service coverage in the mountain states. The recent purchase of an existing pump and motor service company based in Melbourne, Fla., has expanded Watertronics Technical Services reach. commitment to service will be greatly improved by these additions.

Toro announces SitePro updates

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Since its introduction, Toro has announced several updates to its SitePro irrigation system, including:

Optional T. Map software module that provides Global Positioning System compatibility for map accuracy and interactive operation. T. Map includes event planning, work order processing, real-time activity status on the map and locator and identifier information

to allow the superintendent to access data, with "to the station level" accuracy;

Optional T. Weather with Weather Logic software module for user-defined alarm thresholds and interactive, automatic response to the central control unit. T. Weather provides maximum control by allowing the user to set alarms using "if/then" logic

statements to monitor the weather station(s) and pause or restart operations. Alarm messages let you know the activity that occurred;



Optional Hand Held software module for hand-held radio capability. This saves time and labor by providing immediate hand-held control from any point on the course. Motorola radios are the recognized experts in hand-held radios.

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Rain Bird names new brand managers

AZUSA, Calif.—Rain Bird's Golf Division, a manufacturer of irrigation products for the golf industry, announced that Laurent Reinhardt and Brent Thorley have joined the company as brand managers.

Rain Bird's brand managers are responsible for the development, testing and marketing of specific new and existing prod-

uct lines. Additionally, they perform some distributor sales support activities.

As brand manager, Reinhardt oversees all of Rain Bird's satellite irrigation system controllers and weather detection products. Prior to joining Rain Bird, he was the manager of international sales and marketing for Bush Industries, Inc.

Thorley is in charge of Rain

Bird's range of golf course sprinklers, including the EAGLE Series of water-lubricated rotors and several styles of impact heads. For the past year, Thorley was the service quality manager for Rain Bird Distribution Corp., a subsidiary of Rain Bird Sales, Inc. Prior to that, he was a new products program manager for Harley-Davidson.

On the product side, Rain Bird's central control system, Cirrus, incorporates Global Positioning

System (GPS) technology and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) to produce detailed on-screen course images. Additionally, it has the ability to alert the superintendent of conditions favorable to pests and various turf diseases.

Rain Bird's Cirrus central control system can react to real weather conditions as they occur using the new Smart Weather software and the Rain Bird Weather Station. Designed to run on the

Microsoft Windows 95 operating system, Cirrus utilizes all of the features of the Stratus and Nimbus central control system series, introduced in 1995 and 1996 respectively. Offered in two-wire satellite, wireless satellite and decoder configurations, the Cirrus software also features a modular interface that allows Cirrus to control up to three communication technologies on a single course.

Century Rain Aid opens two new Fla. locations

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Century Rain Aid, a distributor of landscape irrigation and specialty products, announced the opening of two new locations in Florida.

The new branches are based in Mangonia Park, north of West Palm Beach, and in Santa Rosa Beach, on the Gulf Coast near Pensacola, reported Mike Stein, Century southeast regional vice president.

The opening of the new sites brings the roster to 19 Century locations in Florida,

'The Century expansion into these markets is part of a major strategic advance throughout Florida and the Gulf Coast.'

—Mike Stein

and a total of 78 locations throughout the East Coast and Midwest. Century Rain Aid has opened or acquired more than 30 branches in the last 12 months.

"The Century expansion into these markets is part of a major strategic advance throughout Florida and the Gulf Coast," said Stein. "Century has acquired Atlantic Irrigation, AWF and Gulf Coast pump, three distributorships with a Florida presence, in the last eight months," he added.

With branches in Mangonia Park and Santa Rosa Beach, the company said it will be better able to serve professional landscape irrigation contractors by offering more convenience, and expanded product line, and by introducing new professional training and buying programs.

Flowtronex

Continued from page 27

pumping systems. The Floboy S Series is one of two lines of products that serve a variety of commercial and golf course needs, from acting as booster pumps for irrigating hard-to-reach areas of the course to bringing water to driving ranges and clubhouse irrigation systems.

Floboy S Series systems range from 2 to 30 horsepower, with flow ranges of 10 to 250 gallons per minute. Companion D Series systems are available in 2 to 10 horsepower, with flows of 10 to 100 gallons per minute. For more information, contact 214-357-1320.

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CIRCLE #102

Stay on top of your irrigation

Continued from page 27

itable play, and golfer satisfaction. Rather than trying to work around irrigation, superintendents today are realizing they need to do their job most effectively.

STAYING COMPETITIVE

New course development and old course improvement have never been greater. Golf course

architects, consultants and management companies are busier than they have ever been. The United States Golf Association makes twice as many technical visits to golf courses than they make in the 1970s. Superintendents also move from course to course faster than they did before. It's all because of competition for the golf dollar.

Being a scratch golfer and good salesman don't provide enough job security for superintendents today. Golfers have a greater understanding of what makes certain courses better than others. They appreciate more and more the role of construction and maintenance in quality of play. They expect superintendents to be current in their knowledge and competitive in what they deliver to the course. That includes irrigation.

KNOWING WHEN TO UPGRADE

Perhaps the greatest advantage of superintendents having strong irrigation knowledge is being able to recognize when an improvement is justifiable and when it isn't. Do you purchase every upgrade of every computer program you have? Some upgrades are more productive than others. The same goes for irrigation.

Manufacturers improve central

and satellite control options each year to stay ahead of their competition and serve their customers better. Most irrigation advancement lately has centered around programming for central controllers. Important recent changes include incorporating digital as-built information with the aid of GIS (Global Information System) technology and mapping; balancing pump station output with irrigation schedule demand; improving system responsiveness related to evapotranspiration and weather; providing more stations to improve microclimate accuracy; and detecting unusual flow and pressure caused by malfunctions and breaks.

Programs for central irrigation controllers now do much more than control irrigation. They can track chemical inventory, equipment maintenance, insect and disease potential and labor. Rather than adding irrigation options to a business program, superintendents can add business options to an irrigation program.

In areas where high temperature and low precipitation increase a golf course's dependency on irrigation, software is important, but hardware is what carries the water. Not computer hardware, but nozzles, gear-drive mechanisms, and pump stations. Head rotation speed, water distribution uniformity from nozzles, and proper zoning and spacing for site conditions make or break turf quality in hot weather.

The Center for Irrigation Technology is recommending a measurement called Schedule Coefficient (SC) be used to gauge uniformity instead of Distribution Uniformity (DU) or Coefficient of Uniformity (CU). SC more accurately considers overirrigation caused by dry spot resulting from poor uniformity. Pressure below design specification, high variability in pressure at sprinkler heads, wind and poor spacing can cause factory-installed nozzles to perform unsatisfactorily. The goal today is to have a SC between 1.2 and 1.0. This translates into DUs and CUs above 90 percent.

Many distribution problems can be solved either by replacing factory nozzles with custom versions or upgrading the internal body of gear-drive heads. Once uniformity problems are solved, overirrigation can be greatly reduced without a drop in turf quality.

Irrigation is one of those areas where a good consultant can save literally thousands of dollars for you each year. Picking the right system initially is very important. Keeping it efficient through regular upgrades is equally important. Your entire agronomic program hinges on the success of your irrigation program.

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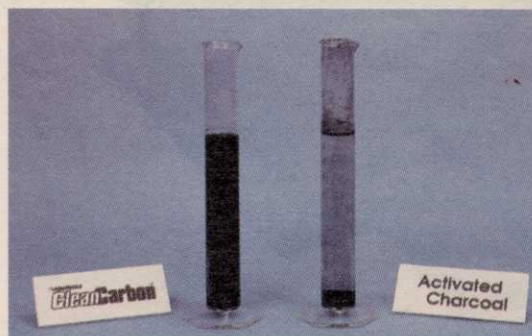
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BRIEFS



DOSCHER JOINS NORTHEAST GOLF

FAIR HAVEN, N.J. — Chris Doscher, a landscape architecture graduate from the University of Massachusetts, has joined the firm of The Northeast Golf Co. At UMass, he received the Honor Award for the American Society of Landscape Architects for Outstanding Achievement in Design. As a design associate he will assist design development and construction documentation for new golf course and renovation projects.



Chris Doscher

VAIL PLANS BEAVER CREEK COURSE

VAIL, Colo. — Vail Resorts, Inc. has announced plans to invest approximately \$59 million for the upcoming winter season in resort improvements for its Vail, Breckenridge, Keystone and Beaver Creek mountain resorts. Included are a new golf course and high-speed four passenger chairlift at Beaver Creek. Approximately \$9 million is planned to be invested at the Beaver Creek resort. Preliminary planning for the golf course development near Beaver Creek is awaiting local government approval.

PRIMM VALLEY OPENS 2ND FAZIO

NEVADA — Primm Valley Golf Club, home of the Tom Fazio-designed Lakes Course, has opened its Desert Course off Interstate 15, four miles south of Primadonna Casino Resorts' properties at the Southern Nevada/California border.

In contrast to the lush landscaping and water features of the Lakes Course, Fazio created a more challenging playing option at the arid Desert Course, with narrower fairways melding into natural desert landscape with many varieties of cacti and palm.

ASGCA DONATES TO 3 PROJECTS

CHICAGO — As part of its second annual President's Grant Program, the American Society of Golf Course Architects Foundation has presented grants to the Indiana Golf Foundation (IGF), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Tufts Archives. IGF will use its grant to help launch its new golf camp for at-risk children. The GCSAA grant is for its "Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign." Tufts Archives in Pinehurst, N.C., houses many drawings and works from Donald Ross and others.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Colorado golf boom keeps on ticking

By ALLEN BEST

In 1992 Fred Green wanted to build a membership-driven golf course about 15 miles west of Vail, Colo., the nation's largest ski area. As a hedge, he drafted plans to first excavate the rich gravel deposits.

Green started selling memberships at \$50,000, quickly upped it to \$80,000 and, soon, greens overlaid the gravel. The membership roster is full at 250, with invitation-only membership fees now believed to cost well in excess of \$100,000. Presence of a railroad track bisecting the course never hampered sales. There is no associated housing nor hotel.

That course, Eagle Springs, is among the most startling success stories in a valley exploding with golf courses. Five courses were built in the first 30 years after the Vail Ski Area opened in 1962. Five more (including a short course) have opened in just the last four years. But at least 10 others are planned, or double the number already built, in this valley of 30,000 people where it has snowed twice on the Fourth of July during the 1990s.

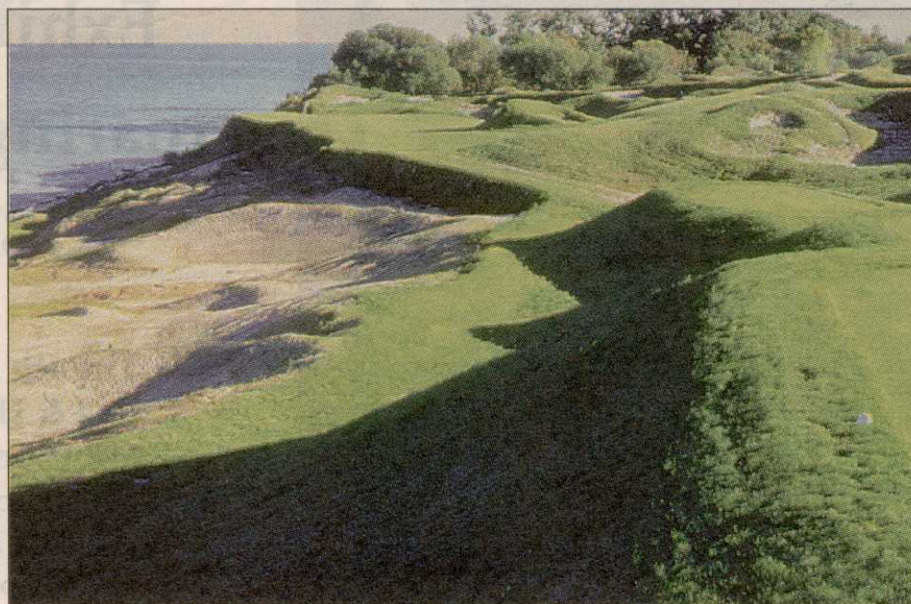
A parallel boom is occurring nearby in the 42-mile-long Roaring Fork Valley, home to the Aspen and Snowmass ski areas. The first two courses opened in the 1970s, and weren't followed until the Maroon Creek Club opened in 1994; memberships cost \$150,000. Today's 117 holes of golf in that valley could grow to 176 by the next millenium.

Summit County, another enclave of ski resorts along the Interstate 70 corridor, has three courses that will be supplemented by two and possibly more. Elevation there is 8,000 to 9,000 feet, frosty in all months save for July.

Continued on page 34



Cordillera Resort outside Vail.



The 17th hole at the Pete Dye-designed Whistling Straits outside Kohler, Wis.

Whistling Straits even stuns Dye

KOHLER, Wis. — "In my lifetime I've never seen anything like this. Anyplace. Period." Speaking "with some degree of modesty," architect Pete Dye was describing his Whistling Straits, a links-type course on the shores of Lake Michigan which opened for public play on July 7.

Stretching along two miles of Great Lakes shoreline, the 18-hole facility pays homage to the origins of golf by stressing that it is a walking course only and will have caddies. The PGA of America has already selected Whistling Straits as host site for the 1999 Club Pro Championship, a national title tournament.

Whistling Straits is the latest addition to the resort complex owned by Kohler Co. and centered in the Village of Kohler that already includes Dye's Blackwolf Run, and the AAA Five Diamond resort

hotel The American Club. Blackwolf Run hosted the U.S. Women's Open Championship in July.

Offering a view of the Great Lake from each of its 18 holes, Whistling Straits has fescue fairways and massive sand bunkers. It weaves 14 holes in nearly uninterrupted sequence along the two miles of lakefront. Eight holes hug the shoreline where the Straits Course plays from just above beach level, then rises nearly 80 feet to bluffs and elevated berms that provide panoramic views of the watery horizon.

The par-72 Straits Course plays to 7,288 yards from the championship tees. Each hole has five tee placements. Occupying a 560-acre site, Whistling Straits will eventually offer two 18-hole courses. Joining

Continued on page 36

Player: Keeping busy in Asia & busier in U.S.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — After scaling back his group office in Singapore as a result of the economic downturn, Gary Player remains bullish on Asia as well as the growth of the public golf market around the world. GCN recently caught up with the living legend to discuss the Asian situation and the current project in his own backyard.



Gary Player

Golf Course News: Now that you've scaled back the group office in Singapore, where do you see your position in the Asian market?

Gary Player: "We're still very positive about Singapore. It's a very important part of our presence in Asia. As things come back to normal there's no doubt that we'll return in full force. I continue to make my visits and I refuse to disregard the market just because they're having a few problems. As far as the market stands now, we still have projects going and we're optimistic. But that's life, isn't it, trials and errors."

GCN: How will the Asian golf market get back on its feet?

GP: I think public golf for every market, not just Asia, is going to be key. A man like Tiger Woods has had a great influence. It's so terribly important that a young man like Tiger, who's in such an important role, visit Asia as well as South Africa and other re-

Continued on page 33

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER



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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Ground has been broken here on The Links at RiverLakes Ranch, an 18-hole course designed by Santa Rosa-based Golfplan. Working with a parcel featuring mature almond orchards and nine lakes, Golfplan has created a varied collection of golf holes at the daily-fee course which is scheduled to open in early 1999.

"We've laid out 18 very inter-

Golfplan gets started on Bakersfield 18

esting holes at RiverLakes — very diverse, yet there is continuity in the form of the orchard and a Scottish design style," said Rick Elliott, senior architect at Golfplan. "The lake feeling is also very strong. Water will be in play on half the holes. However, we've placed the lakes very strategically so the effect is visual, not

necessarily penal. We've addressed playability issues very closely here. Multiple tees will make RiverLakes enjoyable for the shorter hitters, while the back tees will give the accomplished player all he can handle."

The Links at RiverLakes Ranch is a joint venture between housing developer Fruitvale

Properties and Environmental Golf, a management, development and construction firm. Fruitvale has already developed 1,100 acres involving 2,200 housing units near the course.

Environmental Golf (EG) will construct the Golfplan design. EG has embarked on an ambitious landscaping program, trans-

planting many of the existing almond trees and introducing evergreens in the form of Redwoods and Canary Island pines.

"We've designed the course to serve as a drainage basin for the housing," said Golfplan principal Ron Fream. "The 18 holes sit below the residential lots, which provides homeowners fabulous views of the course while simultaneously providing golfers a subtle amphitheater feel."

Q&A: Player

Continued from page 31
gions of the world.

GCN: Do you think there will be more affordable, sustainable, public projects popping up in Asia or a return to the high-end club?

GP: I think there's going to be room for both, just like everywhere else in the world. Public golf is important, driving ranges are important, golf academies, which we are very involved in, are very important. We have to educate people how to play the public courses or to fill the vacuums in country clubs.

GNC: Where do you see your academy business doing its best work?

GP: Our best is in Singapore. It's doing extremely well.

GNC: What markets are doing well?

GP: The South African market is booming. We're doing courses here, we have [Ron] Fream, [Tom] Weiskopf and [Jack] Nicklaus doing courses here. It's very buoyant at the moment.

GCN: What has caused this boom?

GP: The terrible disease of Apartheid is gone now and we have one of the true democracies in the world. Now people who never traveled to South Africa, and who weren't investing in South Africa and who didn't have confidence in South Africa... the whole picture has changed. We have great leadership in a man like President Mandela, we have a very sporting country, and of course, South Africa has the best climate in the world.

GCN: What do you have planned in South Africa?

GP: We're planning quite a few academies. We're also planning 36 holes right here on my ranch in Johannesburg. We're going to have a spa, hotel, golf academy and housing development.

GCN: Any other hot markets?

GP: We have four in planning in the Philippines, and in Indonesia we are about to open in Bintan in two or three months. We have one in planning in Malaysia, one in Singapore, and two under construction in Japan.

GCN: Then you haven't ground to a halt in Asia?

GP: Well, it's put a slight damper on our business, but we're looking at the up side. It's all part of a cycle, isn't it?

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IRRIGATION®

Colorado golf boom continues

Continued from page 31

Most courses here are built to sell part-time homes. Course-building costs are extraordinarily high, playing seasons uncommonly short. Within these economic bookends is one of the most exclusive real-estate markets in the country.

Cordillera Resort, located 15 miles west of Vail, illustrates the

pure real-estate market. Critics scoffed when the resort opened in the late 1980s because ski slopes were a 20-minute drive away. Sales initially were sluggish. But then a rugged Hale Irwin-designed course opened in 1994. Real-estate purchasers acquired golf privileges. Homes of \$1 million-plus have skyrocketed. Cordillera is now planning

its third course, this one 40 minutes away, to absorb overflow demand from existing real-estate sales, and also to extend the playing season.

At Country Club of the Rockies, site of the Jerry Ford Invitational Golf Tournament for more than a decade, there are more homes than the 340 golf memberships. Consequently, homeowners with memberships can tack \$100,000 to home prices.

Membership itself costs another \$100,000. Sellers are getting those prices because during the four- to five-month playing season, conditions are about as good as they get, said course pro Tom Apple.

Skiing remains the most important lure for Vail Associates, which operates two ski areas. But, golf has become increasingly important in selling hotel rooms and real estate. A case in

Look at us as being one of the nation's hottest markets as far as used tee times.'

— Mike Steiner
Eagle Springs

point: Fifty-two lots along ski runs at the company's Bachelor Gulch development sold for an average \$807,000 during a three-hour lottery sale in 1995.

Golfing guarantees to help shove prices into that stratosphere. Accordingly, the company plans a second golf course, and would love to find land for a third.

Mountain courses are more expensive to build, said Jim Thompson, president of Vail Resorts Development Group. Land sells for about \$10,000 per acre. Also, whereas 200 acres might be enough at Scottsdale, 475 acres will be needed at Thompson's next course on picturesque Bellyache Ridge, where there are more ravines, problem geology areas, and wildlife issues.

"Because of the terrain, they're expensive to build," said Thompson. "You're moving a lot of earth, and you're mitigating a lot of geology issues."

High-end customers expect high-profile architects, at a minimum cost of \$750,000. Finally, building costs soar in busily building resort communities. "Add it all up, and it costs \$25 million to \$30 million to build a course, and that's with a modest clubhouse," said Thompson. "Plus, one of the high-end 18-hole courses costs \$1 million a year to operate."

Revenue is limited at higher-elevation courses by a 100-day season. Is it any wonder that 32,000 rounds was tops in the valley last year? That was at the municipal Vail Golf Club, which has \$80 green fees. Some private courses charge \$195 rounds, and they play between 7,500 and 11,000 rounds.

Frost-free seasons in the Vail-area courses range from 60 to 95 days. Elevations range from 8,300 to 6,000 feet.

"We play everywhere from April 15 to Oct. 15," said Eagle Springs golf pro Mike Steiner. "Anything on either side of that is a bonus."

About 20 miles west and 1,000 feet lower, Cotton Ranch head pro Chris Woolery reported an inaugural playing season that started in late February. Advertisements in March promoted morning skiing and afternoon golfing.

There's enough warmth to grow grass, said Woolery, but not enough humidity to grow other problems.

Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Weiskopf eyes '99 opening for Cedar River

By PETER BLAIS

BELLAIRE, Mich. — Tom Weiskopf expects to make a big splash near the shore of Lake Bellaire when his new Cedar River Golf Club opens at Shanty Creek/Schuss Mountain here in June 1999.

Planting and sodding should be completed by late this summer at Cedar River, the fourth championship-length layout at the northwest Michigan resort, joining Summit Golf Club (designed by Bill Diddel), Schuss Mountain Golf Club (Warner Bowen/Bill Newcomb) and The Legend Golf Club (Arnold Palmer).

Shanty Creek President and Chief Executive Officer Terry Schieber believes Cedar River will rival The Legend — which has been rated one of the top resort courses in the Midwest — as Shanty Creek's main attraction. Green fees will be a comparable \$125.

"Cedar River is Tom Weiskopf's first design in Michigan and he's going all out to make it a top-flight course," Schieber



The 7th hole of the new, Tom Weiskopf-designed Cedar River Golf Club.

said. Schieber believes the layout itself is at least the equal of Boyne USA's Bay Harbor Golf Club, the Art Hills' design in Petoskey overlooking Lake Michigan that is receiving rave reviews.

"This [Cedar River] may be a better layout, but it's tough to compete with the lakeside setting of Bay Harbor," Schieber said.

Cedar River, which affords views and

occasionally plays along its namesake, is a wooded layout with generous landing areas and greens averaging 6,500 square feet.

Greens, tees and fairways are planted with Providence bentgrass. The roughs are Kentucky bluegrass.

The course sits within 580 acres, with housing lots along parts of it. Pittman, Poe & Associates is the landscape plan-

ner and H&D (Hodgkiss & Douma) Inc. of Petoskey the course builder.

Shanty Creek selected Weiskopf, who has been designing courses since 1983, because of his design ability and to differentiate the Cedar River track from others in golf-rich Northern Michigan. Michigan led the country in new course openings for four consecutive years between 1993 and 1996.

"Just about every major designer in the country has a course in this area," Schieber noted. "The Weiskopf name will help us stand out."

Among Weiskopf's award-winning courses (designed in cooperation with Jay Morrish) are Loch Lomond Golf Club, Luss, Scotland; Troon Golf & Country Club, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Forest Highlands, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Double Eagle Golf Club, Galena, Ohio; and Troon North Golf Club, Scottsdale.

The construction superintendent is David Faucher, a 1998 winner of the GCSAA's Environmental Steward Award while overseeing The Legends. Faucher plans to stay on as head superintendent once Cedar River opens.

"Making Dave the superintendent at Cedar River was one way for us to keep him around a little longer," Schieber said.

Prince Edward Island government partners with resort for course

By MARK LESLIE

BRUDENELL, Prince Edward Island, Canada — The second course at Brudenell River Resort is being built in this oceanside resort community.

Developed by PEI Golf in partnership with the Prince Edward Island provincial government, the course sits on 200 acres of Brudenell River Provincial Park.

Jason Straka of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design said in July that all the

holes were cleared, nine were shaped and construction was on target for an opening early next August.

"We have the best of both worlds," he said. "On several holes you feel like you're on top of the world, playing along the Brudenell River with panoramic views. The other holes are in dense woods, giving an extremely secluded feeling where you can't see from one hole to another."

The designers had so much land to

route "that we didn't have to disturb much, other than tree clearing," said Straka, who is working with architect Dana Fry on the project. "Boundaries for the wetlands were established and we avoided them as much as possible."

The terrain, Straka said, is surprisingly rolling for this island. Several tee shots drop more than 20 or 30 feet.

The layout carries over a few deep ravines, a finger of the river and several wetlands. Yet, the layout shrinks from

7,200 to 4,900 yards over five sets of tees, the forward ones allowing for play around the hazards.

The facility will contain a learning center consisting of three practice holes, a short-game area, practice range and putting course.

Kings County Construction, which remodeled the adjacent course working with course architect Graham Cooke, is building the new track. Shapers are Ernie and Mike Overary.

Colorado boom

Continued from previous page

Woolery, who left Austin, Texas, three years ago, reports golfing in the Vail and Aspen areas is second to none, "and I've played all the prominent places in the country. With the name Vail attached to it, there's an expectation of quality."

The Vail area is unique in the national golfing boom because of high prices combined with scarce tee times, Steiner said. "Look at us as being one of the nation's hottest markets as far as used tee times."

That scarcity has ski and resort company executive Thompson pondering new ways to give tee times to client hotels. Instead of allocating blocks of time, he said, hotel guests may have to reserve times seven days in advance. Unbooked times could then be used in other ways.

How soon will this boom end?

The hunch in Vail and Aspen seems to be that private land will be gone before the last of vigorous and affluent babyboomers.

That has some developers eyeing the federal tracts that compose 80 percent of the land.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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CIRCLE #138

August 1998 35

Reaching Out



This package of stories is one of an ongoing series covering initiatives and projects developed to bring new golfers into the game, particularly youths and minorities. People wishing to submit projects should contact the editorial department of Golf Course News at 106 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096; tel. 207-846-0600.

DEVELOPMENT

Ault, Clark & others aid Arkansas' first First Tee-endorsed project

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The state's first First Tee facility is drawing support from the likes of public officials like Gov. Mike Huckabee and donated help from such golf industry firms as architects Ault, Clark & Associates.

"We feel it is our obligation to the sport for our firm to support this important program that al-

lows all children and beginners the opportunity to learn the great game of golf," said Tom Clark of Ault, Clark. Working with First Tee Executive Director Tod Leiweke, Park Director Bill Bunten and city officials, Ault, Clark has completed a master plan. Construction is planned to start early fall, with opening in

late winter or the spring of 1999.

Huckabee said of the project: "It not only creates additional recreational opportunities for our youth, but it will do so through a sport that instills honesty, integrity and character."

The existing nine-hole Rock Creek Golf Course will be the site for the renovation project.

Plans call for a sheltered 60-station practice range; three practice holes that will play through woodlands including a par-3, -4, and -5; one-half-acre multi-tiered putting course; and chipping complex that includes subtle mounding and multiple sand and grass bunkers as well as a 10,000-square-foot bentgrass putting green.

Whistling Straits raises \$500K for The First Tee

KOHLER, Wis. (AP) — Former President George Bush said The First Tee program will teach young people valuable lessons in life as well as how to play golf.

"The First Tee program has to do with life," Bush said before teeing off in a fund-raiser to open Whistling Straits, a new Pete Dye-designed course near Kohler. "By giving a kid a shot at the American dream, it has to do with what sports means in a person's makeup."

"It has a lot to do with the real business of living. It's about giving some kid a shot not just at playing this marvelous game of golf that we all love, but to give them a shot at the true meaning of life. And I mean that seriously."

The First Tee was started last year by the World Golf Foundation to create new facilities and programs to make golf more affordable and accessible for youths. Foursomes paid \$30,000 to play July 6 in the grand opening of the new course, raising \$500,000 for First Tee in Wisconsin.

Whistling Straits

Continued from page 31

the Straits Course in the year 2000 will be another Dye design to be called the Creeks Course.

Adding another authentic touch to the Straits golf experience, a flock of Scottish black face sheep is planned to wander the property.

Construction of Whistling Straits began in 1995 after Kohler Co. completed a complicated land acquisition from Wisconsin Electric Power Co. (WEPCO), which had held the property for many years as a potential nuclear power plant location. During the 1950s, the site was operated by the U.S. Army as an anti-aircraft training facility, Camp Haven. Kohler Co. invested considerable initial resources in the environmental clean-up of waste left behind by the abandoned military base, as well as years of phantom illegal dumping on the site.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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CIRCLE #132

First Hook-a-Kid facility to be a model for the country

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Plans for the nation's first-ever Hook a Kid on Golf model facility, Creekside Golf Course and Training Center, were unveiled in a special ceremony here, July 14.

Hook a Kid officials feel the facility, scheduled to open next year, is "a major breakthrough in golf instruction and may forever alter how children are introduced to the sport," according to a press release.

"The innovative design of the training center will provide youngsters with the opportunity to learn and develop golf skills and confidence before they tee it up on a regulation course," said the Senior PGA Tour's Bob Murphy, who is Hook a Kid's national spokesman. "What's being done in Valparaiso is going to serve as a blueprint for future golf course development. In the coming years we hope to designate a number of courses as Hook a Kid on Golf model facilities."

Creekside's feature attraction is that each of the holes features a variety of tees so that youngsters of different skill levels can play the holes from many different distances. A par-4 can vary from over 400 yards to under 100 yards.

In addition to the training center, the facility will include three practice holes and a nine-hole course. Once beginners become comfortable on the three-hole track, they will advance to the nine-hole layout. They will also be able to hone their skills on the driving range, practice putting green and practice bunker. The range will have heated sta-

tions for winter play, while the clubhouse will include an indoor driving range and putting green.

The city has formed a partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), which conducts the Hook a Kid program. The city's Department of Parks & Recreation will oversee the training center and golf course

and use the Hook a Kid program, which has been popular in the community each summer.

"What's happening in Valparaiso is similar to other communities who have been running Hook a Kid on Golf over the years," said Fred Engh, NAYS president and chief executive officer. "They have already cre-

ated a base of young golfers and, in essence, the demand for a facility like Creekside Park. That is why our partnership with Valparaiso makes such sense. Now we can show other communities across America how junior golf can and should be run."

Design and program concepts for Creekside were developed

by a Valparaiso Parks staff team, including head golf professional Mike Laughner, LPGA associate professional Nancy Bender, course superintendent Paul Pera, Youth Program Director Steve Doniger, and Parks & Recreation Director John Seibert, who is working with golf course architectural firm Don Childs and Associates of Sylvan Lake, Mich.



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Spalding donates golf balls to youth

CALGARY, Alberta, Canada — In continuing support of junior golf, Spalding Canada contributed 200 dozen golf balls at the AT&T Canada Senior Open at The Glencoe Golf & Country Club here.

"Golf is growing in popularity with young people in Canada," said Keith Keindel, president of Spalding Canada, "and we think that this kind of practical support for junior golf programs will help kids become better at the game."

The balls, used by the Senior PGA Tour players at the practice range, were given to Glencoe for its junior golf program and the Alberta Golf Association (AGA) in support of its Future Links program.

Future Links, presented by Mackenzie Financial Corp., is a joint initiative of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association, designed to forge a link between golf and Canada's youth to ensure the future of the game.

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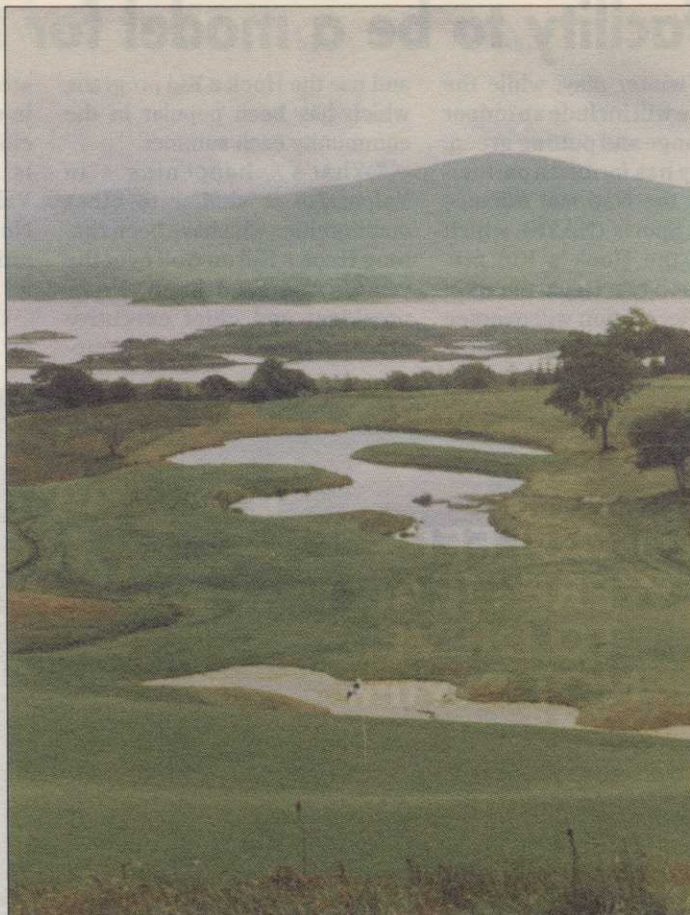
Ring of Kerry G&CC opens in heart of Ireland

KENMARE, Republic of Ireland — The Ring of Kerry Golf and Country Club is the latest addition to the Roger Jones Golf Associates' growing list of golf course designs. Set in the heart of one of the most competitive golfing destinations in Europe, the Jones-designed 6,900-yard course opened for public play in mid-July.

"With so many golf courses on offer, it was imperative to produce something outstanding and we have achieved that here at Ring of Kerry," said Jones. "It seems that every course is now labeled 'championship' which is meaningless. My brief was to provide a 'world-class' golf course and here it is."

Overlooking Kenmare Bay from a height of some 600 feet, with the Caha Mountains to the south and the McGillycuddy Reeks to the north, the surroundings are rich. London-based businessmen Tom McNicholas and Dominic Reid own the course.

The significant mounding on the course uses the 'waste' bog material which had been moved at the outset. Aside from the aesthetic qualities which the mounds provide, they also protect the golfer from possible unfair disadvantages which would so easily occur once a ball is set in motion. Throughout the entire layout the mounds have been specifically shaped to mirror the natural hills and mountains surrounding Kenmare and this is indicative of the project's intentions regarding the integrity of the site. There was no choice but to move so much material around, however, whenever possible, the surrounding natural landscape has been left untouched with magnificent grasses and wild flowers flowing over the rock and bog between holes.



Ring of Kerry Golf & Country Club is now open for public play.

Carnegie Club adds 9-hole track

DORNOCH, Scotland — The exclusive Carnegie Club has added a nine-hole parkland course to the prestigious Carnegie Links at Skibo Castle.

The innovative nine-holer was designed by Donald Steel & Co. and the project was managed by Brian D. Pierson — the same team which undertook the Carnegie Links.

The terrain for the Parkland course is very different to that worked on the Links, being comprised of wetland, pine, birch and oak.

The fauna is equally indigenous being packed with otters, deer and ospreys. The course has been designed to be played as either a par-35 course or a par-3 course depending upon which set of tees are used.

Steel said: "Only limited space was available initially and we considered that best use could be made by creating a three-hole academy with practice ground. Each hole has a huge green with three different flags and each flag can be played from one of up to three tees. In the area occupied by three holes, it is therefore possible to play 18 varied holes."

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Marsh ready to complete first in China

BEIJING — Thirty minutes from Tiananmen Square lies the soon-to-be-completed Hua Tang International Golf Club designed by Graham Marsh. It marks his first foray behind the Bamboo Curtain and is due for completion in October following over two years of construction.

The 18-hole championship course and real estate/resort development, a joint venture between Hong Kong-based Interform and the Great Hall of the People, is situated alongside the Sanhe River and is built on sandy-soiled farm land.

The design has retained as many of the existing trees — including blossom, Chinese Elm, Willows, Birch and Pine. According to Marsh, this tree retention gives the impression of maturity far in advance of that normally associated with new courses.

The construction of the 6,900 yard course has been carried out by a Taiwanese-based company using local labor, a bit of a diversion from Marsh's usual construction routine.

"It has been a source of satisfaction to see the quality of the course given that it is a departure from our usual construction processes," said Marsh. "However, we have been able to have Edd Watts, an Australian experienced in Graham Marsh Golf Design courses, on site during the construction. But where we would normally have shapers sourced by us to carry out the shaping works, the locale and client requirements resulted in the use of local labor. This meant that the course has taken longer to construct than we would normally anticipate but the end result is, as I mentioned, particularly satisfying."

The first nine holes are already open for play and are attracting significant interest from players and tournament organizers who are already considering Hua Tang for future Professional events — a fate which Marsh-designed courses in Australia are used to with the Vines Resort in Perth, Terrey Hills in Sydney, Palm Meadows on the Gold Coast and Robina Woods having

all hosted Tour events.

North America is the next continent which Marsh aims to conquer as an architect.

His first course, near Lexington, Kentucky, is in the final planning stage. Marsh, whose U.S. Senior Tour form has been meteoric, has been actively pursuing design projects in the US.

"It's been difficult to get the right project to start with as, although there are many courses being built each year in the States, we need to get product on the ground here to prove our capabilities in this market," said Marsh. "We know we can do it; now we have the opportunity to prove it to this market."



Trouble awaits the golfer on the 16th at Hua Tang International Golf Club.

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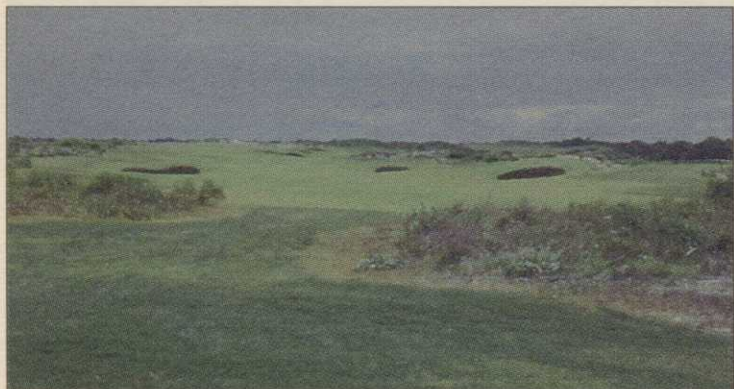
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Eng track opens

DONGGUAN CITY, Province of Guangdong, China—James J. Engh Golf Design Group's first golf project in China opened here in May. Dongguan Hillview Golf Club opened to unprecedented player demand, Engh said. Meanwhile, the Engh-designed Dragon Hills Golf Club was recently completed in Thailand.

Coate designs 'true links' in Australia



The 458-yard 5th hole at Kennedy Bay oozes the traditional links feel.

ROCKINGHAM, Near Perth, Western Australia — The soon to be completed Kennedy Bay Resort on the West Coast of Australia has afforded Australian architects Michael Coate and Associates the opportunity to design and build two classical links courses in the purist style.

The first course, the private

Baker-Finch, Mackay pitch in on project

track, is complete with the public course about to be started.

"We have had the great fortune to be able to construct the course on a pure links site and to be able to route the course as we

wished between the dune ridges without the need to compromise holes for the sake of houses," said Coate. "Thus, a golfer could walk many of the holes without the impression of the existence of anyone else."

Professional golfers Roger Mackay and Ian Baker-Finch are working in conjunction with Coate, with the latter stating publicly that "The course should become one of the top courses in the country in a very short time."

Superintendent Trevor Strachan is overseeing tees and fairways have been stolonized with Windsorgreen Bermuda-grass which is currently knitting in very well. The greens are of 1019 bentgrass which, under the watchful eye of superintendent Trevor Strachan, formerly of The Vines, will be kept firm and fast in the best links tradition.

The earthforming work was able to be carried out by Coate's own shaping team with local irrigation company, Total Eden, installing the Toro Irrigation system.

A total of 70,000 cubic meters of soil was moved, which might strike the casual observer as rather a lot, given the natural site which Coate was presented with. However, when you consider that this figure also includes the construction of an irrigation lake, a driving range and the creation of two greens and a tee in the least undulating portion of the course, it becomes apparent that Coate has every right to be confident.

"You may rest assured that in the main, the golf course has been 'hung off' the marvelous natural features," said Coate.

The course has been created in the British ideal, with revetted bunkers and a very natural relationship with the surrounding formations. Allied to this is a temperate climate and regular high wind speeds, (frequently reaching 20-25 knots).

"The golf course reminds me of an amalgam of British links courses," said Coate. "The 6th hole is reminiscent of the 6th at Turnberry and the 5th and 7th greens are shared to form a double green which has the feel of St. Andrews. But, in general, the course has its own links character with every hole having its individual identity."

The local fauna is, however, likely to remind golfers of their location. The site has approximately 30 kangaroos.

Heading up the project is the joint venture company, Kennedy Bay Resorts, which is an amalgam of two Western Australians — Gary Sheehan and Richard Lukin — and an Indonesian syndicate.

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BRIEFS



ALLENBRAND HIRED

CALABASAS, Calif.—Environmental Golf has named Gary Allenbrand to the position of business development manager for West Coast Golf Maintenance Sales. Allenbrand will be responsible for developing business opportunities for the western United States.



Gary Allenbrand

GOTHAM ADDS PAIR

MIAMI — Gotham Golf Partners (GGP) has added two courses, Fairfax National Golf Club in Centreville, Va., and Links of Challedon in Mt. Airy, Md., giving the firm 16 golf course facilities located throughout the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf Coast states. GGP purchased the two courses from an investor group led by Joseph Meyerhof, III, with NationsCredit financing the acquisition. Fairfax National is a 27-hole, semi-private facility and the Links of Challedon features an 18-hole, daily-fee course.

TWO FOR UNITED, TOO

NEW YORK — United Golf Group added Lakeside Golf Club and Atlanta International Golf Club to its portfolio at a total cost of \$18 million. The facilities are located in suburban Atlanta, and will be managed by Kemper Sports Management.

SCHOERKE JOINS FMAC

LOS ANGELES — FMAC has hired Douglas A. Schoerke as marketing vice president for FMAC Golf Finance Group LLC (FGFG). As a marketing vice president, Schoerke identifies financing opportunities and develops relationships with prospective customers in the central Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States. Schoerke earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Kansas in 1985 and works out of FMAC's office in Greensboro, N.C.

CMAA PROMOTES WALLMEYER

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—The Club Managers Association of America has promoted Henry Wallmeyer to manager of Premier Club Services. Wallmeyer will oversee all department programs and develop and implement new programs, products and services.

AG-UK takes St. Mellion, updates to follow shortly

By TREVOR LEDGER

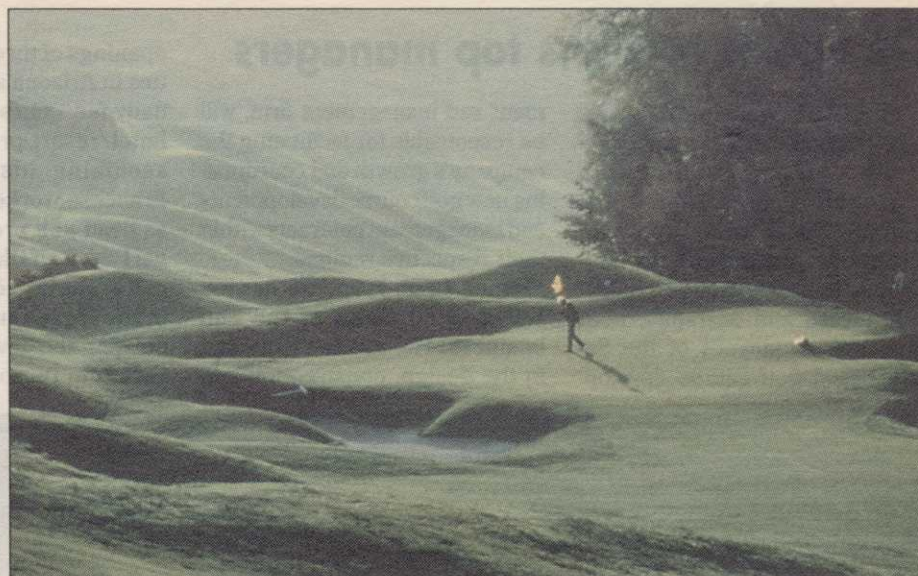
CORNWALL, England — American Golf (UK) Ltd. (AG-UK) has bought the prestigious St. Mellion Golf & Country Club from Martin and Herman Bond.

This is the 12th acquisition for AG-UK and marks the trend of its continued expansion into the United Kingdom golf market.

With AG-UK tripling in size over the last four years and up to seven further purchases planned in the next 10 months, the Santa Monica, Calif.-based parent outfit is feeling bullish.

St. Mellion boasts 36 holes and has hosted a number of Volvo European Tour events. The original 18-hole layout was designed by J. Hamilton-Stutt in 1976 with the additional Jack Nicklaus course opening in 1988.

Initial indications of AG-UK's intentions



The 2nd hole at St. Mellions. AG-UK's latest acquisition.

are promising. Course Manager Robert Brewer confirmed: "It's very positive. Our biggest problem has been the inability of the Nicklaus course to drain adequately. In August we are planning to install improved drainage. Also, we are going to install a new irrigation system on the tees of the Old Course in October."

Also planned is the construction of a new workshop and creation of a new post, that of in-house mechanic.

The mechanic will be responsible, among other things, for the upkeep of a substantial amount of new turf-care machinery, which will be brought in within the next few months.



LINKSCORP PURCHASES STONEBRIDGE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—LinksCorp, Inc. has purchased George Cobb-designed Stonebridge Golf Course in Memphis, Tenn. "We've been looking for some time to expand our presence into Memphis," said LinksCorp Chief Executive Officer Ben Blake. "It's a great golf market. And with two properties in Nashville, and the No. 1- and No. 2-rated daily-fee courses in the state in Crossville (Stonehenge Golf Club) and Knoxville (River Islands Golf Club), we are pleased to get a foothold in Memphis." Planned improvements to the course include turf and bunker work as well as enhancements to the clubhouse. Said Tom Lenz, LinksCorp's senior vice president of operations, "We plan to immediately make the improvements to the course and clubhouse while maintaining the high level of service to our customers."

Clubhaus expands into fitness arena

LONDON — London-based Clubhaus PLC is expanding its interests following a busy year, spending £36.3 million (roughly \$60 million) on acquisitions during 1997.

Nine of 16 golf clubs (all situated in Europe) will have fitness centers attached to them, increasing the facilities available to the 15,000-plus Clubhaus members.

Clubhaus Chairman Robert Bourne was upbeat about the group's activities. "The group is now in a position to consolidate the asset base and to develop other facilities that will complement the golf clubs," he said.

Clubhaus' profits tripled to more than £5 million (\$8 million) in 1997. During the same period, £6 million (\$10 million) was spent on improvements and upgrades throughout the group.

Significant U.K. developments include another 18 holes at Three Rivers Golf Club in Essex, designed by European Golf Design, which opened June 23. Castle Royle Golf Club in Berkshire has been treated to a new clubhouse to replace the converted barn, which has served up until now. The new building will be officially opened Saturday, June 27. The Nizels Golf Club in Kent has undergone signifi-

Continued on page 42

PERSONNEL CORNER

Hiring necessitates different strokes for different golf folks

By VINCE ALFONSO JR.

Vince Sr.'s philosophy of being a manager is simple: Never ask an employee to do anything you would not do yourself.

He carried that philosophy through his days as owner of his grocery store, Weona #88, to his head professional days at Bella Vista Country Club in Memphis, Tenn. Besides managing his employees, Dad cleaned clubs, fixed golf cars, sold clubs, vacuumed the shop, changed grips, etc., etc., etc.

Uncle Mario shared Dad's philosophy. So, when he left his grocery store, Weona #68, to become the builder and superintendent of Bella Vista, this philosophy and style of management came with him, also. Besides managing his employees, Uncle Mario fixed mowing and irrigation equipment, mowed greens and fairways, planted trees, etc., etc., etc.

Just in case you haven't figured it out on your own, I'm a lot (a whole lot) like Dad and Uncle Mario. I, too, have adopted their philosophy and style of management. I would never ask an employee to do anything I would not do myself.

Now, let's talk about how this particular philosophy and management style affects the hiring practices we use in hiring some of our key people.

You and I know that if you are from the old school, you hire golf professionals and superintendents expecting them to work as you do, hands on. We know they are going

Continued on page 44

OB Sports realigns top managers

SEATTLE, Wash.—OB Sports has realigned its top management staff, appointing Bob Marshall president of OB Sports/Northwest and Ed Francese president of OB Sports/Southwest.

Francese and Marshall, both long-time employees of the Seattle-based golf course develop-

ment and management firm, will be responsible for facilitating the company's growth and coordinating new golf course developments and management contracts within their respective regions.

Since 1972, Francese has excelled in all facets of the golf business. He was instrumental in the design, construction and

openings of three new golf facilities in Arizona and has operated daily-fee courses, private, and hotel/resort properties. Before assuming his current role, Francese worked for OB Sports as head golf professional at Angel Park Golf Club and director of golf at The Legacy Golf Club, both in Las Vegas. Currently he is coordinating the development of The Gallery in Tucson, Ariz., as well as

other new OB properties in Palm Springs, Calif., and Nevada.

Throughout his career, OB Sports co-founder Bob Marshall has worked in almost every aspect of golf course management. His diversified abilities were fully exhibited by his performance as director of golf, club manager and superintendent at Teton Pines Golf Club in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Marshall acted as project



manager and construction supervisor from inception and contributed significantly to the design of this highly regarded facility. With OB Sports, he was directly responsible for the "turnkey" development of The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, a 36-hole facility in Portland, Ore.

OB Sports operates, or is in the process of constructing, courses in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas.

In related personnel announcements:

Jeff Fought has been named project manager at Langdon Farms in Portland. Fought previously held head golf professional positions for OB Sports at Angel Park and at Langdon Farms.

Sean Cracraft has been named project manager for The Reserve, a 36-hole facility designed, built and managed by OB Sports in Aurora, Ore. He previously served as head professional for OB Sports at Angel Park and Teton Pines and as head superintendent at Langdon Farms.

Wade Dunagan was appointed project manager for The Gallery at Dove Mountain, a new 18-hole course and residential community opening in Tucson this November.

Clubhaus

Continued from page 41

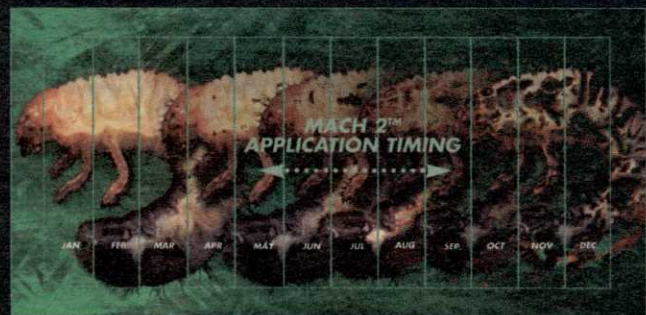
cant upgrading.

Elsewhere in Europe, the Forêt de Montpensier club in Vichy, France had a new clubhouse open in May, making the club fully operational.

March 1998 saw the launch of Clubhaus' own brand of golf merchandise ranging from clothing to clubs under the brand name 'Ikarus.'

Jonathan Talbot-Weiss of Clubhaus' group marketing and sales confirmed chairman Bourne's plans for the immediate future. "We have no plans for further expansion at the moment. We shall continue to focus on the UK and Germany. We believe that the long-term trend for these areas is positive. The German golf market is robust and growing. With three courses already in place there, eventual further expansion is a natural progression for us as we will need very little further infrastructure."

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ClubCorp establishes European beach head

As golf club management companies edge inexorably closer to Europe, having largely conquered the United States and been extremely active in Asia, many are anxiously wondering what the future holds. "Carpetbaggers" or "Salvation Army"? Thomas J. Henner, director of European Operations for International Group of ClubCorp, spoke with Trevor Ledger, International Bureau Chief of Golf Course News (GCN) International.

GCN: Where is ClubCorp International based in Europe?

Henner: Eighteen months ago we had the good fortune to purchase the Drift Golf Club in East Horsley, Surrey, England. We have based our European operation there but, with the recent position that ClubCorp has taken in the European Tour Course Group, this might be changing.

GCN: Are you purely a golf management company?

Henner: Golf management is one of the business relationships we consider. However the majority of our business is in either outright ownership or joint-venture partnerships structured in a variety of ways. The basis of our business is primarily private members' clubs, resorts which encompass golf, city and athletic clubs.

GCN: ClubCorp recently acquired the majority share in PGA European Tour Courses. Is this a step toward "cornering the market" of golf courses?

Henner: Considering that in the United States we host a variety of PGA Tour, LPGA Tour, Senior Tour and Nike Tour events at some of our properties, the relationship with European Tour Courses can provide a unique blend of specific areas of expertise from each of the major partners. As regards "cornering the market," our goal in Europe is to be involved with quality facilities in good locations with strong membership. We are not a wholesale buyer. Our real value, that which we bring to the table as a company, is the belief that we are in the membership business and our relationships with the members of the clubs is of primary importance to us. It's impossible to pay that kind of attention to detail if you are in the business of mass buying.

GCN: So where are you planning to expand next?

Henner: We're working on some projects in Switzerland and Italy and we have a new club that opened in May just outside of Frankfurt. (Winnerod Golf Park). Golf in Germany is an emerging market. It is still growing and there are still thousands of people who want to learn how to play golf. They are anxious to play and enthusiastic about doing so.

GCN: South Africa?

Henner: We have two management contracts in South Africa: one in Durban (Mount Edgecombe Country Club) and one in Pretoria (Silver Lakes Country Club). We are optimistic about South African opportunities and our initial mode of entrance was via management which has en-

abled us to get into the country, understand the culture and the customs and find out what opportunities exist for us.

GCN: Multi-course management companies are well established in the United States. Do you see that as the way forward for Europe?

Henner: While we have ev-

ery intention of growing our base of business in Europe, we will still evaluate each club as an individual opportunity. I would question whether you can buy a lot of courses without compromising relationships (with staff and the membership) and deliver consistently high levels of service. To be effective we have to become involved in the local communities. That takes time.

GCN: You have an office in Singapore, what do you think is going to happen in Asia now?

Henner: Obviously it's going to be a while before things stabilize. We will maintain our office in Singapore as we have several quality clubs in the Far East and are developing two new clubs in the Philippines. It's been good to us and future opportunities will present themselves.

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NGP ACQUIRES GOLF COURSES IN MINNEAPOLIS

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — National Golf Properties Inc. has acquired Majestic Oaks Golf Club and Woodland Creek Golf Course in Minneapolis for approximately \$12.5 million from a local businessman. National Golf will lease Majestic Oaks and Woodland Creek to American Golf Corp. Majestic Oaks Golf Club consists of two championship, 18-hole courses, a 9-hole executive length course, a driving range and clubhouse capable of accommodating more than 500 guests. Woodland Creek Golf Course offers a 9-hole executive-length course, driving range and clubhouse.

Alfonso

Continued from page 41

to manage employees, but we expect them to be directly involved in doing some of the actual work as well. In other words, we expect to see them in the trenches, daily, with their people.

All of us old schoolers need to face, what for us is, a shocking reality. Some golf professionals and golf course superintendents manage

their people so well, they are never seen doing the work of the people they are managing. Honest. I have seen it with my own eyes.

At my first golf course, for instance, where I was golf professional and general manager, the owner came in one morning and found the superintendent sitting at a table in our snack bar drinking coffee. Well, being a real hands-on guy, he, more or less,

Vince Alfonso Jr. is a 40-year golf-industry veteran, president of Alfonso Creative Enterprises Inc., and owner/PGA professional at Kimberling Golf Course near Branson, Mo. He can be reached at 417-739-4370.

chewed the super out for taking it easy while his employees were out there working away.

After Mr. X had finished, the superintendent, very calmly, asked the owner to point out any deficiencies on the course or in the budget. The owner could think of none. At this point, the superintendent said, 'You see Mr. X, you are not paying me to hit with the hammer; you are paying me to know where to hit.'

He continued to point out that if Mr. X expected him to actually do the work, he had chosen the wrong man. He was a seasoned veteran and had truly done it all, but he had taken this job to manage the upkeep of the course, not to keep up the course himself.

I encountered an owner once who was upset with his golf professional because he said the professional was never at his shop. After getting all the details, it seems the shop was meeting the owner's financial goals, the staff seemed happy and the customers seemed happy, too. It was the owner who was unhappy.

You see, being a hands-on guy, he felt the professional should be spending more time at the shop. However, the professional's presence at the shop was not spelled out in his employment arrangement and, therefore, I had no choice but to comment that the guy must be a great manager of people because, he was definitely doing the job he was hired to do, whether or not he was there as much as the owner thought he should be.

All of us old-school, hands-on management types have got to realize that there are these wonderful people out there who literally have the ability to motivate, train and manage people in such a way that their presence is not required (nearly as much as we think it should be) to keep things running smoothly. The truth is, if the ink is the right color, and folks are happy, and we didn't spell out how much time they had to be present and accounted for when we hired them, then there really is no problem.

You can pay people to hit with the hammer, or to know where to hit, or to know where to hit and to actually hit. The choice is yours. You simply have to be sure you know the kind of individual you are looking for and spell out your desires clearly before you hire.

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Membership directors talk the talk

GALENA, Ohio — Superintendents are not the only staff members being called on to know the intricacies of the course in order to excel in their position.

Directors of membership marketing for new courses under construction are carefully studying architects' design specs, inquiring about different types of grasses and studying irrigation and drainage plans to be able to paint a clear picture for prospective new members of private clubs.

Bauer Voss Consulting, Inc. of Galena, a club marketing consulting firm, helps new private clubs hire membership marketing directors and has integrated "Golf Course Construction and Maintenance" into the company's 90-plus-page training manual. Membership directors are required to know about course yardage, grass types, irrigation systems, design and maintenance philosophy.

Heidi Voss, president of Bauer Voss Consulting, said: "It is just like selling any other type of product. You have to know it inside and out and you have to believe in it and be committed to it."

Voss often places directors in clubs six months to a year prior to the course breaking ground. The Ledges of Huntsville Mountain in Alabama enrolled 325 memberships prior to breaking ground. Natalie Rushing, the membership director, can't turn to the superintendent or course pro to explain the course since they are not on board yet.

"The director," Voss said, "must be able to paint a picture of the course for the prospective member and create a high level of enthusiasm that will encourage new members to sponsor friends."

Beth Gilfillin, director of membership for The Reserve Club in Pawleys Island, S.C., had a background selling golf packages to tourists for a local resort.

Stepping into membership was an easy move for her. Gilfillin networks with her members and encourages them to extend invitations to prospects to come out for a tour of the Greg Norman course scheduled to open this fall.

"If I can get them in for a tour, they will join," Gilfillin predicted. "Once people see this course and realize how different we are from others in the area, they are hooked."

Early on, Gilfillin used her own 4X4 Tahoe to get prospective members out on the site. With the cart paths in, she uses a cart or walks with prospects. "People are always astonished," she added, "when I can tell them about the different types of grasses that were used for this project."

Gilfillin made sure that she was close by to observe Norman when he visited. She also visits extensively with project manager Rick Ryan.

Another director who has succeeded in enrolling new members by touring them through the course under construction is Erin Walling of Fieldstone Golf Club in Greenville, Del. Walling brings prospects on a rough-and-tumble ride through 184 rolling acres that will soon accommodate a Hurdzan/Fry Golf Design course. The course broke ground March 31 and officially hosted its first Member/Guest Dirt Tournament on May 16.

"Five holes were shaped out and playable and the members and their friends just had a blast," Walling said.

Because the construction is not visible from the club offices, Walling said it is very difficult for prospective members to understand that if they go on the tour they are going to be able to visualize the course. One couple who had an appointment pulled in and sat in the car for about 10 minutes, then came in and just asked for a brochure. Walling convinced them to go for a short ride. An hour later she had to pull them away from the rock walls that have been built on holes 6 and 13. They joined and



Membership consultant Heidi Voss.

are excited to be a part of the club.

Voss tries to arm directors with knowledge about the course and encourages them to make friends with the architects and course construction company employees so that they are updated on changes that are taking place on the course. On a recent visit to Fieldstone, architects Dana Fry and Dave Whelchel of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Design allowed Walling to tag along on a walk with the owners and course builder Niebur Golf. Walling picked up a great deal of information that she will be able to share with members and prospects.

Being married to a superintendent, Voss has a special interest in turf. "I noticed nine years ago when I met my husband," she said, "that my presentation to prospective members greatly improved and, in turn, so did my sales. It was more than just talking golf, it was a genuine desire to learn more about my product and to be able to put it in simple terms that the prospective member could understand."

Voss attends Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conferences with her husband and participates in the lecture series. "I hope many more superintendents will take the club director under their wing and teach them about maintenance practices," Voss said. "I don't think they necessarily have to propose marriage."

Mgt. co. phone numbers

Company	Telephone	Company	Telephone
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American Golf Corp.	310-664-4000	KSL Fairways	703-330-5300
American Skiing Co.	207-824-3000	KSL Recreation	619-564-1088
Arnold Palmer Mgt.	407-876-6700	Landmark Golf Co.	619-776-6688
Arvida Co.	561-479-1100	Legacy Golf Management	770-218-0040
Billy Casper Mgt.	703-761-1444	LinksCorp	847-441-1010
Brassie Golf Corp.	813-621-4653	Lyon Golf LLC	602-953-6553
Brightstone Mgt.	409-856-4233	Marriott Golf	407-206-6257
Buena Vista Hospitality	813-221-7535	Martty Golf Mgt.	504-769-1616
Carefree Resorts	602-953-6400	Masters Golf Corp.	407-841-4800
Carolinas Golf Group	919-571-8091	Matrix Hospitality	908-521-2900
Classic Golf Group	941-299-0900	Maxwell Golf Group	601-978-3795
Classic Golf Mgt.	770-528-0799	MDJ Management	714-528-1185
Club Consultants Inc.	210-828-8100	Meadowbrook Golf	310-274-3999
Club Resorts	972-888-7321	National Fairways Inc.	203-861-0080
ClubCorp	972-888-7321	New England Golf Corp.	617-326-5717
ClubLink	905-841-3730	Nitto America Co. Ltd.	310-477-5111
Cobblestone Golf Group	619-794-2602	O.B. Sports	503-678-4330
Colorado Golf Mgt.	970-468-0681	Paloma Golf Group	619-793-1980
Continental Golf	612-929-3255	Professional Golf Mgt.	404-233-4487
Corcoran-Jennison	508-896-8666	RDC Golf Mgt.	201-257-3020
CourseCo Inc.	707-763-0335	Riverside Golf Mgt.	904-356-1000
Crown Golf Properties	847-832-1800	Scratch Golf Co.	803-686-6000
Dakota Golf Mgt.	605-367-7092	Shaker Golf Corp.	513-821-1990
Del Webb Corp.	602-808-8000	Signature Golf Int'l	904-753-7000
Destination Hotels	303-799-3830	Southwest Golf	702-736-2222
		SunCor Development	602-285-6800
		Troon Golf Mgt.	602-606-1000
		Western Golf Properties	602-483-8914
Duke Mgt. Services	800-631-5182		
Edwin B. Raskin Co.	615-373-9400		
Empire Golf Inc.	916-354-3040		
Environmental Golf	818-223-8500		
Evergreen Alliance Golf	972-915-3673		
Foothills Golf	818-637-7734		
Fore Star Golf	806-762-3673		
Franklin Golf Properties	954-429-0006		
Friel Golf Management	603-882-8893		
Golden Bear Club Serv.	561-227-0450		
Golf Communities	407-245-7557		
Golf Enterprises	310-664-4000		
Golf Resources Inc.	214-831-9200		
Golf Services Group	281-955-6263		
Golf Trust of America	803-723-4653		
GolfSouth	864-255-4653		
Gotham Golf Partners	305-463-0463		
Granite Golf Group	800-903-5051		
Greenlinks	615-373-3200		
H.G. Properties	317-580-2655		
Hyatt Hotels Corp.	312-750-1234		
In Celebration Golf Mgt.	602-951-4444		
International Golf Group	203-259-7272		
International Golf Mgt	941-686-2376		
Intrawest Corp.	604-669-9777		
IRI Golf Group	214-424-4546		
ISS Golf Services	352-365-1379		
Jemsek Golf	708-287-5872		
John Jacobs Group	602-991-8587		

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Medallist

Continued from page 1

have formed an international joint venture — Medallist Troon Golf Management. Medallist Troon will operate in Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

"There are some deals in the works that should be signed shortly in Australia, which is really where this whole thing started," said Timothy

Greenwell, Troon's vice president of sales and marketing.

Medallist Golf Development is an international joint venture between Macquarie Bank Limited and Great White Shark Enterprises. With offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne in Australia and Florida and New York in the United States, Medallist is structured to develop, own and operate real estate-driven golf and residential de-

velopments throughout the world.

Great White Shark Enterprises, the business arm of Greg Norman, has six operating divisions: golf course design and construction, turf merchandising, events ownership and management, licensing and Medallist Golf Developments. Norman has designed courses in eight Asia Pacific countries.

"Medallist Troon is an appropriate line extension to our develop-

ment business in Medallist," Norman said. The dynamics of the Australian market and the markets throughout Asia will each require independent approaches and vision of service. Our alliance with Troon Golf has uniquely positioned us to take advantage of the opportunity."

Macquarie is a leading Australian investment bank. Said Macquarie Executive Director Bill Moss: "The Medallist Troon ven-

ture will provide sound financial and management consulting services to the Australian and Asian golf market. In particular, the current Asian economic crisis provides a very real opportunity for existing owners to differentiate their golf course through the combined strength of Medallist and Troon."

Troon has more than 40 management/development contracts in 10 states and four countries.

Even though Medallist Troon will be based in Sydney, the firm expects to do the bulk of its business in Asia. "Based on what's going on in the Asian market with the depressed economy, we've done some legwork in Japan and Asia and found some huge opportunities there," Greenwell added.

Troon representative Paul Stringer and a representative from Medallist met for 10 days recently with Japanese banks that have notes on Asian, particularly Japanese, courses that are in bankruptcy. "There are quite a few apparently," Greenwell said. "Even though it's a complicated issue, with the banks trying to get their money back from the courses and the members having spent a lot of money, there are great opportunities there."

The American concept of daily-fee golf, where a golfer plays his round and then goes home to another activity, is relatively new to Japan and the rest of Asia, Greenwell said. But it is growing and Medallist Troon hopes to take advantage of that growth.

"Golf is a full-day affair there," Greenwell explained. "The typical Japanese businessman gets up in the morning, drives to the course, has a big breakfast, plays nine holes, has a big lunch, plays nine more holes and then sticks around for the rest of the evening for a big banquet. A new culture is emerging that has experienced the American version of golf where you go play and then go home. That's a component we're trying to bring there. Paul found that experience to be in high demand. It's just a matter of getting the golf courses so that you can provide that experience."

While the Medallist Troon arrangement is specifically formed for the Asia, Australia and Middle East regions, the groups expect to occasionally join forces for the development of projects in the North American market.

Troon entered the European market earlier this year with its agreement to operate Turnberry in Scotland. But Medallist Troon will likely stay out of Europe, Greenwell said.

"The joint venture that created Medallist Troon," Greenwell explained, "consisted of Great White Shark Enterprises and Macquarie Bank. That company operates in other parts of the world outside Australia, Asia and the Middle East. They may already have partners there. So, Troon Golf will continue to expand in Europe, but not as part of the Medallist Troon partnership."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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BRIEFS



NOVARTIS PROMOTES OSBORNE

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products has promoted Jerry Osborne, former golf market manager, to the position of business development manager.



Jerry Osborne

Osborne's responsibilities will include developing new business opportunities with third-party companies through strategic acquisitions and alliances; growing the turf and ornamental business by working with large national accounts and management companies; improving internal processes such as new product launches; and negotiating with channel partners to maximize product portfolio sales in all market segments.

JACKLIN ADDS MEACHAM TO STAFF

BOISE, Idaho—Travis Meacham has joined Jacklin Seed as a grower services field representative for Jacklin's Ritzville, Wash., operation. Meacham's responsibilities will be placing and contracting Kentucky bluegrass proprietary varieties for Jacklin Seed and Medalist America. He will also focus on field consulting with growers, assuring quality control from the grower to the customer.

CHR. HANSEN NAMES NEW SOUTHEASTERN MANAGER

MILWAUKEE, Wisc.—Chr. Hansen BioSystems recently appointed Tom Perkins as regional manager for the Southeastern U.S. Perkins will be working with distributors with a focus on developing new business in both the Probios and Biomate Brand product lines. He was most recently vice president of sales and marketing at H&N International, and for many years was with PMAg Products.

KUBOTA MAKES THREE MOVES ACROSS THE POND

THAME, Oxfordshire, England — Kubota UK Ltd. has made three new appointments within its Agricultural and Grass Machinery division. Adrian Langmead is appointed as service manager at company headquarters in Thame; Tom Barnes, 13 years with Kubota, has been appointed marketing manager; and stepping into Barnes' shoes is David Roberts who has been with the company for eight years.

Toro hooks up with Carnoustie

By TREVOR LEDGER

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — In preparation for the 1999 British Open, Carnoustie Golf Links has signed a three-year working partnership deal with turf-care provider Toro. The deal, worth more than £380,000, includes the supply of Toro turf-maintenance equipment and on-site support for the Open Championship, Carnoustie's first since 1975.

Head greenkeeper at Carnoustie, John Philp, had been impressed by Toro machinery at his previous berth, St. Andrews, where he had prepared for the 1984 Open. "I chose Toro based on my past experience," said Philp. "I know the products and am particularly keen on the greens and fairways mowers."

While all three Carnoustie courses are renowned for their excellence, the publicly owned links on the North East coast of Scotland has many of the same problems as other, less illustrious tracks.

Consider that the course sees around 50,000 rounds per year and the scale of Philp's task becomes apparent.

Philp's new Toro fleet will include: seven GR3200-D greensmowers; one RM2300-D utility mower; two RM5300-D fairway mowers; a GM3000-d for cutting semi-roughs and five of the new GR1600 pedestrian mowers for tees and greens collars. In addition will be six GR500 pedestrian greensmowers on order for the Open.



Carnoustie Golf Links' superintendent John Philp, left, with new Toro equipment and his team (left to right) of Colin Law, Paul O'Connor, Brian Rooke, Eric Watson and Sandy Reid.

St. Andrews Links inks deal with Barenbrug



(Left to right): St. Andrews' Links Manager Ian Forbes and Michel Mulder, managing director of Barenbrug UK.

OOSTERHOUT, Holland/ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — St. Andrews Links Trust has appointed Barenbrug UK as its exclusive supplier of grass seed and related products, such as wild flowers.

The trend of 'single-supplier deals' in the machinery market has been well documented — St. Andrews and Toro being a recent example.

Michel Mulder, managing director of Barenbrug UK, concedes that: "This is the first official deal which is subject to a contract but we have very similar arrangements, with many other courses, Carnoustie for example."

St. Andrews Links Manager Ian Forbes is looking forward to the opportunities that the exclusive supplier deal will bring. "We will also be entering into an education programme with Barenbrug for our greenkeeping staff, looking into specialist areas of turf care."

SUPPLIER BUSINESS BUZZ

MTD launches Pro Line turf equipment

CLEVELAND, Ohio — At last month's Outdoor Power Equipment Expo in Louisville, Ky., MTD Products Inc., an international manufacturer of outdoor power equipment, debuted its MTD Pro line of professional lawn-care products, including wide-area mowers and turf-maintenance equipment.

While the company has yet to target the golf industry in its marketing strategy, the company appears to be well positioned to make a move into the market.

MTD's new Pro Line consists of gear drive and dual hydrostatic mowers. Its gear-drive models have deck sizes ranging from 32", 36", 48" to 52".

MTD's full line for turf includes wide-area mowers, trimming mowers, blowers, over-seeders and aerators as well as hand-held power tools, spreaders and sprayers.

Sky's the limit for John Deere Co.

CHARLESTOWN, Mass. — According to a recent report in *The Boston Globe*, John Deere Co. has acquired Player Systems Corp., the developer and manufacturer of Sky Links, a GPS-driven player positioning system for golf cars.

Under the new arrangement, Player Systems will become John Deere Golf Technologies Inc., a new division of Deere. All manufacturing, distribution and marketing will continue in Player's current Charlestown location.

Player Systems has 30 employees and sales offices in California, Florida, Michigan and Washington, D.C.. The company also maintains software developers in Connecticut, New York and Florida.

The Sky Links system is installed in 30 courses across the country at an average cost of \$250,000. Player Systems reports that it did \$5 million in sales last year.

Simplot combines seed/fert. businesses

BOISE, Idaho — The J.R. Simplot Company has combined its grass seed and professional turf and horticultural fertilizer businesses.

Jacklin Seed of Post Falls, Idaho, and the BEST brand fertilizer business of Lathrop, Calif., will now operate as Simplot Turf and Horticultural Products. It will be marketer of seed, fertilizer and related services to the professional turf and horticultural market — this includes golf, landscape, sod, com-

mercial nurseries and general turf.

Doyle Jacklin, president of Jacklin Seed, assumes the title of president of the newly-formed entity. Wayne Burk will continue to manage the BEST operations as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Fertilizer Products, reporting to Jacklin.

"Our goal is to be a major international supplier of products and services to the turfgrass and horticultural in-

Continued on page 49

Itronics turns byproduct into gold

RENO, Nev. — Itronics Inc. announced that its photobyproduct recycling subsidiary, Itronics Metallurgical, Inc., increased sales of its Gold'n Gro liquid fertilizer products by approximately 70 percent in the second quarter of fiscal year 1998 compared to total fiscal year 1997 sales.

Itronics develops a fertilizer in a proprietary process from used photochemicals. Its technology allows the recovery of virtually 100 percent of the silver and other heavy metals in used photographic chemicals.

Gold'n Gro is sold to several major lawn-service companies in northern and central California and to more than 25 golf courses in central and southern California at present.

"In January 1998 only two golf courses were using our fertilizer. Currently a number of additional golf courses are testing this fertilizer and we expect sales to con-

Continued on page 48

AgrEvo takes to the Web

MONTVALE, N.J.—AgrEvo Environmental Health has announced the availability of a new source of information for industry professionals with the introduction of the company's green industry website at www.agrevo-green.com.

According to George Raymond, marketing man-

ager, AgrEvo Green Industry, the website posts information on the company's complete line of products for the green industry. The site will also include timely information as well as recent articles from the company's newsletter for golf course superintendents.

Pennington ready with seed guide

MADISON, Ga. — The ink is still drying on the newest publication from Pennington Seed Inc. A collaborative effort by staff agronomists has resulted in the first edition of the Professional Turfgrass Seed Guide. The guide was developed with the information needs of golf course architects, landscape architects and specifiers of turfgrass in mind.

The color binder features more than 20 pages and is organized into tabbed sections on cool-season turfgrasses, warm-season turfgrasses and specialty seed items. Each section contains comprehensive planting and usage charts with English and metric measurements, variety descriptions and characteristics and variety specifications.

Griffin formalizes new team

VALDOSTA, Ga.—Griffin L.L.C. has announced the formation of the new business team for its specialty products groups. The team will be headed by Owen Towne, global business director.

Joining the team are Jimmy Whatley, business director; Joe Mares, product development manager for insect control; Trey Warnock, sales manager for turf, nursery and ornamentals; and M.C. McCloud, sales manager for aquatics. David King is assigned technical support manager.

Scotts' Golden Eagle ready to ship

MARYSVILLE, Ohio—Golden Eagle fungicide, Scotts Fertilizer plus Golden Eagle by The Scotts Company are now available for shipment. Golden Eagle is a systemic fungicide containing the active ingredient myclobutanil to prevent and control turfgrass diseases. Scotts Fertilizer plus Golden Eagle uses Scotts Contec fertilizer technology to feed all types of turfgrass while controlling diseases with one application.

Itronics

Continued from page 47

tinue to grow rapidly in the third quarter," said Dr. John Whitney, Itronics president and CEO.

Gold'n Gro fertilizer is now sold through Western Farm Services Inc.'s (WFS) California Turf and Ornamental sales group. WFS is one of the largest fertilizer retailers in the western U.S.

In July WFS began manufacturing Gold'n Gro 8-12-9, a plant starter product, and Gold'n Gro 20-1-7, which has been ranked the #1 fertilizer two years in a row by the University of California Riverside. "The new manufacturing process went smoothly and the bulk manufacturing and distribution agreement between Itronics Metallurgical and WFS, which was signed in March 1998, is operational," Whitney said.

"Itronics is now focusing on completing the financing for its move into a new manufacturing facility in Reno/Stead, Nevada," Whitney said. "The present goal is to be operating in the new facility in mid-September."

SAND BARRENS GOLF COURSE, NEW JERSEY



When your greens are seeded with L-93, golfers will go through almost anything to reach them.

At Sand Barrens Golf Club, you'll find 25 acres of sandy waste standing between you and the greens. But once you get past the sand, you're rewarded with the greenest, most uniform putting surfaces ever created. As a new course, the Sand Barrens needed a hardy, dense turfgrass that would establish and green-up quickly. That's why they chose to cover their five acres of greens with Lofts' L-93.

L-93 features improved resistance to numerous turfgrass diseases such as dollar

spot, gray snow mold and brown patch. So it requires less fungicide in certain conditions than most other creeping bentgrasses. Its upright vertical growth and aggressive establishment helps prevent spike marks. And it's been ranked #1 overall best performing creeping bentgrass variety for the past two years.

So the next time your greens, tees or fairways need seeding, give L-93 a try. You won't believe how many golfers will come out to watch it perform.

"L-93's grow-in performance surpassed all of my expectations. Its quickness of establishment and upright growth habit are quite impressive."

Steve Malikowski,
Golf Course Superintendent
The Sand Barrens
Clermont, NJ



L-93 vs. COMPETITION	
Overall Turfgrass Quality Ratings	
1996 NTEP Trials, Putting Greens	
L-93	6.6
Penn A-4	6.5
Providence	6.3
Penn G-6	6.2
Pennlinks	5.9
SR 1020	5.9
Regent	5.8
Pro/Cup	5.7
Penncross	5.4

Turfgrass Quality Ratings: 9 = Ideal Turf
LSD = 0.2
Page 8

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Simplot

Continued from page 47

dustries," said Jacklin. "We believe this merger will strengthen both product lines and make us more attractive and responsive to our customers."

Jacklin Seed, acquired by Simplot in September, 1997, is a national and global marketer of grass seeds with production and conditioning facilities in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Georgia.

The professional turf and horticultural products business was formerly a component of the Simplot Minerals and Chemical Group. Under the BEST and APEX brands, this business markets products for golf courses, landscapers, parks, schools and commercial nurseries.

Simplot President Steve Beebe said the new organization positions the company to take advantage of the natural synergies that exist between these two product lines. "From a marketing standpoint, Jacklin has extensive dis-

tribution in North and South America, Europe and Asia, while BEST products command a dominant position in the western United States professional turf industry," he said.

Through the BEST business, this new organization has marketing rights for polymer-coated fertilizers produced by Pursell Technologies Inc., Sylacauga, Ala., in the western United States, Pacific Rim and Asia.

Beebe said the merger will not affect the brands, labels or production facilities for the products involved. "The immediate focus will be on coordinating our marketing efforts," he said.

4TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CHINA AND HONG KONG GOLF SHOW SET FOR OCTOBER

SHENZHEN, China — The 4th annual International China and Hong Kong Golf Show will be held on October 4 and 5. The two-day conference will feature 18 internationally acclaimed speakers representing the golf industry of the world. Conducted in English and Mandarin, the conference will be the biggest and most comprehensive of its kind ever held in China. Speakers will include representatives from the Jack Nicklaus Group, Robert Trent Jones Design, Beijing University, The Ronald Fream Design Group, Ransomes, E-Z-GO, John Deere Golf & Turf, Nicole Miller. Sixteen countries will be represented.

China Golf '98 will take place at the Shenzhen International Exhibition and Conference Center, October 6-8.

FROM THE COVER

Abbott Labs

Continued from page 1

-tiating factor," said Joe Maliekal, product manager of bionematicides at Abbott. "DiTera is a biological. It's naturally occurring, so it controls nematodes without all the restrictions of traditional chemicals. Studies have shown that it doesn't have any adverse effects on mammals, environment or other beneficial nematodes."

Aside from killing adult and juvenile nematodes in the soil, the company said that depending on the concentration, DiTera can also inhibit hatching and development of nematode eggs, modify the behavioral orientation of nematodes to plant roots and alter the plant's rhizosphere microbiology.

"There are no restrictions on the amount that can be applied or the number of applications per year, unlike the chemical nematicides," said Maliekal.

For superintendents, Maliekal said that DiTera can be worked into an existing IPM program with little problem. "The only recommendation we have is that superintendents use DiTera as a stand-alone," he said. "Right now, we're not recommending that it be tank-mixed with other insecticides or fertilizers."

Abbott's research has found that DiTera is effective against root-knot, cyst, lesion, stubby root and sting.

Although this marks Abbott's first official move into the golf market, the company's DiPel product has seen some limited use on golf courses for the control of army worms.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Big Worm Problem.

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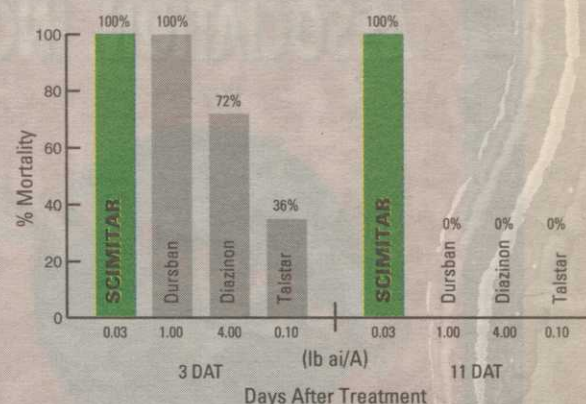
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Residual Control of Fall Armyworm on Common Bermudagrass



Source: J. Reinart, Texas A&M University, Dallas, TX, 1996.

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ZENECA Professional Products

CIRCLE #137

ProStar 70WP contains 40% more active ingredient

AgrEvo has announced that its new formulation ProStar 70WP Fungicide Contains 40 percent more active ingredient than its original ProStar 50WP formulation. According to George Raymond, Marketing Manager, AgrEvo Green Industry, the higher concentration of active ingredient in ProStar 70WP results in the need for less product to achieve the same effective control and smaller-sized packaging.

Additionally, Raymond said, ProStar 70WP Fungicide contains 38 percent less carrier and more wetting agents and dispersants, which enhance fungicide distribution and ease of use.

The company said that these properties make ProStar 70WP easier to mix and handle, with the same effectiveness at use rates as low as 1.5 ounces per 1000 square feet. For more information, contact 302-892-3000.

CIRCLE #201

Biobarrier ready with Root Control

Biobarrier's new Root Control System prevents roots from damaging hardscapes and landscapes by re-directing their growth. Installed between tree roots and the area to be protected.

Biobarrier is a geotextile landscape fabric with permanently embedded nodules. Biobarrier will fit the contours of the site and can be used along a sidewalk to maximize the soil space available for roots. For more information, contact 615-847-7000.

CIRCLE #202

ELMCO adds Royal Ride

ELMCO's new Royal Ride Sport LE Commercial Golf Cart is the industry's first commercial luxury golf cart. The Royal Ride Sport comes with either a 48-volt electric or 9 horsepower, 4-cycle gas power system. The luxury features on the Royal Ride include a hinged windshield, dual headlights and plenty of space in its built-in cooler/storage area for golf equipment. It's mounted on the all-aluminum Club Car chassis and has triple re-enforced body panels. For more information, contact 800-749-3533.

CIRCLE #203

GUEST COMMENTARY: PUBLIC ACCESS AROUND THE WORLD

Germany

Continued from page 10

tive courses are popping up around many of the larger cities in Germany, employing the philosophy of convenience and access.

The land required for a conventional 18-hole course necessarily pushes the clubs further away from cities and Autobahn connections. Given that it takes, on average, 1 hour to travel to the course followed by, say, 5 hours playing time, a round of golf takes up the greater portion of an entire day.

Whereas, a centrally located executive course with good traffic connections cuts traveling time in half and then one is not

obligated to 18 holes. Instead it could be a bucket of balls with the possibility of 6 holes in order to catch a little exercise after work and still be home in time for dinner.

There is a beautifully designed 6-hole executive course with driving range near Dortmund called Golfen in Herdecke: this business venture has recently opened and provides a wide-ranging clientele with the opportunity to try golf, practice and simply enjoy the game.

High quality is the benchmark in the German golf market with companies such as Paragon of London having developed wonderful facilities in association with horse racing tracks using

the otherwise useless land in the middle of the circuit for golf.

These executive courses are filling a lucrative niche as both business opportunities and accessible, convenient golf facilities for a broader and eager public.

In the highly competitive tourist industry a wide spectrum of attractions is key to success. Many of the mineral bath resorts throughout Germany are now expanding to include golf in their leisure armoury. The traditional perception of the Spas is one of passive and inactive leisure. The modern visitor is demanding active involvement in their leisure break, with exercise and beautiful environment being prerequisite.

Golf sits snugly in this scenario.

Resort hotels, complete with golf academies are offering package deals which introduce guests to the sport or allow the more experienced players to improve their golf under the tutelage of highly qualified instructors.

Again the benefits are twofold — the exposure of golf to new players along with playing opportunities for non club members. As the economics of supply and demand continue to determine the future of the golf industry in Germany, further development of public golf facilities is imperative.

Access is essential in fostering a growing market. Public golf is evolving in a different manner to the traditional municipal golf courses, but the net result is much the same — bringing this wonderful sport to the enjoyment of everyone while making a little money along the way.

For further information on Public Golf in Germany contact Thomas Adkisson, Freier Landschaftsarchitekt, Heinrich-Wieland-Allee 60b, 75177 Pforzheim, Germany. Tel: 0049-7231-140 050.

Leslie comment

Continued from page 10

• The ink. Probably it is soy-based. Farmers use pesticides to produce soy beans, right? Certainly more was used per soybean plant than Augusta National uses on its grass (read on and learn).

• The press. Think of all the energy that was used to run the presses. Again, was it coal-, nuclear-, or water-generated?

• Circulation. Transportation by truck, train or airplane uses gasoline, oil and various other resources.

• Feel free, bright students, to add to this list of environmental impacts.

Perhaps *Audubon Magazine* and Augusta National are on more even terms than people would think, eh?

But what is Augusta National's defense against claims, including one from a golf industry magazine editor, that they use "lots of pesticides"?

Club officials feel they are very environment-friendly.

First, Augusta National is closed five months a year, from mid-May to mid-October, during which time the course is maintained but not at tournament levels.

Second, to a great degree they use environment-friendly or no chemicals, for instance treating mole crickets with soapy water and ants with hot water.

Third, the very wealth of the club allows it to perform some functions in a better way than "average" courses. A weather radar system helps prevent pesticide applications when it is going to rain. The club has the manpower and equipment to do a lot of spot-spraying. Computer analysis is run on agronomic problems to identify a disease and determine how to treat it. And the maintenance crews recycle water and engine oil and have a special wash rack for golf carts.



Marsh Benson, who oversees the entire property, and golf course superintendent Brad Owen know they are under a global microscope for this most-watched television golf event. Thus they are extra cautious.

Now, would you like to answer the question: Does producing *Audubon Magazine* cause more impact on the environment than Augusta National Golf Club?

Armed with that answer, should we ask *Audubon Magazine* to cease publication?

...

Audubon Magazine contains an interesting disclaimer in tiny type in the masthead that declares: "The observations and opinions expressed in *Audubon Magazine* are those of the respective authors and should not be interpreted as representing the official views of the National Audubon Society."

Most of the known world of newspapers and magazines in democratic countries at least say they try to handle news in an unbiased manner. This is the first one I recall reading that acknowledges its contributing writers editorialize.

...

Audubon International President Ron Dodson, whose Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System for Golf Courses drew some praise in the *Audubon Magazine* article, defended the construction and maintenance of golf facilities.

"Is it possible to build a golf course and destroy habitat? Of course," he said. "But, personally, I've never been to a proposed golf course site that wasn't already decimated by or, at the very best, impacted by past human activity. It's either second- or third-growth forest, or an old pasture, or landfill. Yes, there is wildlife on it, but I'm telling you: Most of the golf courses being built that have to do an environmental impact statement, if they do continuous monitoring they find out that there are more species of wildlife on those courses after they build them than before they built them."

Dodson even said that when society has decided to develop a desert area, with all its pavement, houses and effluent water, the addition of a golf course can be a plus.

"From a wildlife point of view, a desert is an important ecosystem. There are a lot of reptiles and certain birds and sometimes endemic species of flowers and [nocturnal flying mammals] like bats. So there are a lot of reasons, from a biological point of view, that you do not want to disrupt the desert," he said.

With that said, and when the land is already being developed, "If they can build a course and keep the desert ecology functioning, you'll increase biodiversity."

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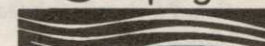
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- 12-13 — Penn State Turfgrass Field Days at University Park, Pa. Contact 814-863-3475.
18 — Cornell Golf Field Day in Ithaca, N.Y. Contact Frank Rossi at 607-255-1629.
19 — Michigan Turfgrass Field Days in East Lansing. Contact Kay Patrick at 517-321-1660.
25 — Guelph Turfgrass Institute Research Field Day and Turf Management Workshops. Contact Rob Witherspoon at 519-824-4120, Ext 6886.

September

- 7-10 — Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment annual meeting in Palm Beach, Fla. Contact 202-872-3860.
10-11 — Southwest Horticultural Trade Show in Phoenix. Contact Cheryl Goar at 602-966-1610.
17-21 — Florida Turfgrass Conference in Tampa. Contact 800-882-6721.
22-24 — Turf and Landscape Field Days in Blacksburg, Va. Contact David McKissack at 540-231-5897.

October

- 26-27 — Golf Course News' Public Golf Forum in Palm Springs, Calif. Contact GCN Conference Group at 207-846-0600.

November

- 1-3 — International Irrigation Expo in San Diego, Calif. Contact 703-573-3551.
1-3 — Georgia GCSA annual meeting at St. Simons Island. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.
4-6 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference in State College, Pa. Contact 814-863-3475.
9-12 — West Virginia GCSA Turf Conference and Show in Morgantown, W. Va. Contact Robert Maguire at 304-243-4154.
9-13 — New York State Turf & Grounds Exposition in Syracuse, N.Y. Contact 800-873-8873.
13-17 — Professional Lawn Care Association of America Annual Conference in Nashville, Tenn. Contact 800-458-3466.
16 - Dec. 11 — Turf Managers Short Course, University of Guelph, Ontario Canada. Contact Peggy Nagle at 519-824-4120, Ext. 3814.

December

- 7-10 — Ohio Turfgrass Conference in Columbus. Contact 614-760-5442.
8-10 — Georgia Turfgrass Show in Atlanta. Contact 770-975-4123.
9-11 — Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association Conference in Denver. Contact 303-770-2220.

1999

January

- 4-8 — Cornell University Golf Short Course in Ithaca, N.Y. Contact 607-255-1792.
5-7 — Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in Toronto. Contact Peggy Nagle at 519-824-4120, Ext. 3814.
7 — Northeast Turf and Grounds Exposition in Albany, N.Y. Contact NYSTA at 800-873-8873.
11-15 — Cornell Sports Turf Short Course in Ithaca, N.Y. Contact 607-255-1792.
25-26 — Turfgrass Water Workshop at University of Guelph, Ontario Canada. Contact Peggy Nagle at 519-824-4120.
27-29 — Midwest turf Expo in Indianapolis. Contact Zac Reicher at 765-494-8039.

February

- 1-26 — Turf Managers Short Course at University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Contact Peggy Nagle at 519-824-4120, Ext. 3814.
5-7 — 16th Annual Chicago Golf Show. Contact Ricky Iovino at 800-781-6083.

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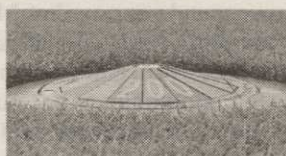
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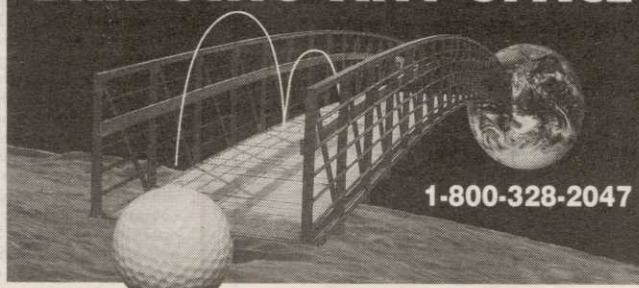
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121	FMAC Golf Finance Group	23
143	Formost Construction Co.	22
122	GCSAA	21
152	GCSinc./Golf Course Solutions	53
—	Golf World Exhibitions	32
107	Goulds Pumps, Inc.	26
153	Great Lakes Containment	53
123	Hancor	37
154	Harrington/Harco Corporation	52
124	IGM	39
108	Jacobsen	56
155	Jesco Products/Pinhigh	53
104	John Deere	4-5
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140	PBI/Gordon Corporation	38
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—	Public Golf Forum	14
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105	Zeneca Professional Products	6-7
137	Zeneca Professional Products	49

*Appears in regional edition.

Development Track

Continued from page 1

year's Public Golf Forum, the *Golf Course News*-sponsored business conference and expo for superintendents, owners, managers and developers of public-access golf facilities on October 26 & 27 at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort in Palm Springs, Calif. The Development Track, Management Track and Maintenance track will run concurrently over the two days.

This year's Development Track topics will cover everything from getting started on a new project, course renovation, new design concepts, permitting issues, even ways to control speed of play before the first spade of dirt is turned. The goal is to inspire a well-balanced course, one that is accessible, affordable, sustainable and profitable.

But before ground is broken and public golf can move forward, it's first things first, according to Public Golf Forum first-day keynoter Dr. Michael Hurdzan.

"You have to target your market and look at people who've had successes and failures in that market," said Hurdzan. "You don't want to build a \$4 million golf course in a market that can only afford a \$3 million golf course. But if the market is loaded with \$2 million golf courses maybe building a \$4 million golf course would

put you into a market niche that works."

From there, it's a matter of setting time and money budgets and sticking to them — easier said than done, added Hurdzan. "It's easy to let emotions get in the way and overspend your market," he said.

If you don't have a lot of acreage, an alternative form of golf might be the ideal first step into public golf. Course architects Tom Clark and Brian Ault will share their insights on the pitch-'n-putt course as a natural lead-in to regulation course development.

"We've specialized in a lot of these projects in the Mid-Atlantic region due to site restrictions," said Clark. "When you get into major metropolitan areas, you often don't have 180 acres to work with. The pitch-'n-putt becomes the best way to bring golf to a region. There are all sorts of alternative golf designs. We've actually seen some of them become more financially successful than an 18-hole regulation course."

According to Don Knott, a golf course architect working with Robert Trent Jones II, the pace-of-play issue is one that demands a near-perfect balance of design and management needs.

"The first thing you need to consider is total length of a course, which includes not only playing length, but distances between the greens and the next tee," said Knott, who will present a session on

design's impact on pace of play at Public Golf Forum. "If you have the option, you want to keep green-to-tee distances down or keep the length of the course down."

Related to length is the golf car issue. This is where the course owner will have to make some critical decisions up front.

"From a designer's point of view, we need to work with course management to find out if they're going to make players stay on the paths. If so, the closer the path is to the high-play areas the more time we can reduce," said Knott.

"Access for all" is the driving factor behind the work of William Judah and Jerry Harris, principals of Harris-Judah Limited Liability Co., a golf course design and construction firm (see related story on cover). Judah and Harris will use Public Golf Forum to share the nuts and bolts of their "barrier-free" golf course design that went into Glencoe Greens in Chesapeake, Va.

"A lot of people can play golf if given the opportunity," said Judah. "There are many types of handicaps and our course will not just be barrier-free for the handicapped, but for the elderly, the visually impaired and youth of the region."

Offering ramps to tees and greens and establishing accessible fairway waste bunkers are just part of what makes up the concept of "barrier free."

"New equipment is making courses more accessible to more people. We want to make sure that our course allows all products available today to traverse the golf course without having obstacles," said Judah.

If you're looking to renovate the old track to keep up with the new development down the street, Bob Lohmann, the American Society of Golf Course Architects' current president and principal of the course architecture firm Lohmann Golf Designs, has a few key points outlined for his session on completing a successful renovation.

"If you can't close your course for the year, the you have to do this work late in the year or in off times, in order to keep revenues flowing," said Lohmann. "We often suggest you bite the bullet and do it all at once. In that case, you can add the extra marketing push for your course when it comes time to reopen."

For more information on Public Golf Forum, please contact United Publications at 800-441-6982 ext. 262.

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'Barrier Free' design

Continued from page 1

the city's population.

"Employers and employees of this caliber like and desire golf facilities geared toward every skill level," said Warren Harris, spokesman for the Chesapeake department of economic development. According to Harris, both parties are about to get public golf — and get it in spades.

At the beginning of the year, Chesapeake, a city of 195,000, had only three golf courses inside its 353 square miles. Two of those three are private. Within the next year, an additional 72 public-access holes are scheduled to open, 18 of which developers/designers Harris-Judah Limited Liability Co. are calling 'barrier-free.'

"We've designed Glencoe Greens for the average golfer, a 16-18 handicapper, but at the same time, we've done everything we can to incorporate a 'barrier-free' design to help accommodate the disabled golfer," said William Judah, a partner on the 120-acre, \$3.5 million project.

The 'barrier-free' concept is the brainchild of partner Jerry Harris. Harris, the husband of an occupational therapist, has been involved in easy-access remodeling of homes and decided that the ideas translate into course design.

"On every tee box and every green we're working in a naturally ramped-up area so everybody can get up there and play," said Harris. "We're also going to have a lot of waste bunkers that are easy to get in and out of." The waste bunkers will allow the disabled player to drive carts in and out.

"While you're designing you have to keep one thing in mind: If I can't get out of my cart how can I hit the ball?" said Judah.

Harris and Judah also plan to provide spotters for the sight impaired and eventually add a full-time certified day-care provider to accommodate busy parents.

"We'll have them set up the snack bar, move the tables, break out the toys and let the moms go out on the course. We'll give them walkie talkies if they need to check in with kids," said Judah.

Another development aimed to fill the public golf void is Cahoon Plantation, which has 45 holes under construction. On more than 500 acres, Cahoon Plantation will offer 27 regulation holes, designed by Tom Clark, and an 18-hole pitch-'n-putt course by end of 1998.

"This is the single most impressive golf complex in the area," said Clark. "There's a golf hungry population and they're getting a lot of resort traffic."

The site is an old farm, so Clark was faced with a treeless, totally flat piece of land to shape. "We had to move several hundred thousand yards of dirt to give it some form and shape," said Clark.

In order to give Cahoon a 'links' feel, Clark decided to go with bentgrass on tees, fairways and greens as well as all around the greens so players can bump and run.

"It's unique in that fact that everything down here is usually Bermudagrass fairways," said Clark. "The course has great air circulation and plenty of sunlight, so bentgrass will do just fine. We're going for that 'mini-links look.'"

Wallace Cahoon, the project's developer, has plans for nine more Clark-designed holes as well as a condominium and convention center development.

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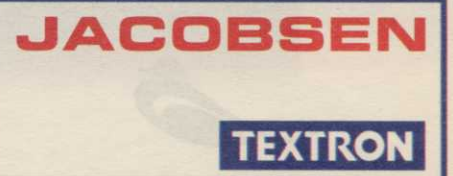
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