

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 8  
AUGUST 1998 • \$5.50

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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.

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## 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.,

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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

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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-

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## 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

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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

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