

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

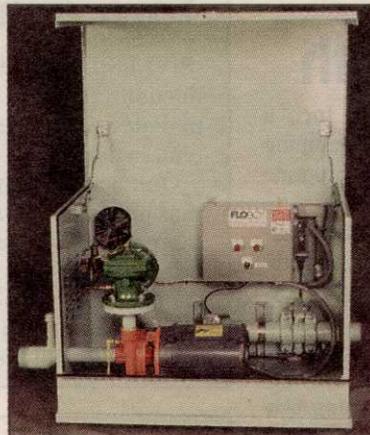
fast-paced introduction and significant cost of the latest heads, controls and weather stations. Doing nothing is going backwards and can ultimately cost your course more money than staying reasonably current with irrigation technology.

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-

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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

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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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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.



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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

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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.

CIRCLE #204