

BRIEFS



SAHALEE STAFF BUILDS WEB SITE

SEATTLE, Wash. — With the 80th PGA Championship three months away, the Sahalee Country Club maintenance staff has developed a web site on the Internet: www.sahalee.com.

"The entire ... staff has worked very hard on the web site," said superintendent Tom Wolff. "We know this is going to be a great experience for all of us, hosting a major championship, and it was the feeling of the crew that many people would be interested in the comprehensive information listed on the web site." The site covers history, staff, the 1998 PGA Championship, construction, equipment, weather, mowing, irrigation, turf, landscape and a fact sheet. Wolff can be called at 425-868-1600.



PGMS, GREEN EXPO PLANNED

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The 1998 Conference of the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS), coupled with the Green Industry Expo, is planned for Nov. 14-17 at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center here. Fifty educational sessions are planned. For more information, people may contact PGMS headquarters at 120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104, Hunt Valley, Md. 21030; telephone 410-584-9754.



PEST ACTIVITIES A CALL, OR FAX AWAY

AMHERST, Mass. — The University of Massachusetts Extension's Landscape Message, a toll-free phone message which provides weekly regional updates on cultural and pest activity, is now available in a Faxed version. The Extension reports that subscribers will receive about 20 messages per year, including weekly during the growing season and monthly in the off-season. More information is available by calling 413-545-0895. The phone message can be heard by calling 800-226-4476 (4IPM).

HOLLEBEAK GETS CREDIT

SUGAR GROVE, Ill. — In May's page 1 story on Rich Harvest Links, the reporter neglected to mention that Hollebeak Construction, Inc. of Big Rock built the first 11 holes of Jerry Rich's 18-hole estate course. A member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America, Hollebeak did all the earthwork and shaping, except the irrigation, on those 11 holes. Ryan Inc. Central of Janesville, Wis., built the last seven holes.

GCSAA, PGA Tour Join In

K-State's pioneering curriculum to start superintendents en route to management



By MARK LESLIE

MANHATTAN, Kan. — A new breed of college curriculum, one that opens management avenues to future golf course superintendents, will begin with construction of a prototype Tournament Players Club (TPC) university course at Kansas State University here.

Colbert Hills Golf Course, named for PGA Senior Tour player Jim Colbert, will be many things to many people.

"The positive impact of this project will be far-reaching," said Stephen Mona, chief executive officer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), "a golf management program to train tomorrow's leaders, a research facility to aid the golf industry, and a first-class

facility for golf enthusiasts..."

It will provide "unique research and academic opportunities for K-State researchers and students," said Bob Krause, K-State's vice president for institutional advancement.

"We have the opportunity to make something very special happen — something that will have a lasting impact on the world of golf and enhance the golf program at the university where I began my career," said Colbert, who donated \$500,000 and raised millions from friends toward the \$10 million facility.

"The university will use the course to train turf students how to manage, so that they can aspire upwards if they want," said Jeff Brauer of GolfScapes in Arlington, Texas, who is designing the

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18-hole championship course, nine-hole teaching layout and driving range.

While faculty, Audubon International and others draft environmental study proposals, it is the education element that particularly sets Colbert Hills apart as far as turfgrass students are concerned.

Assessing members' needs when he arrived as GCSAA chief operating officer in 1994, Joe O'Brien recalled superintendents said "one of the easiest things they did was grow grass. One of the most difficult was to explain it and justify it from a business perspective.

Couple that challenge with the fact that so many facilities — especially those in

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The 8th hole at Cedarbrook Golf & Country Club.

Canada's new president sets goals for profession

By PETER BLAIS

Becoming the 30th president of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA), mowing the 18th green at St. Andrews, marrying a wonderful woman and having a family — these are goals recently elected CGSA President Doug Meyer has met.

Hosting a major tournament, helping groom Augusta National in preparation for the Masters, building and growing in a new course, and making certain the CGSA's national conference continues moving across the country allowing more supers to become involved with their national association are goals Meyer hopes to achieve.

"Being part of this organization is a great honor and I look forward to representing the CGSA in the most professional way I can," Meyer said.

Meyer's entry into the superintendent field blossomed from an appreciation of the outdoors he gained during his upbringing on his parents' dairy farm in LaChute, Quebec. Following the lead of



his two brothers-in-law, one a golf pro and the other a turf industry student, he left agriculture and at age 16 got his first golf course job on former CGSA President Tom Johnson's summer grounds crew at Carling Lake Golf Club in Pine Hill, Quebec. Johnson became young Meyer's mentor and the newly elected CGSA president decided to make the golf business his career.

Meyer enrolled at Guelph University, studied turf management worked summers at Cutten Club in Guelph and later as a university research technician under retired professor and former dean Clay Switzer. He graduated with an associates degree in turfgrass science and eventually earned additional degrees in horticulture and a Turf Management Short Course degree from Guelph.

After a brief fling helping run the family dairy farm, Meyer accepted the post of superintendent at Cedarbrook Golf & Country Club in Ste. Sophie in 1975. He has remained at the private club ever since.

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Canadian scientists shed light on roots and microbes



ON THE GREEN

By PETER BLAIS

Roots and microbes is a marriage made in heaven that can only lead to healthier putting surfaces, according to a study funded by the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation (CTRF).

The CTRF is a coalition of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, Canadian Golf Superintendents Association and seven regional turfgrass foundations. With matching government grants, the coalition raised \$768,000 between 1993-97 and funded 10 projects at five different Canadian universities and facilities.

Dr. Brian Holl of the University of British Columbia was one of three researchers who discussed their projects during the recent CGSA annual conference in Calgary. Holl's speech was titled "Life in the Underworld — Roots and Microbes."

"On greens," Holl said, "we take the photosynthetic area and cut it down as close as possible to the ground without killing the plant. Then we hit it with a bunch of white projectiles every day. Then we give people spiked shoes and tell them to walk all over that minimal photosynthetic area. In the coastal region, we tell them to do it year-round. At the end of all that, we act surprised when we find that grass is in trouble. I'm not surprised. The amazing thing is that superintendents are able to keep the stuff alive at all."

Researchers and superintendents are so concerned about the actual putting surface, that they often forget what goes on below the surface, in the roots. "We want to

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NORTH TEXAS SUPERS DONATE GREEN FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

More than 30 members of the North Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association (NTGCSA) participated in its Marathon of Golf held at Walnut Creek Country Club on March 23. The association raised more than \$12,000, exceeding its goal of \$9,000. NTGCSA is contributing these funds toward construction and maintenance of a small putting green in honor of Quinton Johnson within the new James F. Chambers Jr. Youth Fitness Park at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas. These facilities will provide opportunities for young people who are physically disabled to participate in sports and other activities previously not available to them. The hospital specializes in working with such individuals. On May 20, a special dedication ceremony was held at the putting green site.

Meyer leads Canada's supers

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He was president of the Quebec Golf Superintendents Association in 1984-85 and became Quebec director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association in 1991. He is a master superintendent in Canada and a certified golf course superintendent with the Golf Course Superintendents

Association of America.

Meyer is married with two children, David and Karen.

Meyer has done some design at Cedarbrooke. He reconstructed the bunkers and added a pond on the par-3 8th hole. "It was the most boring hole on the course, but is now our signature hole," he said. He has also naturalized many

areas to be more environmentally friendly and adding color.

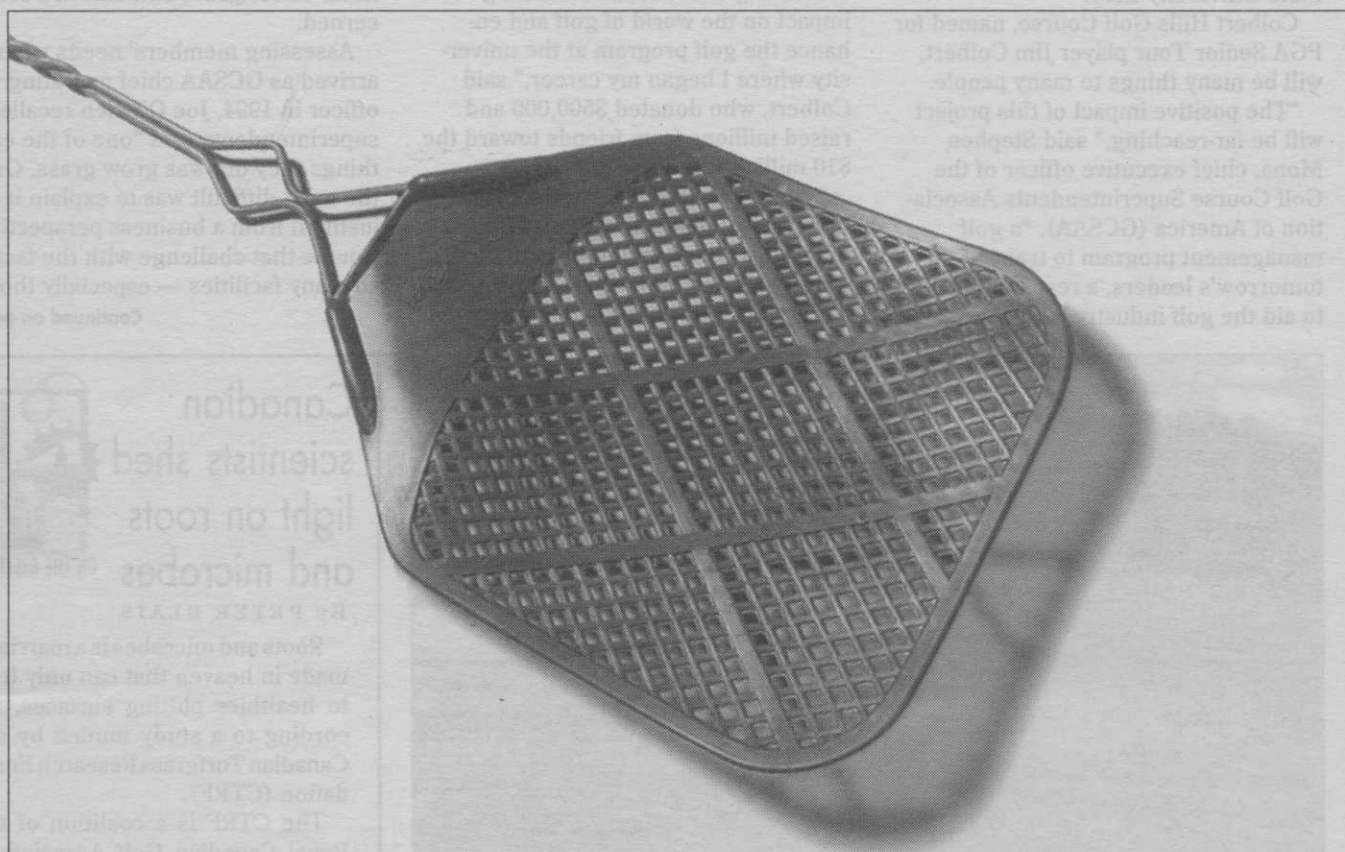
Meyer has also sought to educate local groups, especially children, about the environmental benefits of his course and golf. He invited a group of school children to the course, had the assistant pro give each a one-hour free golf lesson, and gave each child some balls and a free club from the club's lost-and-found.

During the winter, Meyer went to the school, provided the students with materials to build bird houses for bluebirds (a species that had not appeared at the course before), and had the students return to install them during the summer. "The project was very successful," he said. "We had the kids put their names on each bird house. Then my wife went out each week, took notes on the number of eggs and sent the information back to let them know how successful their houses were."

Being a Quebec native, Meyer is naturally a National Hockey League fan. "Two years ago, I got an emergency phone call at home at 1 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon," Meyer recalled. "It was Claude Lemieux of the Avalanche. He said he had (Avalanche goalie) Patrick Roy and another friend who wanted to play. I told him to come on over around 3 p.m. and maybe I'd play nine holes with them. So, they show up in the parking lot and the other friend was Fred Couples. We had a great time. We went out to supper that night and then went over to Patrick Roy's house. Fred Couples put on Patrick's goalie pads and we went downstairs and started shooting pucks at Fred Couples. You never know who you're going to meet in this business."

Although not of Couples' caliber, Meyer is an accomplished golfer, having represented his country at four Ransomes International cups and one Hayter Cup. During a recent speech in Calgary, Meyers said that becoming involved in the Canadian association has afforded him the opportunity to travel and play golf. "One of my dreams as a superintendent was to cut the 18th green at St. Andrews," he said, pointing to a slide on a screen behind him. "That's me at 5:30 in the morning, cutting that green."

Another international event, El Nino, had a major effect on Meyer's course this winter. Quebec was hit with a major ice storm in early January that left some people without electrical power for a month or more. But being from a country that has spawned such famous comedians as Howie Mandel, John Candy and Rich Little, Meyer was able to see the funny side. "Most of the maple trees had their tops snapped off, the canopies were gone," he noted. "It was a great chance for superintendents to get rid of trees that were giving them shade problems around their greens."



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