

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.

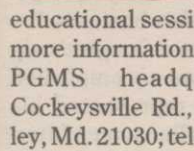


"The entire ... staff has worked very hard on the web site," said superintendent Tom Wolff. "We know this is going to

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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GUELPH, Ontario, Canada — The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) has begun exploratory talks with the University of Guelph that would make the Toronto-based school Canada's leading institution to train undergraduates to become golf course superintendents and provide in-service training programs for the country's existing superintendents, according to CGSA Executive Director Vince Gillis.

CGSA also met in mid-May with Canadian

Canadian GCS, UGuelph talk training

government officials to discuss the marketing of the National Occupational Standards for Golf Course Superintendents endorsed earlier this year by the CGSA. The goal is to make course operators, managers and ultimately golfers more aware of the value of a quality superintendent.

A national validation process regarding the occupational standards was com-

pleted in mid-December involving national representatives from the CGSA and delegates from all regions of Canada along with input from Human Resources Canada, educators, golf course owners, Canadian Society of Club Managers and other employer representatives. Seven regional focus groups were conducted during the fall of 1997.

The new standards will define the role

and responsibilities of the various people who work for and with golf superintendents in order to ensure hiring standards are in place to assist golf course operators. With established standards, CGSA will have a greater impact on the curriculum utilized in the various colleges and universities that prepare people for a career path in turfgrass management. A certification program will likely be developed based on the new standards.

CGSA sees its key role as ensuring that

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Roots, microbes studied at UBC

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know what's happening below the ground, how we can measure it and is there anything we can do about it to get better results above the ground," Holl said.

Soil, he explained, consists of living organisms — i.e. roots, algae, fungi, bacteria and actinomycetes. Bacteria and fungi are the most common constituents. Healthy soil averages 110 pounds of bacteria and 330 pounds of fungi per 1,000 square feet. These microbes function in a complex, interactive ecosystem that benefits root development.

But sand, the major component of putting surfaces, is not a good medium for growing microbes. Sand drains well and is compaction tolerant, but is a "crummy" place to grow microbes, Holl said. Microbes want water and sand doesn't hold water.

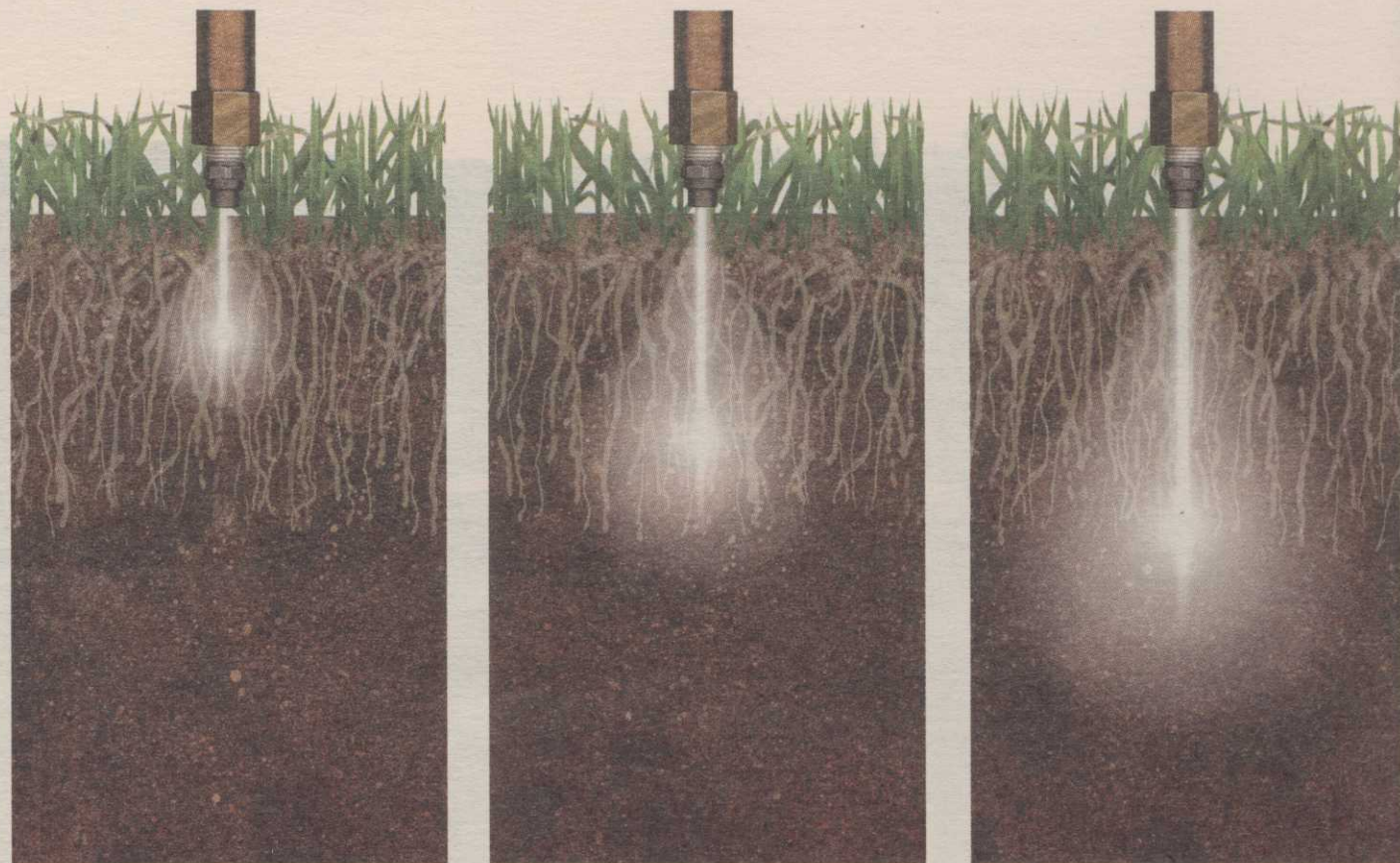
Holl reasoned that by studying microbe levels in various greens, he might discover why some greens do well while others suffer. So he asked three superintendents to select a good green (one that does well all times of year), a bad green (one that gets in trouble when stressed) and a control green at their courses.

Holl studied samples from the greens using computerized plate readers. "We anticipated we'd find differences in terms of groups of substrates, and we did," he reported. "But we also discovered something surprising. Carbohydrates and organic acids were the two substrates most readily available. They were used most widely during the winter and during stress periods [particularly July]. The easy substrates were used heavily when stress was present.

"The second thing that surprised us was the presence of many peculiar substrates. It looks like some of those nucleic acids and sugar phosphates vary during certain times, between good greens and bad greens, and between particular times of the year."

While it is possible to finger-

Continued on next page



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UGuelph adds second session to open room for more students

GUELPH, Ontario, Canada — The University of Guelph Turf Managers Short Course held every February has just become a bit more accessible.

To meet the heavy demand for the concentrated course, the University of Guelph has added a second session in the fall of 1998 from Nov. 16 through Dec. 11.

Registration is now open for both the fall and the winter offerings.

The course, offered for the past 30 years, has been a challenge to get into for the last two decades. Last Nov. 10, registration opened at noon for the February 1998 offering. The 50 spots filled within four minutes.

"The line-up was like waiting for concert tickets," said manager Peggy Nagle.

"Students started lining up at the door at 2 a.m. By 11 a.m., there were 60 people in line waiting to register. At the stroke of noon, our phone lines and fax lines went crazy with calls from across Canada."

The intensive four-week program is

in such high demand because of the quality of teaching and the marketability of its graduates, Nagle said.

For more information on the Turf Managers Short Course or to register, contact the University of Guelph, Office of Open Learning at 519-767-5000; facsimile 519-767-1114; e-mail to info@open.uoguelph.ca.

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Simple adjustment allows you to achieve the ideal injection depth without changing valves, jets or other equipment. The accumulator and pump disperse 8 gpm at user-selected pressures of 2,000 to 3,500 psi.

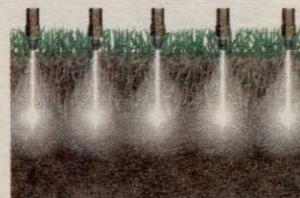


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The patented injection process disperses liquids from each nozzle to cover a width of more than four inches beneath the surface. This ensures total target area saturation and eliminates incomplete or inconsistent coverage.

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And because the Envirojet works underground you'll see a more cost-efficient use of materials, the elimination of run-off and overspray, and treatment that reaches only your targeted areas.

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CIRCLE #106

CGSA, UGuelph talk training

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course operators have access to the best possible pool of talent to manage their courses. It plays another vital role, that of ensuring the preservation of the environment through the responsible use of all products required to maintain fine golf conditions. National standards will raise the awareness of the industry and the general public as to exactly what a golf superintendent does.

Canada's professional golf superintendents are anxious to clearly demonstrate the role they play in today's golf industry. Superintendents on average have 12 staff during the peak season. With approximately 2,000 Canadian courses, that represents 24,000 people employed to accommodate the 70 million rounds played each year in Canada.

Roots & microbes

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print a green based on its microbial components, it's still questionable whether the contents correlate with the way the turf looks or whether there are any specific markers that indicate whether a superintendent should be practicing a specific maintenance regimen.

In general, Holl said, sand-based or amended sand greens, especially if they are new, are a waste land for microbial habitat. Anything superintendents can do in terms of management that will enhance the development of micro habitats in a green will be an advantage.

Organic fertilizer proponents have always claimed their products stimulate microbial populations, Holl said. "We have some evidence that is true," he said. "So we're looking at organic versus inorganic fertilizers to see if there is a difference in microbial action."

"We're also looking at the idea that microbial populations can be stimulated by external sources and superimposing carbohydrate-based fertilizers on the soil surface to provide microbes with food that can carry out activities to develop healthy root systems."