

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Great Expectations

Turf meets business training in new curriculum at Kansas State University 17

International Report

Sri Lanka? Oman? Golf is booming in disparate places around the globe 41-49



FOES NO LONGER: GAUNT & MARNOCH LTD.
Jonathan Gaunt (right) and Steve Marnoch, two of England's youngest golf course architects, have decided to join forces. Their mission: To become bigger players in the global golf course design market. See Q&A page 45.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Canada's Meyer sets high goals 17
Prepping Royal Birkdale for the Open 21
Shop Talk: Using overhead space 32

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Rulewich starts solo signature 35
Armchair architects eye Mackenzie Prize 39
Rees Jones, Redstone team in Texas 50

COURSE MANAGEMENT

One photo is worth about \$1,000 51
Palmer Management pares 45 minutes 52
Club Corp. International's Henner speaks out 54

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Textron/Ransomes: The dust settles 59
It's a greens roller roller coaster 60
Plant Health Care, Griffin align 62

Poa annua control finally within sight

By MARK LESLIE

SAN DIEGO — A control for annual bluegrass, or *poa annua*, has been the desire of the golf course industry for at least half a century. Now it appears one has arrived, and the bonus is that it is a natural bacteria.

"If this works as well as it appears, it's huge [for the industry]. I'm excited," said Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University about the bacteria *Xanthomonas campestris*. "When I got into this business in the 1950s we were talking about how to get rid of *poa annua*. Here we are, 40 years later, talking about how to get rid of *poa*. And the market is almost nationwide."

Acutely selective, *Xanthomonas campestris* kills only *poa annua*, not

Continued on page 30

Purdue embarks on 5-year course research project

By MARK LESLIE

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — With the help of course architect Pete Dye, multiple donors and a group of students who built it, Purdue University on June 27 will open a golf course that will produce a major five-year study on the effects of golf maintenance on ground and surface water.

Pointing out that environmentalists criticize past corporate-funded studies as biased, Dye said: "What Purdue produces should be the most unbiased report, simply because there is no reason to be biased. Good or bad, no one can argue

Continued on page 32



The Shark and Hurdzan keynote Public Golf Forum

By MICHAEL LEVANS

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — The Shark's clipped fin may keep him off the PGA Tour but it's certainly not slowing him down.

Greg Norman, golf's premier international spokesman and all-time money winner, will kick off day two of this 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, California.

Continued on page 70



(Top) Greg Norman, golf's all-time leading money winner, lifts one out of the sand. (Left) The king of the environmentally-sound public golf design, Michael Hurdzan, on site at Desert Willow.

Greece: Will 30 courses in 3 years be possible?

By TREVOR LEDGER

ATHENS, Greece — The Greek Government has made a startling commitment to golf course development with its stated intention of having 30 new golf courses built in its beautiful country over the next three years.

As the rest of Europe (on the whole) leaped into the golf course stratosphere — 43.9 percent increase in courses since 1990 — Greece has

bucked the trend by actually losing one of its five courses and leaving the country with only four.

This looks all set to change.

The Hellenic Tourism Office (EOT) hosted a meeting at Wentworth last July for golf course architects, holiday companies and tourism specialists in order to out-

Continued on page 42



American Golf Corp.'s Sierra Nevada Golf Club in Genoa, Nev., to open this month. See page 3.

Continued from page 1

"It's great to see a publication focusing on public golf, and I'm excited to be a part of this year's Forum," said Norman, president of Jupiter, Fla.-based Greg Norman Golf Course Design.

With more than 30 course designs in play around the world, Norman's design unit provides comprehensive planning and construction capabilities. To complement design, The Shark started Greg Norman Turf to offer specialty warm-weather grasses to help maximize the course environment and mold each design around the site's intrinsic features.

The Shark will soon see two of his public-access designs open, including Wente Brothers Golf Club in Livermore, Calif., and Elks Run Golf Club in Batavia, Ohio.

On the playing side, Norman's resume is more than impressive: PGA Tour all-time money winner; 83 career victories through May '98; two-time British Open winner; three-time Vardon Trophy winner; held the #1 world ranking for a record 331 weeks. Even with the bad shoulder his current world ranking is #4.

Part two of this year's dynamic double bill is the guru of environmentally sensitive public golf design, Dr. Michael Hurdzan, president of Columbus, Ohio-based Hurdzan-Fry Golf Course Design Inc.

Hurdzan is slated to kick off day one of this year's Forum.

Hurdzan's environmentally sound projects are gaining worldwide recognition. *Golf World Magazine's* 1997 Architect of the Year, Hurdzan's most recent accolade includes *Golf Digest's* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for his work at Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate, Mass., America's first environmental demonstration golf course.

Hurdzan will soon join the staff of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design to teach a two-day course on the environmental impact of golf.

Norman will kick off day two of this year's Forum by aiming his keynote address at the importance of the correct public design and the continued development of the public-access game.

For more information, contact 207-846-0600.

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