

Unbiased research the key at Purdue

Continued from page 1
the findings."

All the money to build the new Kampen Golf Course and fund the research came from private sources, not golf associations or the chemical industry. "I was very much concerned that it not be company funds," Dye said. "We did this with Clemson University at the Ocean Course at Kiawah [in South Carolina], but Kiawah was already a pristine piece of ground, so how were we going to clean it up?"

"Plus, a lot of the money for the monitoring [at Kiawah] came from the USGA, PGA, PGA Tour and chemical companies. That was a mistake."

Also, Purdue's study will be three years longer than Clemson's. And Dye feels it may extend beyond that since "all the heads of the different university schools are starting to get enthusiastic."

Another, major advantage the Purdue study will have over Kiawah, Dye said, is that it is cleaning up water pouring onto the course from "all over Hell's half acre" — a four-lane highway, parking lots, housing, filling stations, etc.

Piping was installed to catch the water and move it into three sets of wetlands to be filtered. From there, the water goes

into a retaining pond which, when filled, empties into an irrigation pond.

"We created 30 acres of marsh," Dye said. "We are improving the water that comes from the streets."

The Heritage Group of Indianapolis, one of the largest toxic-waste cleanup companies in the country, is donating its services and Purdue students and faculty are performing the water monitoring.

Dr. Zac Reicher, who is overseeing the water monitoring, said this and two related tests could have major implications for future construction of developments around the country.

Noting similar studies set up to measure runoff from a nearby WalMart parking lot and at a dairy farm, he said, "We think we will be able to use golf courses and created wetlands to handle runoff from subdivisions, commercial sites and agriculture."

Tests on Kampen Golf Course will be taken immediately off the highway, at the far end of the fairway over which the runoff will travel, and at the outlet of the bog. Beyond the pesticides and fertilizers used on the golf course, tests will look for a wide range of materials such as road salt, antifreeze, petroleum-based products, household chemicals and even raw sewage.



Heather Graham, a student in exercise physiology at Purdue University, mows the 4th green on the new Kampen Golf Course.

"Honestly," Reicher said, "after that stuff goes through the wetland, I don't think we will see much coming out. The turf and bog will filter it out."

He said he expects early indications by October, the end of this growing season.

Meanwhile, golf course superintendent Jim Scott is eager to see results from a number of other studies on the golf course.

"We have a lot of things in the fire," he said. "I welcome any department in the university to use these courses. Let's get it back into research for the kids. Let's learn."

Already, people are involved from Purdue's entomology, botany, plant pathology, forestry, turfgrass, agronomy and building construction departments.

Among the work are:

- a cultivar trial site for the U.S. Golf Association (Purdue is one of 16 facilities across the country testing bentgrasses and Bermudagrasses on putting greens);
- turfgrass disease trials;
- turfgrass insect trials;
- a half-dozen trials on how to best plant bare-rooted trees;
- a bentgrass establishment trial;
- monitoring of amphibians in the wetlands; and
- a study documenting how a wetland matures, how the plant and animal populations change and how they affect the filtering potential.

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The modern maintenance shop can have many accessories that are mounted overhead for easy access.

Don't cut overhead, add it

By TERRY BUCHEN

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — The ceiling has suddenly become a new frontier of usable space in golf course turf-care centers. It perhaps began with overhead electric/hydraulic hoists, which are capable of lifting a 9,000-pound maintenance vehicle high enough for an equipment technician to clearly walk underneath, are being used at more and more maintenance shops.

Aiming for more efficiency, many superintendents and equipment managers have put their heads together using time-motion studies to avoid wasted time.

Among new "overhead" additions are:

- drop-cord electric lights mounted

on a retractable, spring-loaded hose-type reel; it is easily accessible and can be retracted upwards when a job is complete;

- retractable air hoses, pneumatic grease guns, electric extension cords and oil dispensers mounted overhead in convenient hose-type reels, which are reasonably priced and built reasonably well.

These types of accessory are often found in the 10-minute quick oil change facilities that have become popular. And with good reason. Mounting them overhead does wonders for finding much-needed space and using it properly, at the same time making room on the walls and floors for other shop tools and implements.