

BRIEFS



**TWEDT CITED FOR STEWARDSHIP**

DES MOINES, Iowa — Ottumwa Country Club superintendent Gary Twedt has been honored with the Environmental Stewardship Award by the Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns (Ia AE). It was presented during the 64th Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show here Jan. 27. Twedt was given the award for his environmental sound management practices and public participation in educating people about turfgrass and the industry.

**USGA SETS PHOENIX CONCLAVE**

PHOENIX — The United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section is conducting a regional conference at Phoenix Country Club on March 18, focusing on a



variety of topics from rye-grass and bentgrass to water irrigation surveys, water quality and greens committees. The 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. conference will feature talks by USGA Construction Education Director Jim Moore and Regional Affairs Manager Ron Readl USGA Foundation Fellow Tea Dixon, Dr. Joe Duich of Penn State University; International Sees' Craig Edminster; Center for Irrigation Technology Director David Zoldoske; and Arizona Country Club Green Chairman Dr. Paul Rowe.

**SPEAKERS PROGRAM EXPANDS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Professional Lawn Care Association of America and RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) report that their Ambassador Speakers Program has expanded into four Northeastern states. The joint outreach program motivates and prepares industry representatives to educate the public about the green industry's environmental benefits and to address consumer concerns.

**BROWN HEADS ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association has elected a new board of directors, headed by President Dave Brown of Flatirons Golf Course (GC). Vice President is John Fitzgibbons of Meadows GC, and Secretary-Treasurer is Jim Wilkins of Arvada GC. On the board are Lee Terry of Pinehurst Country Club (CC), Mike Brennan of LaPlata Investments, Bobby Murtaugh of Perry Park CC, Rusty Oetker of Soil Horizons, Doug Jones of the city of Grant Junction, Gregg Blew of Wellshire GC and Doug DeVries of Montrose GC.

# Seawall woes keep Pebble Beach busy

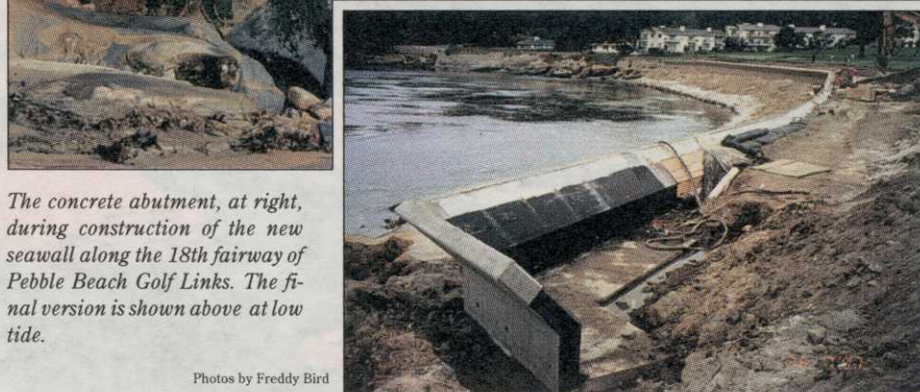
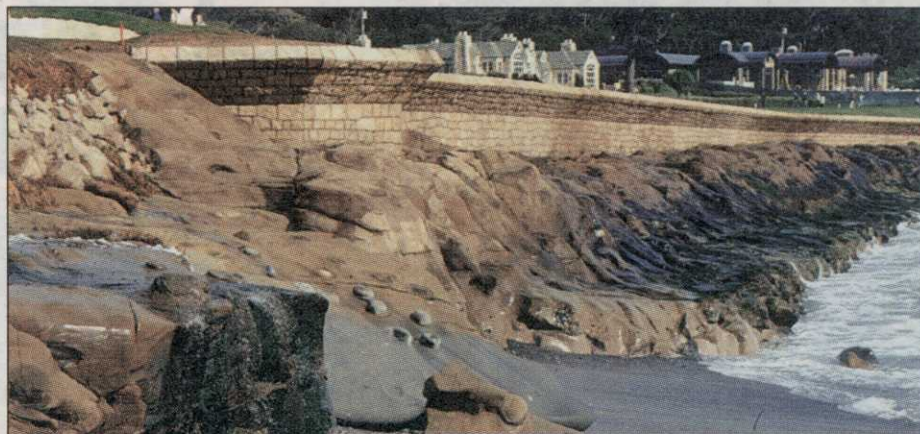
By DOUG SAUNDERS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Pebble Beach Golf Links is considered one of the greatest golf courses in the world and a strong part of its lure is its proximity to the turbulent Pacific Ocean. Golf holes literally cling to the cliffs overlooking the blue waters while the pounding surf adds to the mystique of the course.

The same relentless sea, meanwhile, works hard to eat away this golfing treasure. In the last year the Pebble Beach Company has begun a series of projects to not only determine the threat to the coastal links but also rectify the actions of nature where possible.

The first project, the construction of a formidable sea wall along the 18th fairway, was completed last fall and has already been tested dramatically by the El Nino weather that has plagued the Central California coastline for the last two months. The wall also received notoriety during the recent AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am as the heavy surf sent waves over the wall and on to the fairway.

Television cameras and commentators focused on the new wall as waves spilled over the wall and flooded the bunker 110 yards from the green. Competitors that hit their second shots near the coast had to be careful not to



The concrete abutment, at right, during construction of the new seawall along the 18th fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links. The final version is shown above at low tide.

Photos by Freddy Bird

get splashed by the surf that occasionally slobbered over the wall. The wall itself accentuated the normal wave action lending itself to dramatic camera views and many questions as to the effectiveness of the wall itself.

"We hired a firm to make a comprehensive study of the erosion of land along the nearly two miles of coastline that Pebble Beach sits on. Their findings showed that we lose on the average 4

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# Fla. law sends researchers rushing for nematode cure

By MARK LESLIE

NAPLES, Fla. — Turf-killing nematodes are a problem for golf course superintendents in the South and, in Florida, where the government has drastically reduced application of the major remedy, it appears nobody has the answer for the pest.

"There are a lot of claims, and we try them all," said Gary Grigg, superintendent at Royal Poinciana Golf Club here. "But none of them work since the state cut back on the label for Nematicur."

Bayer Corp.'s Nematicur has been the mainstay in the ongoing battle against nematodes, microscopic roundworms that attack plant roots. But a major fish kill at a golf course on the East Coast of Florida changed all that. After the accident — from misapplication of the highly toxic Nematicur — the state cut in half the

application rate, greatly reduced when and how many acres could be treated at once, and forbid people from re-entering a treated area for 24 hours.

Many companies have introduced products to replace Nematicur, but the search for success is still on.

"Unfortunately, there have been no silver bullets," said Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis, an entomologist and nematologist at the University of Florida at Ft. Lauderdale. "We've evaluated a lot of different materials that people claim have anti-nematode effects and we have not seen anything that works effectively."

"The more we look, the more chance we have of finding the Achilles heel. But,



in the final analysis, I am not encouraged."

Grigg said DuPont's Telone is showing "some effectiveness," and he has found "a quick response from a couple of products, but the nematode population doesn't stay knocked back. In two or three weeks the nematodes are back."

"I have 36 holes and spent \$40,000 last year on nematode control and felt I had bad results all the way around," he said.

"We treat every Monday. The soil temperatures this time of year [winter] are cool and they're not so much a problem. They're worse in early summer, coming out of the winter. May is a bad month."

As effective as Nematicur was at its origi-

Continued on page 26

# Role of digital mapping expected to grow

By KEVIN P. CORBLEY

In this final article on the uses of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies on the golf course, we look into the future of digital mapping applica-

**LAST OF 3 PARTS**

tions. GPS, GIS and other digital mapping technologies are now commonly used in numerous land management businesses, and golf course management will be no different. Larry Rodgers, president of Larry Rodgers Design in

Lakewood, Colo., expects digital mapping will boom on golf courses in the next several years.

"These mapping techniques have already been proven to improve worker efficiency and enhance revenues in major industries such as agriculture," said Rodgers. "Look for course superintendents to start borrowing technologies from the farmer."

To facilitate his irrigation design business, Rodgers has been using GPS

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## Pebble Beach seawall in

**Continued from page 17**  
inches of coastline annually with sections of the course in danger of suffering significant loss of land if it was not addressed," explained Ted Horton, vice president of Pebble Beach Co.

The first priority was to identify what actions were causing the erosion in order to

rectify it. The erosion process happens in three forms. First is the wave action on the coast line, second is water perking down to an impervious layer of soil that creates an area where slippage can occur. Finally is the erosion caused by the flow of surface water.

"We looked at every area of the golf course to determine

the type of threat and what we would need to do to rectify it for the future. We then prioritized the areas that needed to be addressed first. The 18th hole was the most threatened spot on the course," Horton said.

The 18th runs right at the water's edge and is only 8 feet above the high tide mark. This sweeping hole tempts the player to hit his drive over the

rocks to shorten the hole. But the surveys indicated that the jumble of cement walls that have been built over the decades had failed to the point that a large storm occurrence could potentially wipe out from 50 to 100 feet of fairway. The plan was to construct, for the first time, a complete wall that would protect the land's end well into the next century.

The work began on the \$2.5

million project last April and was completed in August. The work consisted of first removing the remnants of the old sea walls, and then constructing new footings in to the cliff edge. The top part of the wall is solid concrete that angles out to deflect the waves. The concrete is capped with sandstone colored blocks that give it its uniform look. The bottom part of the wall that spills down to the beach is constructed in imitation rock formations made with reinforced metal bars, wire mesh, and sprayed gunnite that is shaped and painted to look exactly like the natural rock formations of the existing coast line.

This new rock formation runs from the 18th green all the way around the 18th tee and back to the cliffs at the edge of the 17th green. The tee box was also completely rebuilt on a new self-supporting concrete bulkhead. This new tee changes the sight line of the hole by putting the player closer to the water, tempting the golfer to bite off more of the ocean with a drive.

In accordance with California Coastal Commission guidelines, the artificial rock wall only enters the water edge forty feet from the key way to minimize the impact on the bay. The work had to be completed during low tides. The 18th hole was basically split in half by fencing to allow both work and golf to continue.

For many years the site of the waves lapping along the hole have added to its charm. The hope for the wall was to protect this stretch of land for the future. But the increased wave action at the shore line was not predicted. The artificial rock ramps steeply out of the ocean. Waves spill back into the ocean and accelerate towards the incoming wave. This impending turbulence enhances the next wave's power, sending spray up to the top of the wall during high tides and high swells.

This action became evident to the national television audience during the AT&T. The action though was more a result of a very high tide and a large ocean swell.

"This combination of high tide and swell is really an epic event. I have been here for 17 years and never seen this combination during this tournament. It is this type of wave action that could take out the fairway. The wall is doing the job it is intended for," said Pebble Beach Field Supervisor Jack Holt.

But the fact that the bunker

Continued on next page

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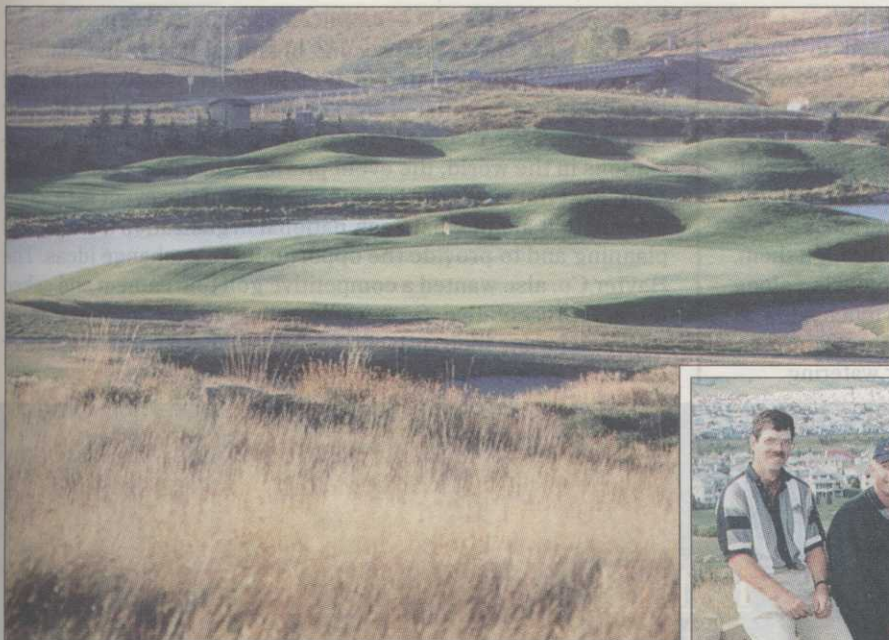
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CANADA'S SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

## Gooder shines in Canada

By MARK LESLIE

**C**ALGARY, Alberta, Canada — The Alberta Golf Superintendents Association (GSA), which he co-founded, is going strong. So, too, the Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation. And now his 1993 brainchild, the Alberta Golf Property Managers Conference, is setting new parameters for turfgrass industry education.

Walter Gooder's selection as Canada's Superintendent of the Year is "more an accumulation of contributions than what I did in 1997," he said. "There is no way that you can legitimately choose a superintendent of the year based on a performance for any particular year. There are too many people out there doing terrific things. It's not like the Super Bowl."

Whatever the reasoning for the selection, it's a high honor for someone who entered the profession by happenstance. "It was a fluke," said Gooder, "one of those very fortunate turn of events. I played a lot of golf as a boy. When a family acquaintance became manager at a pitch-and-putt in 1967, he needed somebody to work on the course. He knew nothing about golf but thought, 'Walt plays a lot of golf; he probably knows how to take care of a golf course.'"

"I was the grounds crew. It was fabulous. I mowed everything, sprayed everything and watered everything — and had absolutely no idea what I was doing," he laughed. "It was that summer that I decided I liked it and started investigating what to do. I had

been out of high school for a year and this looked like a career with a future."

The choice, Gooder said, was "a lucky guess. People with turfgrass degrees were scarce as hen's teeth, especially around here. I decided on Lake City (Florida) Community College and that was another good choice. It was very practical."

Lake City, he said, "was pretty specific toward golf and I was specific about what I wanted."

Graduating in 1971, Gooder returned to his native Calgary and worked as a foreman at Pinebrook Golf Club, later moving to Willow Park here and then across town to Edmonton Country Club in 1973. He remained at Edmonton CC until the end of the 1988 season and, after taking a year off, accepted the superintendent's position during construction at the 36-hole, private Country Hills Golf Club.

In the midst of his work, Gooder saw the need for expanding education for superintendents and to support research. The result was the founding of the Alberta Golf Superintendents Association (AGSA) and Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation.

"In the early '70s there wasn't much for organized professional associations. There were loosely based social groups, but not with a hard educational basis," he said. "A few of us saw the need and started up the Alberta GSA and started the foundation in 1985 to raise funds to help turf research. It's really taking off now. Olds College started its turf program at about the same time."

second area of artificial stones to disperse the waves before they merge at the wall. The high seas this winter have helped us in determining what areas need to be addressed," Horton said.

"When you are working with any project of this size the final impact is difficult to predict," Holt said. "The action of Mother Nature is always a wild card in the equation. We do know that the fairway won't be lost in the future and the drama of playing this close to the water will remain for generations."

## Pebble Beach seawall

**Continued from previous page** near the 18th green was full of seawater and the sand was strewn across the fairway, and that a crew of 8 had to hose down and squeegee off the sea water during play to protect the green made it clear that some fine tuning of the walls impact has to be made. There are plans to add more artificial stone work further in to the bay to break up the wave action this summer.

"We are working on plans to create a

### EARNING CANADA'S TOP HONORS

Canadian Superintendent of the Year Walter Gooder, second from left, says: "It takes many good people all pulling in the same direction to produce a first-rate golf course these days, and these people are making it happen at Country Hills Golf Club. Left to right are Assistant Superintendent Dave Smith, Gooder, Second Assistant Superintendent Debbie Miller, horticulturalist Serge Basarsky, mechanic Ron Robertson, irrigation foreman Roy Bech and Rob Vend, who has left for Heritage Point Golf Course in Calgary.



While the foundation was all-volunteer at the time, it is now professionally run — by Barb Alexander — "and doing a great job," Gooder said. "Our research budget will be over \$200,000 this year."

The AGSA's membership has grown to 120 and it could reach 200.

The jewel in the crown may be the Alberta Golf Property Managers Conference, an idea the AGSA decided to support five years ago.

"It recognizes the fact that there are a lot of careers wrapped up in the golf course now — not just one," Gooder said. "We chose to call it 'property managers' because mechanics are becoming equipment managers and gardeners are becoming landscape managers. There are irrigation experts, assistant superintendents and professionals who apply products to your golf course. We need to educate them all."

The conferences run three concurrent programs — one dealing with the shop, one with the horticultural and environmental aspects of a golf course, and one with superintendents' issues like administration and turf quality.

The world of golf course care, Gooder said, has gotten bigger, if not more complicated.

"It was maybe more complicated

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