



BRIEFS



**FAIRY RING DATABASE SOUGHT**

DALLAS — Dr. Phil Colbaugh of Texas A&M University is collecting and cataloging the fungi associated with fairy ring. This will be used to develop an identification database for future research. Colbaugh is asking superintendents across the United States to send samples of fairy ring fungi to him at Texas A&M University at Dallas, Research & Education Center, 17360 Coit Rd., Dallas 75252; telephone 972-231-5362.

**NEVADA SUPERS RAISE FUNDS**

LAS VEGAS — The Southern Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association (SNGCSA) will host its annual golf tournament for its scholarship and research fund at Painted Desert Golf Club here on Nov. 11. People may contact Dave Reich at 702-737-0272 for tournament details.

**DAR HONORS RYBICKI**

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Ted Rybicki of Panama Country Club has been cited by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for his distinguished conservation record. The DAR cited his conservation work over the years and his effort in having Panama CC designated, in May 1997, as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International. John Spivak is superintendent at the club. Rybicki has been involved in the preservation of the Florida environment since 1961. Since 1992 he has served on the board of the Bay County Audubon Society and has been chairman of the Panama Country Club Environmental Committee.

**N.Y. TURF CONCLAVE PLANNED**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with Cornell University, will hold its annual Turf and Grounds Exposition, Nov. 10-13, at the OnCenter here.



The conference will feature more than 80 business and technical sessions. Speakers will include Bob Alonzi of Winged Foot Golf Club; Joe Hahn of Country Club of Rochester; Dr. Norman Hummel of N.W. Hummel & Co.; Jim Moore of United States Golf Association Green Section; and horticulturists from Hershey Park. For more information call NYSTA at 800-873-8873, 518-783-1229 or write NYSTA, P.O. Box 612, Latham, N.Y. 12110.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

# Study gives fungicides 'green light'

By DOUGLAS PAGE

Fungicide use on golf courses, long suspected of contaminating into surface- and ground-water runoff, has been given a green light by a Purdue University environmental study.

Four years of research at Purdue's Turfgrass Research Center found that fungicides do not seep into surface-water runoff or leach into ground water as previously feared.

"In terms of golf course superintendents, what we've shown is that they can use the chemicals without fear of

huge negative impact on the environment," said Ronald Turco, professor of agronomy and director of Purdue's Environmental Sciences and Engineering Institute. Fungicides, he said, do not present a problem to the environment if they are applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

"The reality of any fungicide application to dense turf is that most of the fungicides do not reach the ground," said Turco. "About 90 percent of the fungicide remains on the grass leaf blade, where it is absorbed by the plant within 48 hours."

While fungicides make up less than 10 percent of all the pesticides used in the United States, they are used on many types of plants, including vegetables and fruits. By far their most popular use is on golf course greens and tee boxes. Extensive use in such small areas led to the concerns.

Fungicides are known to cause birth defects and sterility in laboratory animals. Their long-term consequences on plants and animals are unknown. According to recent estimates, homeowners and lawn-care companies apply as much as 70 million

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## Merrill 9 joins Ross in Maine



Brian Merrill

By PETER BLAIS

LOVELL, Maine — Just in case architect Geoffrey Cornish and *Golf Digest* architectural editor Ron Whitten are interested, here's a new listing for their much-heralded book "The Golf Course."

**Lake Kezar Country Club  
Lovell, Maine  
Donald Ross**

**Lake Kezar Country Club (A. 9)  
Lovell, Maine  
Brian Merrill**

Donald Ross, who designed the original nine at Lake Kezar near the New Hampshire/Maine border back in 1923, is a name most in the golf business likely recognize. But Brian Merrill, who designed the adjacent nine-hole addition that opened this summer, is probably a tad less familiar.

Merrill has served as superintendent of the Western Maine golf club for the past dozen years and it is his new holes that have received considerable acclaim from golfers, the press and his fellow superintendents this summer.

With legendary architects like Ross and Alister Mackenzie placed on such lofty pedestals that golf societies have been



The 16th hole of the Brian Merrill-designed second nine at Lake Kezar Country Club.

formed to protect their works, did Merrill feel any added pressure in designing a new nine next to a Ross original?

"A few of the older members that really hold Ross in esteem would joke about it," Merrill acknowledged. "But there really wasn't much said."

Besides, as with many courses that survived the Depression and the labor shortage created during World War II, the original nine at Lake Kezar has lost several of its Ross-designed features. An abandoned tee next to the No. 2 ladies tee is still visible, but it is impossible to tell which hole it served. Another abandoned tee adjacent to the 3rd green once served either the 4th or 5th hole, "but no one knows for sure,"

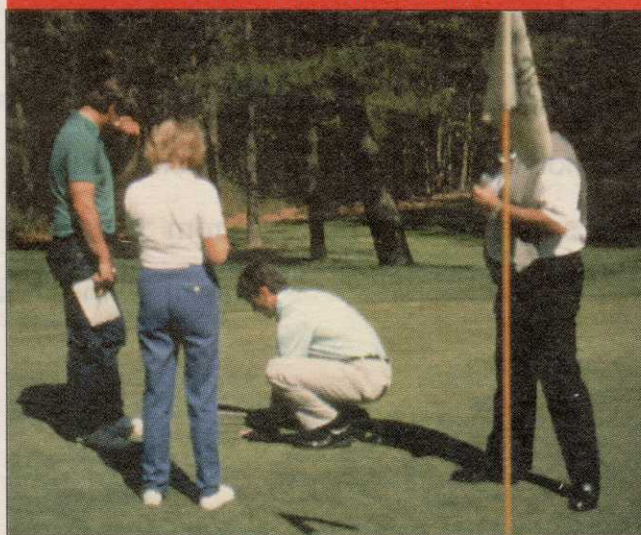
Merrill said. The green on the par-4 6th has obviously been moved back and to the right of its original location. And the putting surface on the current 18th hole, formerly the 9th, was also relocated to make the one-time par-4 into its current par-5.

"The original nine holes are certainly a Ross design, but they have changed over the years," Merrill said.

While Merrill may be a neophyte in the world of golf course design, this isn't the first time he's entered a domain with which he was unfamiliar. He had no formal agronomic training when he made his initial foray into golf course maintenance in 1982.

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



U.S. Golf Association turf visits check agronomic issues.

## There are 'standards,' and then there are standards

By RON DODSON

Setting standards for protecting the environment is a challenging process, and no less so for golf courses. Generally, no matter what environmental standards we discuss, some people demand the highest standards; others claim that if standards are set too high, they will not be economically feasible; and then of course, others believe environmental standards are not necessary at all.

Personally, I'm uncomfortable with the word "standard" and particularly "minimum standard." Why shouldn't we try to do the absolute best we can rather than establish the least we can do? But, even more important, how do we measure our environmental "best," and how do we balance economic concerns with environmental concerns?

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