

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

10 year anniversary

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Alice Dye tosses Pete Dye a couple of suggestions as Pete puts the finishing touches on his new design at Colleton River on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Colleton is scheduled to open in April. See story on page 40.

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## Y2K Crisis: Two little numbers, one big problem

By MARK LESLIE

"On New Years Day I wouldn't want to be on a golf course because the sprinkler systems will probably be going nuts," said Pebble Beach Co.'s Dominic Van Ness.

Van Ness, director of the Information Services Department at the world-famous resort, foresees major problems beginning — and then perhaps snowballing — when the world's clocks tick over from midnight Dec. 31, 1999, to 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1.

The situation has been dubbed

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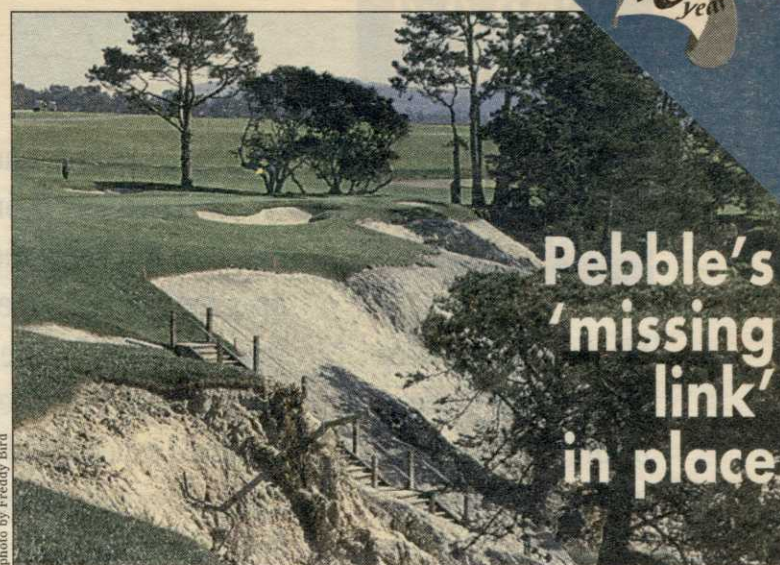


photo by Freddy Bird

## Pebble's 'missing link' in place

Pebble Beach's new 187-yard 5th: Now overlooking, not moving away from, the ocean.

By DOUG SAUNDERS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Eighty years and \$9.5 million after Pebble Beach Golf Links was built, the parcel of land that should have formed the 5th hole now does.

The missing link, a private estate that Pebble Beach owners have craved ever since they sold it, was finally wrested from the heirs last year and has been transformed by Jack Nicklaus.

The new 187-yard hole will play along the bluff overlooking the ocean. This hole was designed by Jack Nicklaus, who is making all efforts to create a hole that reflects that character of the rest of the course. The intention is to add a hole that should have been constructed in 1919 and have it look and play as though it were.

The hole that it will replace is the awkward par-3 5th that inexplicably played away from the ocean in the original design. Why this hole was laid out as it was years ago is an interesting story of how, when golf courses and real-estate projects meet, the best intentions can cause conflict.

Pebble Beach Golf Links was created to stimulate land sales of the

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DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT Q&A: Steve Smyers' Old Memorial GC in Tampa is one of the top 10 new private courses in the country. See Q&A with Smyers, page 33.

## Huizenga's FPH to 'add value' to resorts, golf

By PETER BLAIS

PLANTATION, Fla. — Wayne Huizenga's Florida Panthers Holdings (FPH) Inc. recently purchased and is set to begin renovations to the Golf Club of Plantation, a 47-year-old,

18-hole course here that will complement the firm's two hotels in the Fort Lauderdale market.

The Plantation course was closed recently in anticipation of a major renovation under the guidance of an as-yet-undetermined architect.

A year ago FPH acquired Rolling Hills Golf Course, the site where the movie "Caddyshack" was filmed, and recently completed a major renovation

to the facility located in nearby Davie. Rolling Hills will also service

FPH's Fort Lauderdale resorts.

"The concept is to add value to our resorts and hotels," said FPH Vice President of Golf Development Jim Applegate. "We

know what an important component golf is when people decide where to spend their vacations and leisure time."

Continued on page 48



FPH's Jim Applegate

### SUPPLIER BUSINESS

## Textron: Burtner takes helm of Golf, Turf Care

By M. LEVANS

RACINE, Wis. — Textron has reshuffled the top management of its recently expanded Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products Group on the way to finalizing its consolidation with Ransomes.

The company has named Carl Burtner as the group's chief executive officer effective January 1. Burtner will be based in Elgin, Ill., and will oversee nine global operations, 3,600 employees and more than \$700 million in revenues.

Under Textron's Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products group umbrella falls E-Z-GO golf cars, Cushman utility vehicles, and Ransomes,

Continued on page 62



## Penn A-4 creeping bentgrass succeeds at Cypress Lakes

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Willie McGeachy, Superintendent

Tom Prewitt, Co-owner

Number 4 green, Cypress Lakes Golf Course, Hope Mills, North Carolina

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## BRIEFS

**HOUSTON** — Sunrise Colony Co. announced plans for Royal Oaks Country Club, a 500-acre, 1,100-home private community situated in the Westchase district of Houston. The project will be built on the site of the defunct Andrau Airpark. Native Houstonian Fred Couples will design the 7,000-yard, par-72 course. Completion of the first homes and the opening of the course are anticipated by late 1999.

...

**LOS ANGELES** — The Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department plans to renovate the 49-year-old Rancho Park golf course. The \$6 million improvement program includes upgrading the driving range and existing irrigation system and rebuilding all 18 greens. Plans also call for the construction of 15 alternate greens. Work could begin by spring 1999.

...

**NACO, Ariz.** — The newly expanded Turquoise Valley Golf Course is set to open Jan. 15. The \$1-million project includes a nine-hole addition, upgraded putting green, and renovation of the original nine holes. Turquoise Valley is Arizona's oldest, continuously operated golf facility.

## Golden Bear, Weitz form construction venture

**NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla.** — Golden Bear Golf (GBG) Inc. and The Weitz Co. Inc. have announced the formation of Weitz Golf International (WGI) LLC, a construction company focused on building golf courses and clubhouses worldwide.

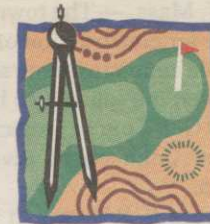
As part of a new alliance with Weitz Golf, Golden Bear will offer golf course construction expertise and marketing assistance. Golden Bear will no longer offer construction services independently and will share in the profitability of Weitz Golf.

Weitz Chairman of the Board Richard Oggero said WGI will provide general contracting, design-build and construc-

tion management services to developers and designers.

"Golden Bear Golf made a decision to team with a contractor who has a national reputation for quality and integrity. Weitz met our criteria to a 'T', GBG Chairman Jack Nicklaus said.

"Weitz has the capacity and financial strength to handle complex projects. Moreover, Weitz impressed us with its innovative systems in budgeting, scheduling, cost control, and value analysis and engineering. We concluded that this is the best way to move our construction operations forward."



Weitz's resume includes The Links at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, Calif. The company also constructed clubhouses for John's Island Golf Course (GC) in

Vero Beach, Fla.; the Tonto Verde GC in Rio Verde, Ariz.; Ibis Golf and Country Club (CC) in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; Ancala GC in Scottsdale, Ariz.; Columbine CC in Littleton, Colo.; and Binks Forest Club in Wellington, Fla.

## From floods to fairways in Indy

By ANDREW OVERBECK

**ENGLISH, Ind.** — Mother Nature be damned.

These days landfills, old mines, deserts, even flood plains can be converted into playable courses. And when the people of English, complete their move to higher ground this winter, developers will level the old town's neighborhoods and commercial buildings and commence construction of a Michael Hurdzan-designed 18-hole course.

But there's more to the master plan.

The course is being built entirely by the local community. The project will cost roughly \$1 million — utilizing area volunteers for labor, locally raised money and special golf-industry agreements.

Cary Hammond, a partner in Sterling Development Corp., the developer who hatched the plan, said the project is a community-led effort to breathe new life into the area's tired economy. "The town will be revitalized by this golf course project and the growth it produces," said Hammond.

He has assembled a corps of 52 local,

heavy-machinery operators, who have volunteered to work through the winter on the rough-in construction. Many volunteers are local builders, who work during the year constructing roads, bridges, and dams, and have donated their labor during a slow time of the year. Local course builder Carl March will oversee construction.

When rough-in construction is finished this spring, March and one of his shapers will put the finishing touches on the layout.

Developers took care has to build all greens above the 100-year flood stage.

Continued on page 62

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## Mass. course project set for bidding process

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — The town will go out to bid in January for construction of a high-end, daily-fee 18-hole municipal course, practice facility and related infrastructure here.

The South Hadley Golf Course project sits on 244 acres along the Connecticut River with views of Mount Tom.

Golf Realty Advisors (GRA), which was recently acquired by Willowbend Golf Develop-

ment Corp., is the project manager for the Howard Maurer-designed layout. Construction is slated to begin this spring.

The town will eventually select a golf course management firm to grow in, manage and maintain the facility, which is scheduled to open Aug. 15, 2000.

For more information, contact GRA's Mark Milton at 617-630-4949.

## Philly readies for more golf in '99

PHILADELPHIA — Three courses are due to be finished in 1999 and one more is set to begin construction this year in the Philadelphia area.

Pine Barren Golf Club in Ocean County is an 18-hole, high-end, daily-fee course designed by Eric Bergstoll on 230 acres of land that he owns. The course is

grassed in, but will not open to the public until June.

Bellewood Golf Club in Chester County is a Tom Fazio-designed, 18-hole private course due to open by July 2. Earth Enterprises is the construction firm.

Scotland Run Golf Club is a par-71, 6,900-yard Stephen Kay-designed course being built in an abandoned sand mine in Gloucester County. The course is slated to open June 1.

Looking further into the future, ground has been broken for the Blue Heron Pines East course, Blue Heron Pine's companion course. The daily-fee course, which is near the Atlantic City International Airport, is scheduled to open in spring 2000.

## Hoosier golf cart bandit strikes

MARION COUNTY, Ind. — An unwitting burglary suspect fleeing the scene of a crime, aborted his getaway car in favor of another, albeit slower, four-wheeled vehicle — a golf cart.

After Marion County police officers cornered the man's car, he bolted for the green fairways of Meridian Hills Country Club in search of alternative transportation.

Foiled by a club repair cart that failed to start, the criminal then fled through the clubhouse and sped off in a golf cart. A deputy followed in hot pursuit in another golf cart and eventually apprehended the thief just south of the course.

The suspect, who had a prior record of burglary and auto theft, can now add breaching golf course etiquette to his resume.

## Monarch builds Ottawa course

TORONTO — Monarch Development Corp. is proceeding with an Ottawa-area golf course housing project.

The first phase of the Jockvale golf-course community in Nepean, Ottawa, will include as many as 700 homes, the first nine golf holes and clubhouse. The property features more than a kilometer of frontage along Jock River.

"It's ideal for a golf-course community," said President and Chief Executive Officer John Latimer. "It will also appeal to people who simply enjoy open spaces and the natural beauty of the Ontario countryside."

Pending final approval of the subdivision plan, construction could begin next summer, with the first homeowners taking occupancy in the spring of 2000.

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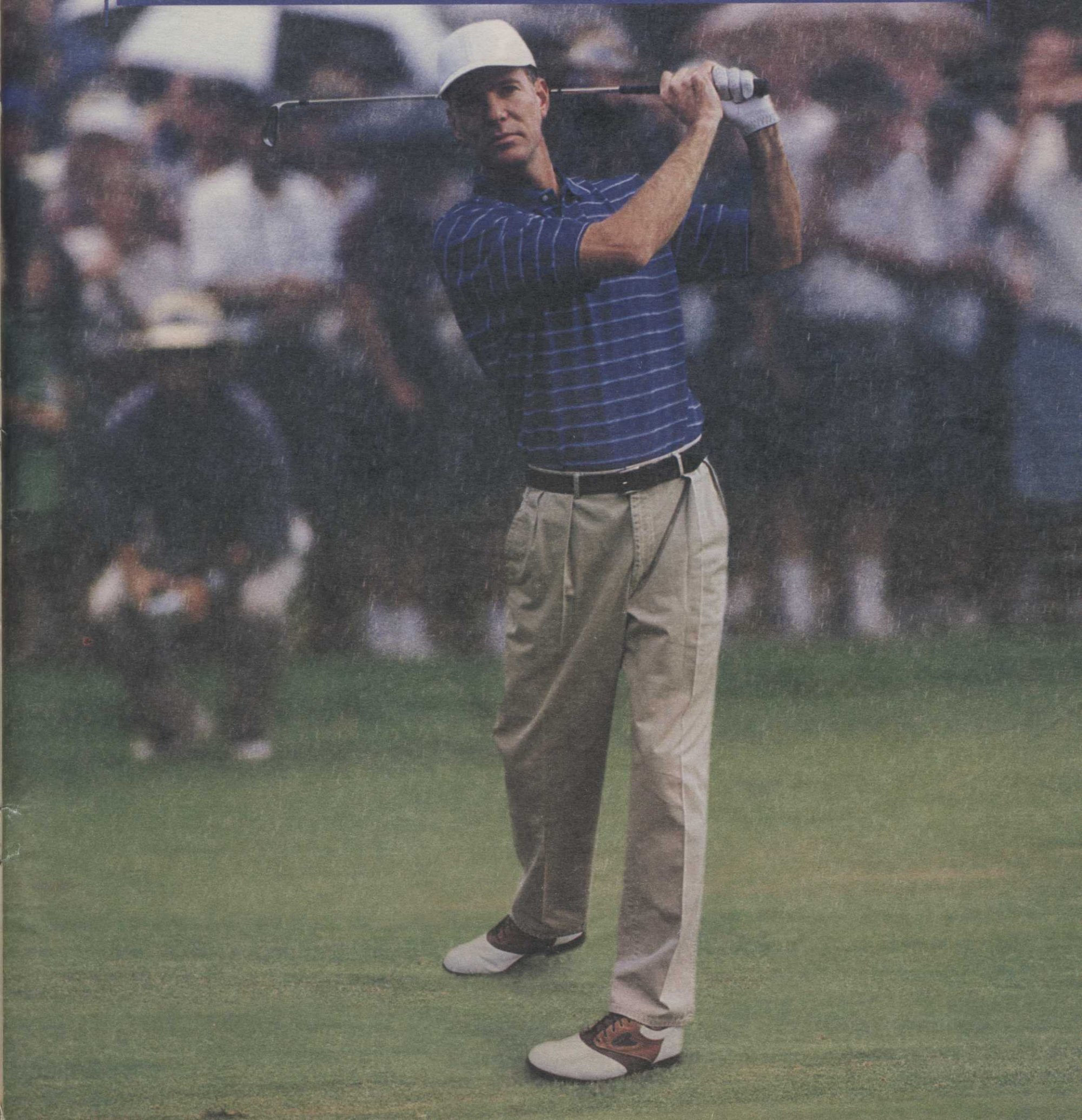


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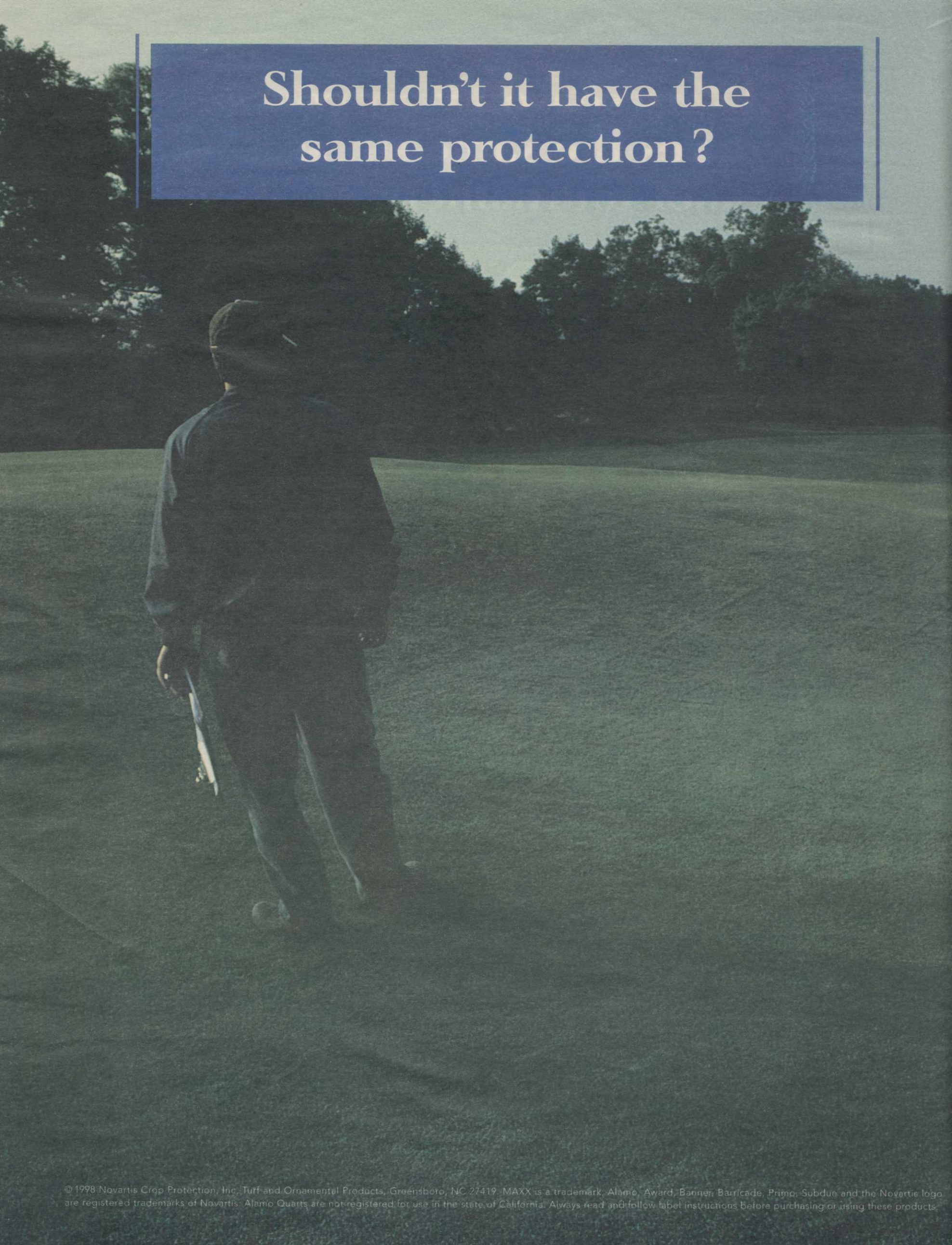
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A person wearing a dark hooded raincoat is walking away from the camera across a green golf course. The person is holding a golf club in their right hand. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

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## Endangered eel irks golfers

BERLIN, Conn. — Town officials are finding that expanding the busy Timberlin Park golf course to 27 holes is proving to be more work than anticipated.

Consultant Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. has submitted four proposals for the nine-hole addition, but none have met with approval.

Residents, who were already irate about the proposed use of adjacent parkland for the expansion, received more ammunition in October when

conservationists discovered that the proposed area was the habitat for the eel-like American Brook Lamprey.

All of this irks area golfers who claim the course can peacefully coexist with the eel and insist that the nine-hole addition is necessary to ease overcrowding.

A fifth proposal is pending, but consultants are having a hard time routing the course around the protected habitat and expect that the Department of Environmental Protection will otherwise block the expansion project.

## NY project makes concessions

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Plans for the Saratoga National Golf Club are one step closer to approval.

Developers Robert Howard and Thomas Newkirk of Tomsargo Corp. have altered the design of the course to avoid

using sensitive wetland areas.

Six greens were originally planned along the lake shore, now only the 15th hole will border the lake. They also moved the proposed golf school and maintenance building to another area.

## Weiskopf goes No. Caribbean

MIAMI — The Island Land Company based here has formed a joint venture to develop The Island Club, a new \$120 million luxury golf and vacation resort community on a 274-acre oceanfront site on the Island of Great Exuma in the Southern Bahamas.

Tom Weiskopf will be designing the championship, 18-hole, 7,100-yard, oceanfront course, which is scheduled to open in the winter of 1999.

Gregori International, a French construction firm specializing in island developments, will be the general contractor for the development.

Great Exuma, which has a longstanding reputation as a yachtsman's paradise, has recently opened a new airport and is a 90-minute flight from Miami.

## Golf Buddies breaks ground

CAMELLIA CITY, Ala. — Golf Buddies Inc. broke ground Oct. 30 on the 18-hole, 6,900-yard, par-72 Gobbler Hollow Golf Club north of Greenville, Ala.

The fairways will be a special hybrid Bermudagrass created by the Auburn University School of Agronomy. Greens will be sodded with "Champion" Bermuda.

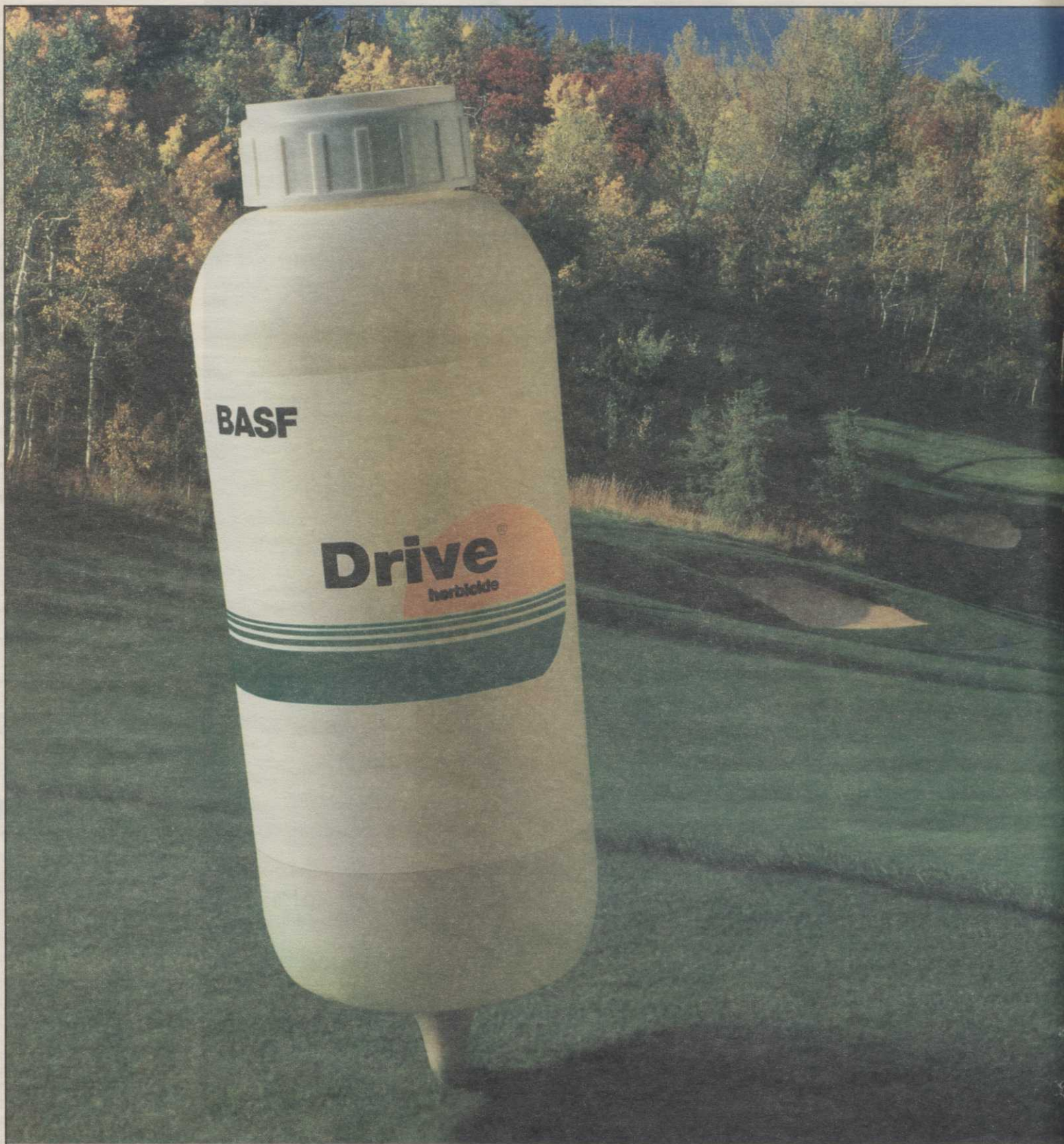
Rough shaping has already begun and the course is due to open on Memorial Day 1999. Teague Construction will handle the course construction.

## Toronto firm eyes Fla. project

NAPLES, Fla. — The Parklands Development Limited Partnership, a Toronto-based, real-estate developer, recently paid \$13 million for a 324-acre site in the Bonita Beach area.

Preliminary plans call for an 18-hole course and residential community.

Parklands Development has built other Florida residential golf projects such as Key Marco in Marco Island and Heritage Greens in North Naples.



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## Dye named first female PGA director

NEW ORLEANS, La. — With her contributions to women's golf being cited as "an essential component to guide [the PGA of America] into the next millennium," Alice Dye has been sworn in as the first woman on the PGA board of directors. During The PGA's 82nd annual meeting in November here, Dye succeeded

George Lewis of New York, N.Y., as an independent director.

Working alongside husband Pete, Dye has been instrumental in the design of more than 40 golf courses, including Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind., Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C., and PGA West in LaQuinta, Calif. An accomplished

golfer, she has been the foremost proponent of building forward tees to ensure that golf courses are manageable for women.

"Alice Dye is a recognized authority in golf, who will bring an important dynamic to the PGA board of directors," said PGA of America President Ken Lindsay.

Dye holds more than 50 amateur titles, including two USGA Women's Senior Champion-

ships, two Canadian Women's Senior Championships and five Women's Western Senior titles. She was the captain of the 1992 U.S. Women's World Team and for five consecutive years was named the Florida Women's Senior Golfer of the Year.

In 1997 she was elected the first woman president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, and has been active

in many boards, including the USGA Women's Committee, the USGA Handicap Committee and the LPGA Advisory Council.

The Dyes' two sons are course architects Perry and P.B.

The PGA board of directors is comprised of the association's president, vice president, secretary, honorary president and 17 directors who establish the association's policies.

## Calif. municipality seeking developer

LAKE VIEW TERRACE, Calif. — The city Public Works Board has voted to seek bids for firms interested in building an 18-hole course on the former Lopez Canyon Landfill, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

The city is seeking a developer for the design, construction and 20-year operation of a course on the 147-acre landfill site that closed in 1996. However, the local homeowner's association opposes the board's proposal. Concerned with chemical leaks, residents would prefer a more passive development, like a public park or nature trails.

Board officials noted it may be necessary to hold construction for a couple years until the landfill base has leveled and properly settled out, but insisted that similar projects have been successful elsewhere.

Two firms have reportedly approached the board about the project.

## New Vegas track secures financing

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Mountain Spa Resort has moved closer to reality with Mountain Spa Residential Development LLC completing financing.

The 27-hole course designed by Robert Cupp will cost \$21 million and be the central focus of the resort, spa, and residential community. Meadowbrook Golf Group (MGG) has agreed to a long-term lease and operating agreement and will construct the course. The course is expected to open in December.

### CALIF. COURSE HITS BLACK GOLD

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — New Horizon Exploration, Inc. has begun drilling for a reported 22 million barrels of oil reserves that lie below the Sheraton Industry Hills Hotel and Golf Resort. Surprisingly, the work will not interrupt play at the course. New Horizon is slant drilling under the course itself from an area adjacent to the 14th fairway in order to protect the aesthetics of the course and allow it to remain in operation.

January 1999 9

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## Ten years of delivering the news, connecting a community

This isn't just any new year for *Golf Course News*. As we flip the calendar we're marking our 10th full year in operation — 10 years of delivering the news of the golf course industry.

That's a solid chunk of time. And in that time GCN has become more than just an information source, we've become an integral part of the industry itself.

Next month, when the industry hits the GCSAA show floor in Orlando, Fla., we'll be bumping into superintendents, golf course architects and turf product managers who are not only story subjects and news sources but vital links to keeping the information flowing and the golf course community interconnected.

Forgive me for coming off sounding warm and fuzzy, but with that many years in the business, it's hard not to make a few friends along the way. For those of you who have been there along the way, I'd like to say, "Thank you."

Although I haven't been here for the full ride, I would personally like to thank two guys who *have*, Managing Editor Mark Leslie and Associate Editor Peter Blais. Chances are, you know them both. These guys got GCN off the ground and continue to make GCN the golf course industry's first source for business news.



Michael Levans,  
editor

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We started our Reaching Out section about a year ago when The First Tee kicked off. In this section we search for developments and established courses that are bending a knee to help kids get into the game. This month we feature 'a year in review' piece from The First Tee's Tod Leiweke (page 11) and a package of Reaching Out stories starting on page 39.

I'd like to draw your attention to the story on page 53 about the folks at Willowbrook Golf Course close to my hometown. Tim Stawovy is one of those guys who hates to sit around and watch the snow fly. Instead, he turns his golf course — a solid 9-holer where I actually played my second round of golf at the age of 10 — into a ski slope. Not only did I hone my golf skills on his greens, but I learned how to ski on his snow. Tim and his crew reach out all year round.

*Edit Note: The follow letter to the editor is in response to Michael Hurdzan's commentary in GCN's Design and Construction section in the November issue.*

Michael Hurdzan's proposal for "bunny slope" courses must meet the criteria of a sensible business plan. Looking to build these courses on virgin land may not be sensible. There are plenty of lower-quality courses in my area that seem to serve the high-handicapper.

Older, outdated courses may naturally fill his perceived void. To go through the expenses of acquiring land, permitting, engineering, and building these types of facilities seems unreasonable.

Amazingly, Hurdzan decries the number of people promoting themselves as architects who may not be qualified when he has promoted John Cook as a co-designer on some of his projects.

What qualifies John Cook to

be a designer? Hurdzan needs to see that he is sending the wrong message by promoting Tour stars as designers, thus degrading our profession. I see the bigger problem being the design professionals, engineers, landscape architects, even contractors, who promote their golf design services as another means for garnering fees to meet cash flow.

Often times, I have seen these companies hire someone whom may have spent a couple years in construction, or working for an architect. Bottom line, these professional firms are hungry for ways to generate fees, and see the golf boom as another type of development they can scavenge for fees as expert consultant.

I worked under a pro/archi-

tect arrangement, and it was a farce. The active pros, in particular, do not have the necessary time to devote to this profession. They have chosen this profession out of supposed interest in design, when, in fact, they see it as another way to make money on their name.

Basically, they want to see your plans. There are some well-qualified, big-name architects that have never prepared a set of plans, and many who do not work from plans. They qualified themselves by devoting their entire time and energies to the profession. Something the vast majority of golf pros, like John Cook, have never done.

Hurdzan, again missing the point, attacks inexperienced con-

## Where's the integrity? It's on the links

When the New York Jets' Vinnie Testaverde fell a foot-and-a-half short of the end zone on the last play of the game against Seattle and the referee called it a touchdown, you didn't see Testaverde jump up and say, "No, ref, I wasn't in."

When the referee miss-called the coin flip before the overtime period between the Detroit Lions and Pittsburgh Steelers, you didn't see a Lions co-captain correct the ref and say, "Oh, ref, they named it tails; they get the call."

And when have you ever seen a Michael Jordan or Larry Bird tell a referee that he was not fouled and should not be going to the foul line?

Yet, in golf, time and time again, we have seen players disqualify themselves because of a rules infraction, or take some other self-inflicted penalty in fairness to others and the regulations of the game.

So, you tell me, which sport has the most integrity? Or, perhaps better said, in which sport do players show the most integrity?

The United States has never had a "Little League" of golf, or an equivalent of it. Instead, we have Pop Warner football, Babe Ruth League baseball, or Youth League basketball.

Perhaps, with such a strong recent emphasis on First Tee-type programs, now is the time to form a Kids League of golf. It could be citywide, countywide, statewide — you name it.

Larry Turner, who founded and now operates Champions for Kids in North Carolina, said golf teaches "the values of integrity and courtesy." (See story, page 39) Hm-m. Wouldn't it be interesting to see those values exhibited in next Monday night's football game?

Allan MacCurrach, president of golf course builder MacCurrach Golf, said architects Pete Dye or Bobby Weed "get us out to do something at TPC at Sawgrass [in Jacksonville, Fla.] every year. I swear, that whole golf course is built on Velcro."

The initial printing of 1,500 copies of "Practical Golf Course Maintenance: The Magic of Greenkeeping," was sold out in the first two months, according to co-author Gordon Witteveen. Witteveen, a founder of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, and former GCSAA President Michael Bavier have been tag-teaming their seminars on greenkeeping in countries around the world. Their book converted the information from their seminar into print. It is now even being used as a text by some colleges, Witteveen said from his Toronto Board of Trade offices, where he oversees a half dozen golf courses. Witteveen will be honored with the Canadian Golf Course Association's (CGSA) annual John B. Steel Award during CGSA's annual meeting in March. Bavier hails from Inverness Golf Club in Palatine, Ill.



Mark Leslie,  
managing editor

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## The 'bunny slope' course reconsidered

tractors as driving up construction costs. What drives up construction costs are the following: big-name architects who "design in the field" requiring several change orders because they have only a sketchy idea where the design of the hole is headed even though the contractor is on-site constructing it and several other holes; big-name architects who will build courses anywhere under any site conditions, no matter the costs; big-name architects who have a reputation for being egotistical, who make several changes in the field even after having approved a course of action the month before, who visit the site infrequently, leaving important decisions to staff, often overriding their decisions requiring field changes. This is what drives up construction costs.

— Kelly Blake Moran  
Kelly Blake Moran Golf  
Course Architects

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# The First Tee's first year: On track for 100 facilities by 2001

By TOD LEIWEKE

The First Tee continues to make excellent progress toward achieving our initial two-year goal of 100 facilities in development by the end of the year 2000.

Tangible evidence of this progress was the participation of 50 different communities at The First Tee's inaugural National Association meeting this past Nov. 20 at World Golf Village in northeast Florida. These committees came together to showcase their collective belief that the inherent values found in golf should play an important role in the lives of our youth in their respective communities.

These communities are not alone in their commitment, as evidenced by the support of The First Tee's corporate partners. These partnerships will allow The First Tee to pass through to our Chapters extraordinary benefits and discounts in the construction and operations of youth golf facilities. Toro, for instance, has pledged discounts of up to 70 percent off irrigation equipment and up to 40 percent off of operating equipment. Club Car, Jacklin Seed, Pursell Technology,



Tod Leiweke

Syncroflo and IBM also have committed to discounts below wholesale prices.

Members of The First Tee's Oversight Committee have made extraordinary commitments to First Tee Chapters, as well. The PGA TOUR, LPGA, Augusta National Golf Club, USGA and the PGA of America continue to support The First Tee through financial and resource support. As an example, Jim Awtrey, CEO of the PGA of America, has launched a \$3 million teaching grant program and also will provide all First

Tee Chapters access to the PGA of America's Golf Course Financial model for use in building Chapter business plans.

While significant progress is being made, we are ever cognizant of the daunting challenge faced by this initiative and the golf industry in growing and expanding participation. Statistics show that 98 percent of kids ages 12 to 17 simply do not play the game of golf.

First Tee Chapters face development challenges similar to those facing private sector developers. Plus, there exists a lingering perception that golf still is a sport for the rich and elite of our society.

Additionally the cost of developing a youth golf facility is far greater than other

alternative facilities such as a basketball court, tennis court or baseball field. We know that no one initiative alone will be enough to dramatically alter participation amongst young people or minorities. Only through people working together — bonded by the common belief that golf has inherent values that are unique and valuable to the lives of our young people — can we truly change and grow the game.

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Tim Finchem, PGA Tour commissioner and chairman of the World Golf Foundation, speaking at The First Tee's inaugural National Association meeting on Nov. 20 at World Golf Village.

Tod Leiweke is executive director of The First Tee.

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## BRIEFS



### GERRY WHITE STAYS ON IN MAINE

FALMOUTH, Maine — Gerry White, superintendent at Point Sebago Outdoor Resort in Casco, was re-elected in December to a second term as president of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association. Remaining in place for a second year are Vice President Scott Cybulski of Falmouth Country Club, Secretary/Treasurer Dick Fahey of Poland Spring (Maine) Country Club, Past President Mark Verhey of Mere Creek Golf Course in Brunswick and Directors Bob Myers of Union Country Club in Appleton and Tom Small of Abenakee Club in Biddeford Pool. Jeff Hevey of Dutch Elm Golf Course in Arundel or Gregg Grenert of Samoset Resort Golf Course in Rockport was elected to fill the third director's position.



Gerry White

### NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE SLATED

The 2nd annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show (NERTCS) will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center here, March 2-4. The conference will feature seminars for turf professionals, at which rectification credits can be earned. Sessions will focus on golf course management, lawn and landscape care, sports turf, athletic field and municipal turf management, as well as machinery and shop maintenance. More information is available from the NERTCS show office at 401-848-0004.

### DPC HIRES MOOREHEAD

LONGWOOD, Fla. — George E. Moorehead has joined Diamond Players Club (DPC) as superintendent of Wekiva Golf Club here, it was announced by Todd Stottlemire, DPC president.



George Moorehead

Diamond Players Club is a golf management company headed by Stottlemire, a Major League pitcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks, and PGA Professional Gregg Gagliardi. Moorehead, a native of Tampa, was formerly assistant superintendent at the Quarry Course of Black Diamond Ranch Golf and Country Club in Lecanto. He has an associate degree in golf course operations from Lake City Community College.

# N. Georgia Tech to graduate first turf students

By PETER BLAIS

CLARKSVILLE, Ga. — The new golf course turf management program at North Georgia Technical Institute (NGTI) will graduate its first two students this spring.

"We want to put people in the industry as quickly as possible with as much knowledge as possible," said lead instructor Joshua Jackson. "People come to a technical school to get hands-on training. We have more than \$100,000 worth of equipment and 70 acres that have been made available to us. We're looking at building a putting green and a practice facility that will be open to the public. We're also looking at building a nine-hole course."

The program arose from a needs survey that revealed a half-dozen courses within 20 miles of the school and a growing landscaping market that witnessed an expansion from two to 15 businesses over the past few years. A healthy turf market coupled with the fact the school (located an hour and 45 minutes northeast of Atlanta) already



Chateau Elan Golf Club superintendent Michael Brisbois demonstrates Stimp meter use to a group of North Georgia Tech turfgrass students

operated a 140-acre sod farm, indicated a technical school turf program might be a welcome addition to NGTI's offerings.

Jackson put together a one-year turf and golf course management certificate program requiring 17 in-class

Continued on page 20

## GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Deer wander through the 7th fairway, with natural areas above the bunkers, at Almana Colonies Golf Course in Almana, Iowa.

## Resolutions for Audubon, supers, golfers

By RON DODSON

It seems that beginning a new year allows an opportunity to look to the past and the future and develop some perspective. So, here it is the first month of the last year of this century. I wonder what people were thinking about in January 1899? I'm sure most people were not, in their wildest fantasies, thinking about international jet service, the World Wide Web, or Global Positioning Systems. The first

United States golf courses were only a dozen or so years old. The "heavy equipment" they used to shape the fairways of those courses were horses.

The 1800s were steeped in the "discovery" and settlement of America. A large number of people from the East were heading west. The westward migration started by foot, horse and wagon, but by the end of the century automobiles were seen on occasion.

Continued on page 18

## Brooklake certified

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Brooklake Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Brooklake Country Club is the 4th in New Jersey and the 141st course in the world to receive the honor. The first three courses in New

Continued on page 19

## Club adopts school

SOUTHPORT, N.C. — Carolina National Golf Club at Winding River Plantation, a Bluegreen Golf community, has selected Supply Elementary School to participate in Audubon International's Adopt-A-School Program. The program provides a hands-on approach to environmental appreciation, awareness and action that will turn the school into a sanctuary for

Continued on page 19

## Paul Harvey's super speaks out

By MARK LESLIE

ELMWOOD PARK, Ill. — Calling Paul Harvey "a wonderful part of the American landscape" and a person who loves the game of golf, the superintendent at the famed radio broadcaster's home course defended Harvey's past tirades against golf courses.

Alan Fierst, who Harvey has mentioned a number of times in his daily news broadcasts — including Dec. 2 when Fierst's crews were mowing grass for the first time ever in that winter month — said he does not believe Harvey thinks poorly of golf courses. Harvey has drawn the ire of the golf industry for years after making such claims as there are no birds on golf courses and superintendents are dying from mixing pesticides.

"Frankly," Fierst said, "his [anti-golf] comments have not been recently, and he has tempered them. I don't see it as a concern. He's not militant. But, by and large, I never sensed that [anti-golf sentiment] is Mr. Harvey's personal heart-felt belief."

The course manager at Oak Park Country Club here for 23 years, Fierst said Harvey's comments "cause a little bit of concern, but don't have enough meat in them to push anyone who is really interested in knowing the whole picture to cause trouble."

Harvey's writers, Fierst believes, write his news "for his constituency, who don't need a lot of wide-ranging information."

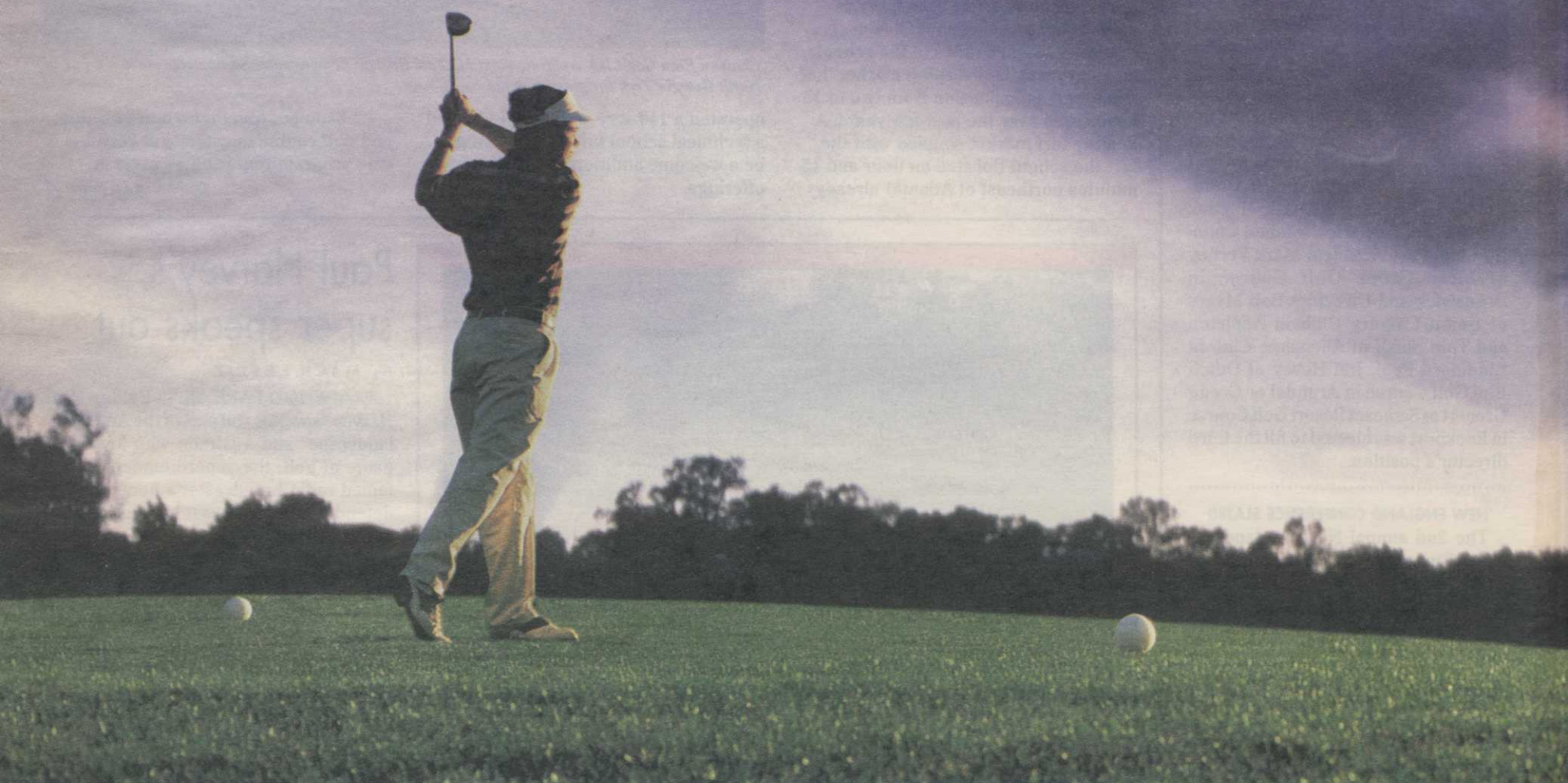
"He has a lot of control over what he reports, but has he internalized it as his own belief? No. He reports what he feels is newsworthy and of value to his constituency, at the level of intellect and depth those people choose to go to."

Saying he is not giving an alibi for

Continued on page 26



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## Trenching during wet weather — the easy way

By TERRY BUCHEN

VASTERAS, Sweden — Most of Sweden accumulated more than twice its normal rainfall during last year's growing season. The good news is, this rainfall identifies areas on golf courses that need additional, or first-time drainage. While it has been extremely difficult to operate traditional trenching machines because their rubber tires often cause severe turf damage, local course managers and greenkeepers have devised new ways to add drainage pipelines during wet conditions.

To continue with a drainage master plan, Fullero Golfklubb course Manager Jan Stavas bought a modified "Track Hoe" from a local distributor. The distributor had added a trenching machine auger, enabling it to work in wet soil conditions.

"It operates hydraulically, with all necessary controls in the equipment operator's cab," Stavas said. "Through a laser leveling device near the far end of the trencher, the equipment operator can see at all times to accurately do the proper percent slope."

Yet, the most important part of this implement is that the "Tracks" allow it to operate on any fairway or rough area, with little or no disturbance to the



The original trenching machine design allows for trenching during wet weather and soil conditions.

turfgrass and its playing conditions.

The Fullero Golfklubb crews lay the 100-millimeter-diameter plastic perforated drainage pipe 300 millimeters below the surface of the ground. Then they completely cover it with 6- to 9-millimeter-diameter pea gravel. Since the top 50 millimeters of the subsurface is native soil, the pea gravel can sometimes be as deep as 300 millimeters, depending on the

slope of the ground.

At the course's low points, Stavas extends a 100-millimeter-diameter pipe vertically and attaches a 150-millimeter-diameter catch basin to remove excess surface quickly and efficiently.

"We are extremely pleased with our modified trenching machine," Stavas said. "It has allowed us to make much progress all summer long, even during very wet soil conditions."



## Brits researching new nematodes

BINGLEY, England — The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) is monitoring a potential new problem for cool-season amenity turf which appears to have taken a foothold: parasitic nematodes.

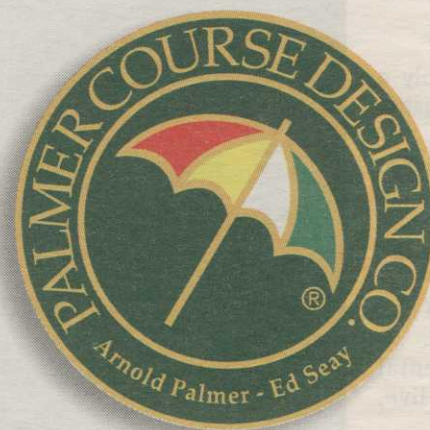
Nematodes, microscopic roundworms, have long been recognized as a problem of warm-season turfgrasses. But over the last few years from turf samples received at the STRI biology laboratory, they have now been identified at numerous sites in the cool-season turfgrass areas of the UK, Northern America and Continental Europe.

STRI is in the process of determining the extent and severity of nematode damage to turf across the UK and is keen to increase the scope of its research.

STRI pathologist Dr. Kate York explained: "The symptoms can vary dramatically. But, in general, if you have areas of turf which never seem to pick up after fertilizer application, or always seem to be 'lagging behind' the rest ... nematodes could be at the root of the problem."

York wants to receive samples from potential nematodes sufferers. She can be contacted at STRI, St. Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD161AU, Tel: 01274 565131, email: stri@rmplc.co.uk.

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## Audubon column

Continued from page 13

While the 1800s were primarily agricultural, the 1900s began as agricultural, grew to industrial, and now at century's end we have moved to an information- and technology-based society.

In some regard, that process has led many of us to lose contact with our historic "connection" to the land. While our grandparents and great-grandparents had to settle their own land, build and defend their own homes, and raise their own food, we purchase a dwelling from someone, drive our car to a grocery store and buy products that have been grown who knows where, and transported to us. Whereas Lewis and Clark took seemingly endless months to make their coast-to-coast journey, we complain about the four-hour plane ride we must now suffer through to make the same trek.

So, for this first month of the last year in this century, I'd like to pose some resolutions for the future, based on what we know of the past.

### For Audubon International:

- We will continue to focus on improvement of quality of life and the environment through research, education, and conservation assistance.
- We will resist the temptation to become an environmental regulator in our approach to promoting environmental stewardship.
- We will expand membership and programming but remain personally "connected" to our members.
- We will base our environmental policies on sound scientific research.

### For golfers:

- Remember, golf is only a game! And, it is a game that is rooted in nature.
- Support your golf course superintendent's efforts to manage the course for good playing conditions while caring for the environment.
- Become a steward of the game and the environment.
- Practice environmental stewardship where you live, work and recreate.

### For superintendents:

- Remember, golf is only a game! And, it is a game that is rooted in nature.
- Join, renew and participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.
- Communicate with your golfer members and players. Let them know all of the things that you do and encourage them to follow your lead where they live and work.
- Become involved in community good works, by adopting a local school and helping

to educate children.

- Sign up for and use the U.S. Golf Association's Turf Advisory Service.
- Continue to educate yourself by attending seminars and participating in worthwhile projects. Work toward your Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation.

### For golf course architects:

- Remember, golf is only a game! And, it is a game that is

rooted in nature.

- Be a leader in your profession by designing courses that fit the land, fit the environment and can be reasonably maintained after construction.
- Educate landowners about the unsustainable environmental and economic results of building courses on improper sites and in improper ways.

### For other environmental organizations and govern-

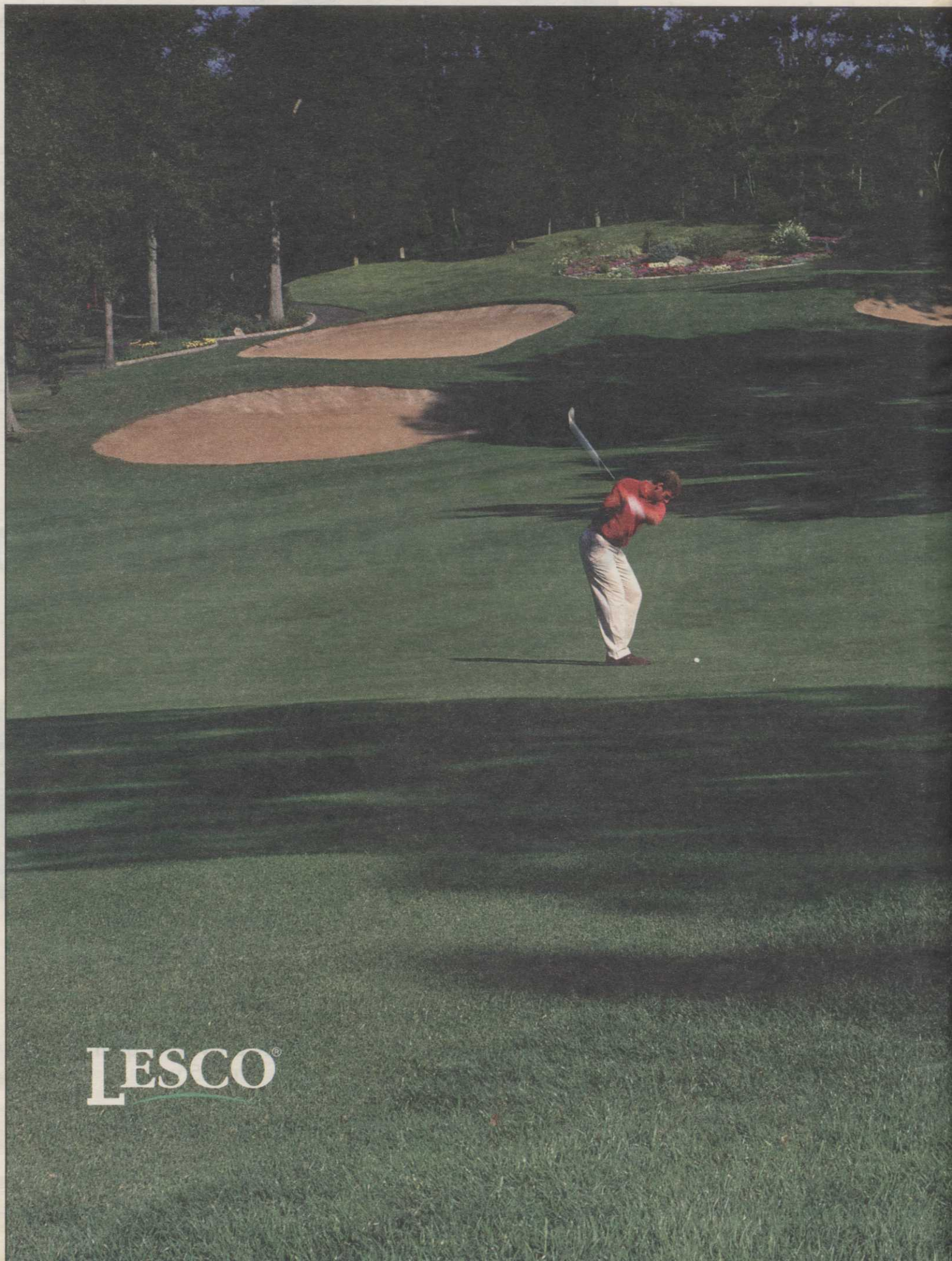
mental agencies.

- Remember, people are who we are talking with and about. It is people with families who have jobs to do that we often chastise while they are trying their best to keep their jobs and care for the environment. It is sometimes a delicate balance.
- Each person and every property is different. Provide direction and a set of principles to follow that can be adapted to each

site. That is the way ecology works.

### For All Of Us:

- Develop a legacy of stewardship of our environment and fellowship of our fellow human beings so that our descendants in the next century will be proud of our efforts and example.
- Wishing you the wonders of habitat and wildlife, and the pleasure and satisfaction of environmental stewardship.



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## Georgians elect Dusch

WATKINSVILLE, Ga. — The 1998 Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association has elected Jim Dusch of Grey Hawk Ridge Golf Club in Alpharetta president.

Elected at the group's annual meeting, Dusch will be joined by Vice President Franz "Buck" Workman of Catechee Golf Club in Hartwell; and Immediate Past President Chuck Underwood of Northwood Country

Club in Lawrenceville.

Elected to the board of directors were Frank Siple of Lanier Golf Club in Cumming and Jimmy Geter of Marietta (Ga.) Country Club. They will join Directors Sam Crowe of Monroe (Ga.) Golf and Country Club, Harold Franklin of Fields Ferry Golf Course in Calhoun, Craig Ketelsen of Orchard Hills Golf Club in Newnan, Phillip "Wade" Thomas of Idle Hour Club in Macon, and William Smith of Columbus (Ga.) Country Club.

## Carolina Nat'l links up with school

Continued from page 13

wildlife and a place where students can learn about and practice environmental stewardship. The program is part of Carolina National's efforts to receive certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP).

"In times of tight education budgets and the elimination of

special programs, it is exciting and encouraging to see what a difference linking community leaders and schools together can make," said Terry L. Vassey, director of golf course development for Bluegreen Golf. "By adopting the school, we hope to build a long-lasting relationship with the local community with projects that are designed to enhance the environment of both the school and the golf course."

Initial projects by Carolina National Golf Club and the school include installation and monitoring of songbird nest boxes, continued development of the school's wildlife trail, establishment of a nature and butterfly garden, tree planting and implementing a "best plant management" (IPM) program for the grounds management department at the school.

"We are very excited to be selected for the program and welcome Carolina National Golf Club to the school," said the Supply Elementary School principal, Dr. Carolyn Williams. "Our goal is to continue developing environmental awareness among the students and provide them with information and opportunities to contribute to their surroundings."

## Brooklake certified

Continued from page 13

Jersey were Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills, Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, and Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville.

In 1991, Brooklake Country Club joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses, which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

"Brooklake Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program," said Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the Cooperative Sanctuary System. "They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property. To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas."

The Brooklake board of directors and the course management team have always had a strong commitment to environmental issues. Golf course superintendent Scott Carpenter is convinced the ACSP and Brooklake Country Club are a perfect fit.

"The resources available regarding environmental issues are unmatched," said Carpenter.

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## N. Georgia Tech's 1st grads

Continued from page 13

credit hours along with five credit hours (150 field hours) of internship. The curriculum requires core courses in math, English, office and skills development, business management and computers, along with 10 hours of turf-related offerings. Students can

enter the program at any point during the calendar year and still receive a certificate within 12 months.

Jackson graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. He teaches all the turf classes, working in conjunction with the school's

environmental horticulture instructor. The two programs share many students and classes. Core classes are taught by other instructors at the 1,400-student campus. Jackson has worked at several Georgia golf courses, including Southernness GC in Stockbridge, Laurel Springs in Suane, The Landings in Warner-Robins and Hamilton Mill in Dacula.

In developing NGTI's program, Jackson said he pulled together the best of his own college experiences and borrowed from such successful programs as Horry-Georgetown, Lake City (Fla.), Clemson University (S.C.), Texas A&M, Auburn University (Ala.) and the University of Western Kentucky. Among the offerings he developed are classes in soil science, fertility,

turf management, insect/weed/disease control, irrigation and drainage, horticultural science, pest control and safety. He also incorporated hands-on experience such as the operation and calibration of golf course equipment.

"We even teach the theory of something like backing up a trailer, something anyone entering the golf business will have to do at some point," Jackson said. "No one likes to feel stupid when faced with doing something for the first time. We want people to have the experience so that when they are faced with doing it in the field, they are at least comfortable with it. It's a simple thing, but a lot of schools don't recognize that can be important."

"We also stress communications and public speaking," Jackson said. "Once they are working, students will have to make presentations on why they need a new piece of equipment, want to undertake an addition, or why they need new employees. They have to be able to eloquently state what they want and why."

Those wishing to go beyond NGTI's one-year certificate program and obtain an associate's degree in applied science can move on to Gainesville College or Truett-McConnell College.

NGTI launched its golf turf program in March 1998 and will graduate its first two students this March.

All eight NGTI turf students are working at golf courses, sod farms or practice areas, and range in age from 19 to 56, Jackson said.

Most have some previous secondary education. Jackson expects future students to be a mixture of recent high school graduates and those with previous work experience.

"Our big push will be next fall," Jackson said. "We've really been emphasizing recruitment at the high schools, which should be a fertile area for us since all our classes are held during the day. We've had several requests for night classes and have been exploring the possibility."

Jackson anticipates most NGTI graduates with limited turf experience, will enter the industry as spray or irrigation technicians, second- and first-assistant superintendents.

Others could work in related fields such as the sod, landscape or lawn maintenance industries, athletic field management as well as chemical, seed or equipment sales.

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*Dale Davenport, The Golf Center at Kings Island*

After attending a GCSAA seminar on irrigation efficiency, Dale Davenport was convinced that Toro could take his productivity to new heights. "All I could say was 'Wow!'" recalls Davenport, V.P. of Grounds & Course Conditioning for The Golf Center at Kings Island. Today, the Toro 750 and 780 sprinklers he chose "...are saving us a lot of hours because they're so dependable. Now, instead of fixing sprinkler heads, our irrigation specialist is helping us mow." With fewer parts, simple maintenance,

and 35 years of field experience built in, Toro sprinklers deliver peace of mind.

In fact, Dale Davenport describes them in two words: "No problems."

For more information see your Toro distributor or visit [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com).

*The Golf Center in Mason, Ohio uses a Toro irrigation system with 750 and 780 sprinklers exclusively because, as Dale Davenport puts it, "Seeing the reputation of Toro and the distributors in my area, and how it compared to other systems, I had to choose Toro."*



IRRIGATION™



## Transformed: Whiele-type roller made 'solid' for bucks

By TERRY BUCHEN

PARAMUS, N.J. — You can transform a Whiele-type roller into a solid roller without buying a solid roller. What? Yes, Ridgewood Country Club equipment manager Ronny Cestaro had the idea, then proved its worth, according to superintendent Todd W. Raisch. Cestaro also proved that sometimes the greatest ideas are the simplest.

"We like to use a Whiele-type front roller on our Jacobsen LF 128 fairway mowers, but there are certain times of the year that we would like to use a solid roller," Raisch said.

Instead of buying a solid roller, Cestaro uses a 3-inch-diameter piece of class 200-schedule 40-PVC pipe and cuts it the exact length as the Whiele roller.

He then pulls the end bracket and roller scrapers off on one end and raps duck tape two full revolutions on either side of the Whiele roller to take up any slack.

The 3-inch PVC pipe is simply slipped over the top of the Whiele roller and the end brackets and roller scrapers are reinstalled.

The PVC should not be used on greensmowers because of the precision required on greens. But, it provides "an instant, very good-quality solid roller setup for fairways," Raisch said. "We have saved a tremendous amount of money by not having to acquire solid rollers. The PVC pipe only costs a couple of dollars for each one."



PVC piping can turn a Whiele roller into a solid roller in a matter of minutes.

Indeed, solid rollers for fairway mowers can cost more than \$150.

All this is done on a course that in 1990 hosted the U.S. Senior Open. Ridgewood's 27 holes were designed in 1929 by A.W. Tillinghast, and remodeled in 1988 by Rees Jones.

Also, Gil Hanse designed a short-game practice area that is similar in nature to the Tillinghast design on the regulation course.

## Cook College offers IPM short course

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education is planning a short course called "Landscape Integrated Pest Management: An Intelligent Approach." It is scheduled on the Cook Campus here from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on three consecutive Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Jan. 26-27, Feb. 2-3, and Feb. 9-10.

Landscape maintenance using an integrated pest management (IPM) approach improves plant quality and health, while reducing the use of traditional chemical pesticides. This six-day course will improve understanding of the decision-making process that allows for the use of alternative pesticide products when controlling landscape insect and disease problems.

Detailed instruction on monitoring identification and control of key insect and disease pests of landscape and turf will be highlighted, including plant problem diagnosis and pest resistant varieties, as well as on marketing IPM. Interested people should call Dr. Karen Plumley at 732-932-9271.

## Voice Organizer a gold mine for super, assistants

By KEVIN ROSS

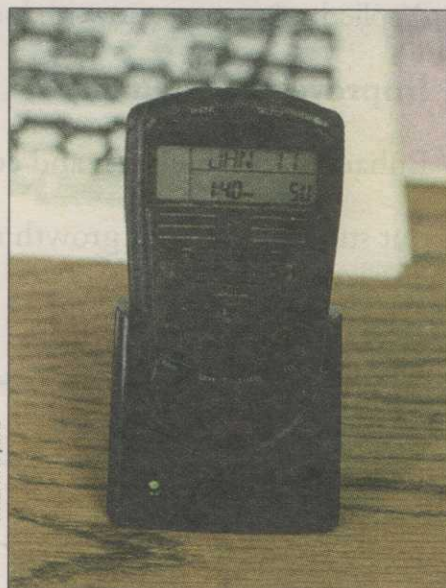
As technology has advanced, more products are available to help superintendents be organized and efficient. The Voice Organizer is one such electronic gadget.

Voice Organizers are trained to respond to an individual's voice command. Although this is a unique feature, they are much more than just something to talk into. There are many types on the market, with varied features. The unit I have has three main features which daily help me manage Country Club of the Rockies.

First is the message center. This unit, with no tape, will contain 100 voice messages. Messages are stored by a small computer chip. It records the date, time and body of the message. The messages are saved for future reference and can be deleted when finished.

I consider this message center the most-used and important feature. It is extremely handy to carry in your pocket when out of the golf course. As my daily travel takes me around the course, I record notes about various items requiring attention on the course. When I return to the office, I play back the messages and add on to my "to-do list" at the shop. Recording these messages on the course with the voice organizer is much easier than using a notepad and pencil, or tape recorder.

The next feature is the appointment/meeting notice. This lets you talk into the recorder and tell it of a special meeting you need to attend. For example, "Greens committee meeting,



The Voice Organizer has a special place in the maintenance operation at Country Club of the Rockies.

Friday, July 12, 1997, at 9 a.m." On July 12, the organizer will alert you of that meeting.

The last feature is the phone number database. The organizer will store up to 100 names and phone numbers. You simply speak into the organizer, telling it the name of the person first, then their phone number. These numbers can be retrieved at any time by speaking the person's name to the organizer, which then reads out the number.

I purchased the unit five years ago for \$225. Since then, the price has dropped drastically. The model that I have can now be bought for \$99. Also, there has been a flood of new brands and models on the market. With their present affordability, I decided to purchase one for my first assistant.

If you're not familiar with these units, they're worth serious scrutiny. I'm sure it can help in the day-to-day organization and running of your operation. I know I couldn't live without it.

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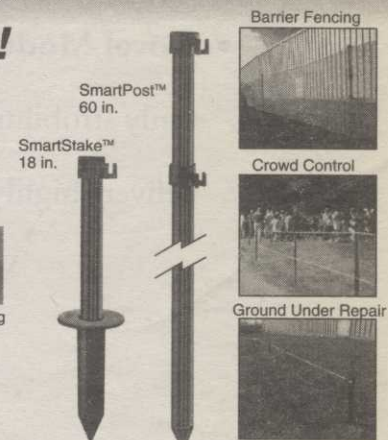
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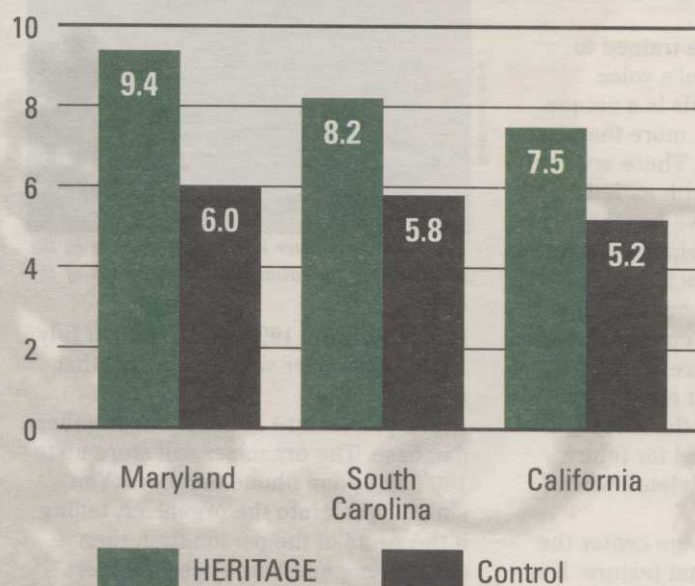
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# Y2K: Two little numbers, one big problem — even for golf

Continued from page 1

"The Year 2000 Crisis," or Y2K, and the scenarios of its effects are endless — from hospitals where lives may hang in the balance to golf courses where the effects will be more mundane, but perhaps far more far-reaching than at first glance.

The whole thing seems so simple. Many computers are programmed to recognize only the last two digits of a year. So when "00" appears at 12:01 a.m., Jan. 1, 2000, it could be interpreted as 1900; or, on some computers, 1980, 1984 or even 1999. This could cause turmoil in how data is analyzed or result in freeze-ups or massive malfunctions.

According to Brad Kocher, director of golf course maintenance at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort and Country Club, an expert hired to whip the resort into "Y2K compliance" told department heads "if it plugs in, it's subject to [Y2K]. It could have date-sensitive parts in it."

The consultant, Kocher said, "walked into my office, took one look at my TV set, and said, 'That probably won't work in 2000.' It has a timer in it. There are so many things to check out. Irrigation clocks, computers, VCRs..."

Clocks, timers, embedded chips — these gadgets that have made life easier — loom as the culprits in a bad prank, golf course superintendents and general managers fear.

Embedded chips, for instance, on which programming is written, are used instead of clocks in many devices. Billions of them are in use in satellites, water and sewage systems, desktop and laptop computers, airplanes and trains, nuclear power stations, power grid systems, pipelines, credit card systems, telephone systems, cellular phones and answering machines, facsimile machines, photocopiers, cameras, time-recording systems and

*'Our biggest concern is the things that we have no control over.'*  
— Dominic Van Ness, Pebble Beach Co.

voice mail, air conditioning and heating systems, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, signaling systems, Global Positioning System receivers, microwaves and VCRs, and digital organizers. The list goes on.

"There are things you wouldn't think were date-driven that have a date chip," said Dave Wilber of Wilber Turf & Soil Services in Rocklin, Calif. "The solid-state brain in the Fairway 5100, for instance."

And their effects more wide-reaching than expected.

"Remember when a satellite went down a couple of months ago and shut off cell phones?" asked Ron Andrews of Grand Harbor Golf Course in Vero Beach. "[Weather service provider] DTN went down as well. Look what losing one satellite did in terms of temporarily losing beepers and DTN. Make that losing 10 satellites and I don't have a clue what would happen."

Yet, Andrews is not one of the Chicken Little-type prognosticators. His operation is Y2K compliant and ready for the ball to fall in Times Square. Well, perhaps not totally.

"Basically, it boils down to two ways you can have a problem," he said. "First, on your site with your equipment."

"Second, with your vendors. That is really the difficult issue to get a handle on because they all have shippers and vendors and suppliers, who all have shippers and vendors and suppliers, who all have... You can quickly see that we are so interconnected in this society, that the problems expand away from our own site."

Van Ness agreed.

"Our biggest concern is the things that we have no control over," he said. "We have no control over power, or water, or

whether the municipalities are ready. We have no control over our vendors. For instance, the vendors who provide our clothing. It is shipped from the Far East, and it's dubious whether they're ready. Who knows? Our stores might go empty — not immediately, but a couple of months down the road."

Dave Johnson, South Central regional director of agronomy for ClubCorp said: "The larger utility companies are making efforts to be Y2K compliant. Can the smaller ones afford it, or can they afford not to? It depends on who's driving the horse."

Unable to affect outside sources, golf courses should ensure their own operations.

Van Ness, who joined Pebble Beach three years ago, said: "We were way behind. We had to do something in a hurry to get ourselves up to date. The average computer when I got here was on Word Perfect on 123, 386s and 486s and none were Y2K compliant. The whole thrust of the last few years has been an upgrade process to get Y2K compliant. It's a very unique strategy. Because we were so far behind, we had to buy new [computers] anyway. And due to that, it is part of our Y2K [plan]."

"Our Information Systems people will not be celebrating New Years Day in the traditional fashion. They will be here," said Pebble Beach Golf Operations Manager Shawn Smith.

Indeed, Van Ness said: "I've told everybody not to plan on going to the pyramids in Egypt for that time. We will have one or two staff on that night and have everybody come in to work on Jan. 1 to see what happens. It will be the best of all



worlds if we're sitting there bored."

Van Ness acknowledged that by midnight Dec. 31 it will be too late for preventive actions. "It will be fire control at that point if you're not ready," he said. "You think you're going to get through on a support line? I don't think so. The question is, will the phones work?"

Many feel Jan. 1, 2000, will be an interesting, and challenging, time. They feel it will neither be the end of the world, nor nothing, but somewhere in between.

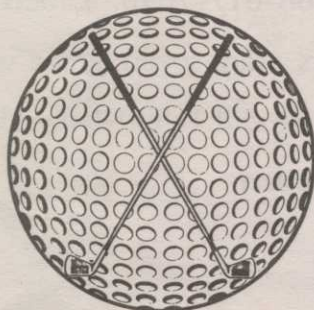
As superintendent Scott Cybulski, of Falmouth (Maine) Country Club, said: "I don't see us falling apart. Y2K's not going to stop photosynthesis, is it?"

One thing is certain, said Kocher: "All this conversation is going to take an incredible amount of time investment on people's parts. Every golf course has to call these vendors and ask if they're compliant, and that will create a lot of traffic. There will be a flurry of activity in 1999 about all this."

"Jan. 1, 2000, will be interesting but not that bad," Van Ness said. "I think it will be the longer-term effects that will start to show up. It will build — small problems at first and then more small problems and more, and before you know it, there will be all kinds of things going wrong. And if it affects the worldwide economy, it means less money, less expendable income. And what do you do when you stop income? You stop playing golf."

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## Getting a PC ready for the Year 2000

**RUN A TEST ON ALL YOUR DESKTOP COMPUTERS TO SEE HOW THEY ARE EFFECTED BY THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM**

(Note: This test may effect demonstration or trial programs that have an expiration date making them unusable.)

1. Exit to DOS.
  2. At the C:\> prompt type: DATE and press the <ENTER> key.
  3. Enter the date 12/31/99 and press the <ENTER> key.
  4. At the C:\> prompt type: TIME and press the <ENTER> key.
  5. Enter the time 23:59:30.
  6. Wait one minute and check date (step 2).  
(Date should be 01/01/2000. Press the <ENTER> key to get back to C:\> prompt).
  7. Reboot the system, exit to DOS and check date (step 2).
  8. If the date is incorrect then enter 01/01/2000 for date and press the <ENTER> key.
  9. Reboot the system, exit to DOS and check date (step 2).
  10. IF the date is 01/01/2000 your system should operate correctly.
- Also, check your currently installed software.

### OPERATING SYSTEM COMPLIANCE AND PROBLEMS

ALL Microsoft operating systems are Y2K compliant, but the following problems have been identified:

Windows 3.x: Control Panel Date function doesn't scroll to February 29, 2000. User must type in the number 29 from the keyboard.

Windows 3.x, Windows for Workgroups: The File Manager has cosmetic display error for dates in the 21st century ("19:0" instead of "2000"). This problem can be fixed by downloading a file from Microsoft that can be copied over the existing File Manager application.

Windows 95: (OSRI) File Manager has cosmetic display error for dates in the 21st century ("19:0" instead of "2000"). Windows Explorer does not have this problem. This problem can be fixed by downloading a file from Microsoft that can be copied over the existing File Manager application.



By MARK LESLIE

Superintendents and general managers across North America should check out a number of things on their golf courses for compliance to Year 2000 (Y2K).

Major among them are:

• **Computers.**

"Many PCs [personal computers] will experience problems at the hardware level," reported Michael Hyatt in his book, *The Millennium Bug*.

Every PC has a "BIOS chip" (BIOS stands for Basic Input Output System) which handles the low-level interaction of the hardware itself, including maintaining the system clock. Some of these BIOS chips are not Y2K compliant.

"Seventy-nine percent of pre-1997 BIOS chips cannot roll over from 1999 to 2000, and 14 percent do not know that the year 2000 is a leap year," Hyatt said.

Computer Weekly even said that in 1998 some computer manufacturers reportedly were still shipping machines that were not Y2K ready.

To check a PC for compliance, Hyatt suggested downloading a copy of TEST2000.ZIP from the Internet at <<http://www.righttime.com>>. This program will determine if the machine is compliant and whether it can be made compliant. Computer vendors can also supply a "Y2K flash BIOS patch," which will upgrade

## Check out everything that plugs in

hardware.

Meanwhile, millions of computers are still running on DOS software, the nongraphical disk operating system that predated Windows. And DOS is not Y2K compliant. (See sidebar on testing DOS.)

Macintosh operating systems reportedly are fully Y2K compliant. Microsoft had reported the same for Windows 95 and 97. But that may not be the case.

While saying Rain Bird has no date-dependent central control products and therefore they are not affected by Y2K, Pat Loper, the product manager for central computer control systems, warned: "However, hardware is a different story. On the hardware side, a lot of computers, even Windows 95, are not Y2K compliant. There are some issues with BIOS in older computers. Some customers, after asking us, have changed their computer clock to test it out and some have had problems."

"Microsoft told me [in mid-December] there were also some issues with Windows 98," added Loper.

The Internet contains a couple of Y2K sites that have freeware (free for the taking) programs that people can download. Once it is downloaded, the user can boot



up the computer and the program will inform them what passes and what doesn't pass.

• **Software programs they operate.**

"Any computer or program earlier than 1997 [is a concern]," said Dominic Van Ness, director of the Information Services Department at Pebble Beach.

If a superintendent is running major applications from major vendors, they can likely make your system compliant by simply ordering an upgrade from the vendor.

• **PC-based point-of-sale systems.**

"A lot of smaller golf courses have these systems," said Van Ness. "A lot of times they're not buying brand-name equipment. Rather, Joe's Computer Shop fixed it up for them. Those are the PCs that you would need to run a program on to make sure the hardware is Y2K compliant. And then you need to get a letter from your software providers stating they are, indeed, compliant. About all you do is put that paper in a file, and hopefully your vendor is trustworthy."

• **Weather stations.**

The older, mechanical version is not a problem, said ClubCorp's Johnson. "But some of the computer, solid-state units

could be."

• **Petroleum products.**

These could be affected if valves don't open when they are supposed to. "We could have leaks," Johnson acknowledged.

• **Accounting, payroll and maintenance software and inventory programs.**

• **Pump stations and irrigation systems.**

• **Reservation and tee-time programs.**

• **Mowers with computer diagnostics or other chips**

• **Sprayers operated with computers.**

• **Gasoline pumps.**

• **Golf carts that use Global Positioning Systems.**

• **Televisions and VCRs.**

• **Alarm systems.**

• **Calculators.**

• **Gate clearance equipment.**

"If everything in the external world is working and we have problems internally, then we have enough ingenuity, hopefully, to overcome it," said Van Ness. "You don't need a lot of computer stuff to get a golfer on the golf course. And you probably have a few days to get your irrigation systems and that sort of thing working right. But it's not like an airplane. We're not that mission-critical."

## Advice from various corners for colleagues

By MARK LESLIE

While superintendents and general managers usually cannot control fallout from Year 2000 (Y2K) failures outside their properties, they can take a number of actions to minimize their effects in-house.

Following is some advice to follow:

• **Contact your vendors.**

Some manufacturers will have made their products Y2K ready. Others, perhaps many others, will not.

ClubCorp is having its properties list everything that is computer-driven. "From that point in time, they have been calling manufacturers, etc. to see if anything at all might be affected," said Dave Johnson, South Central regional director of agronomy for ClubCorp.

Get a written document from the vendors confirming their Y2K compliance.

• **Sign a service/support contract with your vendors.**

"If you don't have a support contract, I recommend you get one so that if something does happen on Jan. 1 you can get some service," said Dominic Van Ness, director of the Information Services Department at Pebble Beach Co. "Or I guarantee they won't even talk to you. They'll have to first talk to customers who do have contracts."

• **Consider buying a generator or generators in case of power outages.**

"Some of the bigger courses already have generators," said Johnson. "Pinehurst has emergency equipment to generate power, as does the The Homestead (in Hot Springs, Va.)."

"We have generators for all our primary sites," said Van Ness. "But that won't extend to the golf shops. The main computer systems will not fall over and die, but they wouldn't be able to use them at the shops, because the shops themselves wouldn't have any power."

On the single-course scale, Ron Andrews said at Grand Harbor Golf Course in Vero Beach, Fla.: "We have a few small generators. I can supply



what limited power it would take to operate my mechanic's shop. We could provide 110 power to our irrigation system...

"Utility companies expect intermittent and rolling problems, not full-scale losses."

• **Upgrade computers and software programs.**

Oftentimes, you can make your system compliant by obtaining an updated version.

• **Be wary in buying new equipment.**

"When you get into new sprayers, there are some that are going to have a problem," said Johnson. "We've gone back to the mechanical ones."

• **Pre-test all equipment, if possible.**

• **Gasoline pumps, pump and irrigation stations.**

In the case of the irrigation system, Pat Loper of Rain Bird suggests to superintendents: "When it's raining and you're not going to irrigate, run the clock to Dec. 31, 1999, and come in the next morning and see if anything dramatic happened — if the computer locked up, or the software program crashed. If it works, bring it back to the current day and don't be concerned."

• **Stock inventory.**

"Stock a little more inventory. Do, not find yourself in the situation where you need something in the first month," said Andrews.

"I won't horde, but will be careful I don't need something in the first two weeks of January that has to come across the country. I'm a little nervous about shipping."

• **Replace what is feasible.**

"If it is not going to work, you probably ought to replace it," said Brad Kocher, director of maintenance at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club. "If everyone waits, everyone will be out there buying at once."

• **Read.**

A number of books and Internet sites address Y2K issues.

### GOVERNMENT LIARS

Last Nov. 28 it was revealed that the Defense Special Weapons Agency, which manages the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, falsified documents claiming it was Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant.

The agency told the Pentagon last summer that it had no Y2K bugs in three of its most important computer systems. But auditors say those systems were never independently tested, and nobody could verify whether key systems could withstand the Y2K problems. Only 25 percent of the agency's "mission critical" defense computer systems actually had been tested.



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## Harvey's super speaks out

Continued from page 13

Harvey, Fierst said: "I don't hold any ill will because I know he is addressing his audience. If he or any other broadcast personality would choose to address the concern of the materials that are applied to corn fields, home lawns and the unregulated areas of the country, it might be different."

"Keep in mind, golf courses are easy targets. Most of the people who play golf are regarded as somewhat elitist, playing a 'wealthy man's' sport, if you will."

An adjunct faculty instructor in turfgrass management at Triton College in River Grove, Fierst defended golf course superintendents, saying: "Yes, we spray plant protectants, including chemicals. But there is a golf course manager (I hate the name 'superintendent') at your course who, if anything, is a conservator of the environment and the watchdog of a very valuable piece of property."

"That person is not randomly distributing materials, regardless of a protocol, that are going to be damaging to the applicator let alone to the golf course (his source of income), the environment, or the people who come out and play the course... That is just not going to happen."

Adding that "Mr. Harvey's comments don't threaten me in the least," Fierst said: "I talk to people around the country who say, 'Paul Harvey's a member at your course? That must be hell.' No, actually it's very pleasant. He's a very nice man. He is a strong supporter of golf and loves to play the game. He's a gentleman who takes great pride in his ability to reach a wide segment of the population."

...

In his Dec. 2 broadcast, Harvey, speaking of the unseasonably warm temperatures in the Midwest, mentioned that Fierst was mowing Oak Park's greens for the first time ever in December. Fierst was deluged with phone calls from friends and colleagues, he said. But it wasn't the first time.

Harvey has spoken of Fierst's dog Wiley, who chases geese on the course, and about Fierst tree-trimming with Husqvarna equipment, an advertiser on the broadcast.

How did the bird comment make the airwaves?

While playing golf one day on the Donald Ross-designed course, Harvey asked Fierst why there were no birds on the golf course. "It was high noon and I told him the birds were nesting and taking their noon

siesta," Fierst recalled. "I told him to come out in early morning or late afternoon and he'd hear a racket he wouldn't believe. A couple weeks later he asked me the same thing and said, 'And don't tell me to come out here at 6 o'clock in the morning.'"

But Harvey apparently knows

the truth. As Fierst said, "He loves to ask about the red-tailed hawks that are on the property. And he likes the bluebird houses we have. We have chickadees nesting, and cardinals and robins and bluejays and all sorts of creatures and critters on the golf course."

"And the golf course is indeed a very comfortable place for Mr. Harvey and anybody else to play the game of golf."

### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS BEARDS

EAST LANSING, Mich. — To honor Dr. James and Harriet Beard, Michigan State University's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences has established an endowment that will be used to support students who are pursuing doctorates in turfgrass research and management. Beard retired in 1992 after 30 years of teaching and research at MSU and Texas A&M. He is considered one of the nation's pioneers in bolstering turfgrass research and development and authored three textbooks on turfgrass research, production and management. For information about making a contribution to the James B. and Harriet Bear Endowment Fund, write to James Obeir, associate director of development, 101 Agriculture Hall, MSU, East Lansing, Mich. 48824; or call 517-432-5179.

# SOME PROS EAGLE EVERY HOLE.





# Communication crucial element of super's job description

By TERRY BUCHEN

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Communicating with their fellow employees, other department heads, golfers and employers is the most part of a superintendent's typical work day and is arguably the hardest and most important responsibility at hand.

What is the best way for a superintendent to communicate? There are many proven ideas in many different formats that have been well received.

• Tom Wolff, superintendent at Sahalee Country Club in suburban Seattle, Wash., site of this year's PGA Championship, set up his own golf course maintenance website on the

Internet to communicate about the tournament and what his crew's involvement was and how important it was for a successful championship. They had many "hits" on the website — a resounding success.



• Joe Baidy, former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and certified golf course superintendent at Shenendoah at Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, N.Y., needed to acquire equipment at

this new 27-hole course. To communicate the best way possible with his employers, Baidy made a listing of bullet points, describing every piece of equipment, what it was used for and why. The resort officials appreciated this effort in their first venture into the golf business.

Baidy also devised projections for cash flow, rounds of golf and income, along with his grow-in  
**Continued on page 28**



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CHARLIE DINKINS

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Adds Jeff Frontz, greens superintendent, CGCS, of Royal American Links in Galena, Ohio:

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JEFF FRONTZ

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## Noer Foundation celebrates 40th

ORLANDO, Fla. — The O.J. Noer Research Foundation will mark its 40th anniversary during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Conference and Show here.

The foundation was established to honor Mr. Noer, who was the leading turfgrass agronomist of his day. As agronomist at the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, producer of Milorganite fertilizer.

During his long career, he traveled throughout North America, visiting with golf course superintendents. He also participated in many local, regional and national superintendents conferences and wrote numerous articles for popular and scientific publications.

Since its inception, the foundation has supported 54 turfgrass research projects at 19 universities and experiment stations. It also provides funds to purchase rare and important books related to turfgrasses, to expand the O.J. Noer Memorial Collection housed at Michigan State University. Funds are generated by the income derived from the investment of contributions.

Contributions come from individuals, superintendents associations, turf supply manufacturers and from Milorganite distributors and buyers who wish to "put something back" into the turfgrass industry. The foundation is an all-volunteer organization in order to maximize funds available for research.

O.J. Noer was a 1926 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, with a degree in soil science. The GCSAA Conference in Houston in 1960 was dedicated to him. He received the USGA Green Section Award in 1963, and was a three-time winner of the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award (1952, 1959 and 1960). His name was also listed in the Wisconsin State Golf Association Hall of Fame in 1985.

For more information of Mr. Noer, the foundation and the O.J. Noer Memorial Collection, check the World Wide Web at <http://www.lib.msu.edu/tgif>.



## Ridgewood Country Club

RULES ☐ CARTS ☐ 90 RULE  
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### COMING EVENTS

COURSE CONDITIONS  
FAIRWAYS  
TEES  
ROUGH  
GREEN SPEED  
RAINFALL  
LAST 24 HOURS  
WEATHER CONDITIONS  
TEMP  
WIND  
FORECAST



### SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

PESTICIDE / FUNGICIDE  
APPLICATION

REPAIR BALL MARKS - REPLACE DIVOTS - RAKE BUNKERS - POST ALL SCORES

Ridgewood Country Club's communication sign lets golfers know what they need to know.

## Sign communicates with golfers, guests

By TERRY BUCHEN

PARAMUS, N.J. — Communicating with course officials and golfers is extremely important for today's golf course superintendent. First impressions are also very important to provide the proper playing environment needed and wanted by today's demanding golfing elite. What better way to communicate than to greet golfers with a decorative and tastefully done redwood sign on the outside of the golf shop?

"Our sign contains vast amounts of information that I control at all times for our members and their

guests," said Todd W. Raisch, superintendent at The Ridgewood Country Club here. "We list which of our three nine-hole courses are open; whether to play regular or winter rules; rules for golf cars; course conditions, such as fairway, tee and rough mowing heights; rainfall during the past 24 hours; and current weather conditions, such as temperature, wind and the forecast for the day."

"We also provide important information about our sophisticated lightning-detection and warning system; our scheduled maintenance for the day or for the week; and any pesticide and fungicide applications."

The sign also reminds golfers to fix their ball marks, replace divots, rake bunkers and post all of their scores.

"We list our upcoming significant events as well," Raisch said, "to remind our members to make their commitments to play in as many member events as possible."

The most controversial issue about the sign, he said, is posting the green speed. While he initially did so, "we learned quite quickly that it is best not to post green speeds for very obvious reasons," Raisch said.

## Savvy communications

Continued from page 27

and subsequent maintenance budget for this year and next year.

- Bruce Williams, also a former GCSAA president and certified golf course superintendent at Los Angeles Country Club, has weekly staff meetings and plays golf with his general manager every two weeks to interact about his areas of responsibility. He also uses much written correspondence that is wanted and needed.

- Jim Loke, certified golf course superintendent at Bent Creek Country Club in Lancaster, Pa., sets the green committee agenda with the green chairman and then distributes it to each committee member, along with a written progress report of all of the good things that have transpired since their last meeting.

- Andy Woolston, superintendent at Harbour View Golf Course in Suffolk, Va., uses a portable cellular telephone on his course that is under construction so he and his employers can stay in touch with each other easily. The cell phone is also a great portable office while his maintenance building is being built, and he uses it effectively while driving to and from the course to catch-up on telephone correspondence.

- Fred Biggers, certified golf course superintendent at the 36-hole Greenville (S.C.) Country Club, uses a large notebook to communicate with the green committee and his general manager. Items in the notebook, which is constantly updated, include operating and capital budgets; labor studies; conditioning improvements; maintenance and master scheduling; soil-test results; agronomy consultants reports; master plan; and what makes a great golf club bullet points listing.

- Tracy Shanahan, superintendent at the nine-hole private Saratoga (Calif.) Country Club, recently renovated two greens with great success that required many face-to-face meetings with club officials. This worked best at this particular club to keep the paperwork to a minimum.

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# Fearis assumes presidency at Orlando conclave

QA

ORLANDO, Fla. — David Fearis, a 31-year member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will be elected president of the national association at February's International Conference and Show here. Fearis, 52, is head superintendent at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., and has served on the GCSAA board since 1993. He responded recently to a list of questions posed by Golf Course News.

**Golf Course News:** What will be your primary goal during your year as GCSAA president?

**David Fearis:** If I had to list a primary goal, it would be the education of the employer/influential golfer. If we can educate this group to better understand the golf course superintendent's job, the result could be increased job security, recognition, compensation, and job opportunities.

This actually is part of the mission statement of the membership standard's initiative. Right now, job security isn't a description often found in our profession. You hear numerous stories about a golf course superintendent who has been at a golf facility for 10 to 15 years and has one bad year and is fired.

Why? Because in many cases, that employer/influential golfer doesn't understand our jobs. We have raised the standard of golf course conditions so high that many golfers expect this year after year. Yet we are still dealing with Mother Nature.

GCSAA is working to provide programs

to educate the employer/influential golfer.

**GCN:** What is GCSAA doing to help superintendents move along their career paths and up into positions such as general manager, director of golf, etc.? Anything similar to the PGA's Career Links program?

**Fearis:** The obvious one is education. We are offering an increased number of seminars dealing with business, management and communication skills.

Also, we now award external Continuing Education Units for approved seminars offered by other associations like the PGA, CMAA or companies like National Seminars, Padgett Thompson, Fred Pryor, etc. These companies and associations offer many good seminars dealing with subjects, other than agronomics, which could further the golf course superintendent's skills to allow him to become a general manager or a director of golf.

The mission of the membership standards initiative is to increase the value of the golf course superintendent in the eyes of employers and influential golfers, resulting in increased compensation, security, recognition and job opportunities for qualified members. To me, this means showing employers that the superintendent has a high level of education, manages the largest staff, budget, and asset at a golf facility, and is therefore very qualified to become a director of golf and/or a general manager.



David Fearis

**GCN:** Are superintendents making use of new information technology — like the Internet?

**Fearis:** Definitely. The GCSAA's website alone receives over 1 million hits per month.

Also, GCSAA offers a complete turf management course on the web. This course is offered by the Penn State World

Campus and consists of six different courses dealing with turf management. Each successfully completed course offers 4.5 CEUs. You can access Penn State's class through the GCSAA website.

Also, a self-study, correspondence course entitled, "Responsible Pesticide Use for Golf Course Superintendents," will make its debut at the conference in Orlando. This course will also be offered over GCSAA's website.

GCSAA considers these new learning technologies so important that it has created a new department, Learning Systems Innovation & Design. A department goal is to find new ways to educate members through modern, technological means.

**GCN:** We ran an article recently on superintendents leaving the field because of mounting job pressures. Have you seen an increase in burnout among experienced superintendents? As a longtime superintendent yourself, what would you recommend superiors do to avoid burnout?

**Fearis:** I don't know if burnout is new among experienced superintendents. We are much more aware of it because of our im-

Continued on page 32

## Tampa courses offer challenge for tourney

By ANDREW OVERBECK

TAMPA BAY, Fla. — Participants in the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship will have to negotiate tall pine and cypress trees, large waste bunkers, and the occasional alligator at three of the demanding Innisbrook Resort golf courses.

The tournament, which will be held in tandem with the 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show, will be held Feb. 8-9. Toro Co. is again sponsoring the event that will be held at six different golf courses in the Tampa area.

Defending champion Al Pondel, superintendent at Deerfield Country Club in suburban Chicago, heads up the field of nearly 700 golfers who are divided into several flights based on handicaps.

Pondel won last year's El Nino-shortened event by shooting a blistering 69 on the opening day of the tournament. He held on to win over runner-up Tim Scott, superintendent at Stony Creek Golf Course in Addison, Ill., after rains canceled the second and final round of play.

"I came out and tried to get through the first round with a good score. I hit the ball well, hit a lot of

Continued on page 62

## GCSAA to honor Pebble's Horton with Environmental award

ORLANDO, Fla. — Citing him for efforts that "personify what superintendents strive for each and every day," the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has chosen Edward C. "Ted" Horton to receive the 1999 President's Award for Environmental Leadership.

Horton, vice president of resource management at Pebble Beach Co., will be honored at the Golf, Government and Environmental General Session scheduled at 8:45 a.m. Feb. 12, at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

GCSAA's board of directors selected Horton in recognition of his environmental leadership at Pebble Beach and his pivotal role in the Golf and the Environment Summit process that led to developing the groundbreaking Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States.

"Ted Horton's work has long been respected within the golf industry," said GCSAA president George Renault III. "Golf is truly a friend of the environment, and Ted's efforts personify what superintendents strive for each and every day."

Horton's environmental initiatives at Pebble Beach have included golf course recycling and effluent irrigation programs. He also works with community groups and is widely respected as a speaker on the topic of golf's environmental impacts.

The awards ceremony also will include presentation of the national winners in the GCSAA Environmental Steward Awards (ESAs) competition. The ESAs honor environmental excellence among golf courses and recognize the innovative practices their superintendents use to protect, preserve and enhance golf's environment. The session will conclude with a panel discussion with top executives of the allied associations of golf discussing their associations and their views on the role of the golf course superintendent.

The President's Award for Environmental Leadership was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contributions to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

## ...and Florida's Jones with Distinguished Service Award

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has confirmed that longtime superintendent Dan Jones will receive the association's 1999 Distinguished Service Award.

Jones was superintendent at Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Fla., from 1980 until his retirement in April 1998.

He is currently the East Coast sales manager of Toro Liquid Ag, Inc.

The award will be presented to Jones during the opening ceremonies at the GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show here, Feb. 8-14.

Jones is being recognized for his 33 years in the turf industry, where he has been an innovator and leader in the

business. He was instrumental in the late 1970s in bringing the white amur grass carp into the state to help control aquatic weeds and reduce the amount of chemicals used in waterways.

Jones has served as president of the local Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida GCSA, president of the Florida Turfgrass Association and was the editor and publisher of the national award-winning magazine, *The Florida Green*, for 13 years.

He has been named editor emeritus in honor of his contributions to the growth and success of the magazine.

In 1987 Jones received the Florida GCSA Distinguished Service Award and also received the Florida Turfgrass Association's Wreath of Grass Award.

## Outgoing president off to warmer climes

By PETER BLAIS

NAPLES, Fla. — Eagle's Creek Country Club here has hired outgoing GCSAA President George Renault, as head superintendent. Renault assumed his new position Jan. 1.



George Renault

Eagle's Creek, a private, 18-hole layout, opened in 1980. Renault's first projects at his new club will include rebuilding the greens and installing a new irrigation system.

"It was a better opportunity," Renault explained of his move from a Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., where he served as head superintendent for the past eight years.

Prior to Burning Tree, Renault was head superintendent at Chevy Chase (Md.) Club; Penderbrook Golf Club in Fairfax, Va.; and Goose Creek Country Club in Leesburg, Va.

A 20-year GCSAA member, Renault has served on the GCSAA Board of Directors since 1993 and chaired numerous committees. He is also a member of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Golf Advisory Commission, Watson Fellowship Selection Committee and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment [RISE] government issues committee.

Renault earned a certificate in golf and turfgrass management from the University of Maryland. He and his wife, Lucinda, have two children: George, 21 and Lucy, 17.



# GCSAA candidates at a glance

## VICE PRESIDENT

**Name:** R. Scott Woodhead  
**Age:** 42  
**Course:** Valley View GC, Bozeman, Mont.

**Former head superintendent at:** Town & CC, Miles City, Mont.; Univ. of Montana GC, Missoula.

**Years GCSAA member:** 15

**GCSAA posts held:** Board member since 1993; secretary/treasurer 1998; chairman of research, information services, Par for the Course Resource Group, public relations, publications, scholarship, conference and show, membership, career development committees; vice chairman of chapter relations, certification, education, public relations and government relations committees; co-chairman of employer resource group; member of scholarship and research, membership, chapter relations, conference planning, seminar resource and conference and show committees.

**Other associations:** Director and past

president of Peaks and Prairie GCSA and a member of the Association of Montana Turf and Ornamental Professionals.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in landscape management, Montana State Univ.

**Family:** Wife, Valerie; children Andrew, 7, Jeremy, 5.

**Goal:** "It is an honor to receive the nomination for vice president of GCSAA. I am humbled by the prospect of leading this dynamic association into the next millennium. As vice president, I will continue placing the best interests of all members at the forefront of my decisions. And putting every GCSAA dollar to work for members through improved member services will dominate my priority list. Our strategic plan is well researched and key indicators would suggest that we are making great strides in the areas of public perception, employer recognition and environmental awareness. I am prepared to accept the added responsibilities that go with the office of vice president of GCSAA."



R. Scott Woodhead

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Name:** Tommy D. Witt  
**Age:** 45

**Course:** Director of Golf Management, Stillwaters Resort, Dadeville, Ala.

**Former head superintendent at:** Wynstone GC, North Barrington, Ill.; Bent Tree Country Club, Dallas; Austin (Texas) Country Club; Riverhill Club, Kerrville, Texas.

**Years GCSAA member:** 20

**GCSAA posts held:** Board member since 1994; chairman of public golf resource, employers and student resource groups; chairman of publications, research, career development, education, membership and tournament committees; vice chairman of public relations committee; member of certification, bylaws resource, conference, fundraising, resource and scholarship and research committees.

**Other associations:** Past president of Central Texas GCSA; past president of Lone Star GCSA; past vice president of North Texas GCSA; chapter liaison and voting delegate for North Texas and Lone Star chapters; former board member of Bentgrass Research Inc., North Texas and Lone Star GCSAs, Midwest and Chicagoland Associations of GCS.

**Education:** B.S. in agronomy with turfgrass management option from Texas A&M University.

**Family:** Wife, Lorrie; Children, Seth, 11, Lauren, 10, Tanner, 7.

**Goal:** "I am excited about the opportunity of continuing my Golf Course Superintendents Association of America service in the secretary/treasurer position. My interest in



Tommy Witt

serving my professional association has remained consistent during the past five years. I enjoy working with those fellow golf course superintendents (board and committee members) who are dedicated to improving and advancing our profession. Although there are many facets and responsibilities of board service, I have a sincere interest in continuing the positive work that recent boards, committees and staff have provided. The association has grown significantly over the past five years in numbers, finances, services and programs.

Trust has been restored between the chapters and GCSAA headquarters. GCSAA continues to promote, educate, serve, market and represent golf course superintendents worldwide. Mandates relating to professional image, environmental benefits of golf, serving members through chapters and influencing job continuity and opportunity are the cornerstones of the many programs and objectives that are elevating the golf course superintendent's position in the industry. I would like to continue to be part of the team that has been so productive and visionary. While there are many success stories relating to the golf course superintendent, we still have a long way to go until golfers and employers fully understand and recognize the value and contribution this profession provides in managing a facility's most valuable asset, the golf course. Employer education is of significant interest to me. I am committed to doing my part to serve and promote our profession."

**Name:** Michael Wallace  
**Age:** 48

**Course:** Hop Meadow CC, Simsbury, Conn.

**Former head superintendent at:** Rockledge CC and Buena Vista GC, West Hartford, Conn.

**Years GCSAA member:** 21

**GCSAA posts held:** Board member since 1995; chairman of conference and show, membership, scholarship, publication, certification and communications committees; vice chairman of technical information services, scholarship and career development services committees; member of planning, scholarship foundation board, public relations and membership services committees; candidate at chapter relations annual meeting; member of career development group; voting and alternate delegate.

**Other associations:** Past president of Connecticut GCSA;



Michael Wallace

member of Environmental Industry Council of Connecticut.

**Education:** Associate's degree in turfgrass management, University of Massachusetts.

**Family:** Children, Tye, 30; Grier, 28; Ian, 27; Sian, 24.

**Goal:** "I'm very proud of what we've accomplished over the past four years at GCSAA. We've started some initiatives that are being developed, like membership standards. The only way one can continue to have an effect on things like that is to stay involved. I see this as a multiple-year journey when you get involved as a director. The natural progression after four or five years is to move up through the chairs. Having served on a number of committees and taken part in a number of board meetings, I feel I'm ready to do that."

**Name:** Joseph Emanuel  
**Age:** 45

**Course:** Hurstbourne Country Club, Louisville, Ky.

**Former head superintendent at:** Lexington (Ky.) CC; Tantallon CC, Fort Washington, Md.

**Years GCSAA member:** 23

**GCSAA posts held:** Member of membership, chapter relations and education committees; Bluegrass GCSA chapter delegate since 1989.



Joseph Emanuel

**Other associations:** Past president of Bluegrass GCSA; director of Kentuckiana GCSA; director of Kentucky Turf Council; member of the education committee of the KTC; member of Mid-Atlantic GCSA; member of Ohio Turf Foundation.

**Education:** Associate's degree in turfgrass and golf course management from University of Maryland.

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Family:** Wife, Peggy; children Allison, 20, Dennis, 16.

**Goal:** "I have been heavily involved in local and state associations throughout my career. Working on national committees I've gotten a flavor of the association. I want to give back to the industry, promoting the image and profession of the golf course superintendent. I favor instituting entry-level standards that would solidify to the golfing public what it means to be a GCSAA member."

**Name:** James Nicol

**Age:** 46

**Course:** Hazeltine National GC, Chaska, Minn.

**Former head superintendent at:** Bunker Hills GC, Coon Rapids, Minn.

**Years GCSAA member:** 20

**GCSAA posts held:** Member of public relations, election and chapter relations committees and the Par for the Course Resource Group.

**Other associations:** President of Minnesota GCSA; director of Minn. Golf Association; member of U.S. Golf Association; Penn State Turfgrass Alumni Association, and OJ Noer Foundation.

**Education:** Two-year certificate in turfgrass management from Penn State University.

**Family:** Wife, Barbara.

**Goal:** "Membership standards are good, but should be obtainable and affordable for all members. We should strengthen the continuing testing procedures for recertification and GCSAA's public relations programs. And we should help provide educational opportunities that would help superintendents advance to other positions, such as general manager."



James Nicol

**Name:** Timothy O'Neill

**Age:** 41

**Course:** CC of Darien, Darien, Conn.

**Years GCSAA member:** 18 years

**GCSAA posts held:** Member of the public relations and chapter relations committees; former chapter delegate and chapter president of the Metropolitan GCSA.

**Other associations:** Member of the Connecticut and Rhode Island GCSAs; vice president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in turfgrass management from the University of Rhode Island.

**Family:** Wife, Jennifer; children, Justin, 9, Kristen, 7.

**Goal:** "As a director, I want to be an effective leader and represent all golf course superintendents. Communicating

Continued on next page



Timothy O'Neill



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Name:** Samuel Snyder

**Age:** 44

**Course:** Hercules CC, Nottingham, Pa.

**Former head superintendent at:** Colonial CC, Harrisburg, Pa.; Sheraton Golf Links, Greensburg, Pa.; Grandview GC, Curwensville, Pa.; Punxsu-tawney (Pa.) CC, Pa.

**Years GCSAA member:** 22

**GCSAA posts held:** Chair-

man of the career development, membership, conference and show committees; vice chairman of the education committee and student resource group; member of career development, scholarship & research and nominating committees and the fundraising resource group.

**Other associations:** Past president of Central Pennsylvania

GCSA; vice president of Pittsburgh GCSA; past president of Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council; past president of Allied GCS of Pennsylvania; past board member of Allegheny Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association.

**Education:** Certificate in turfgrass management from Pennsylvania State University.

**Family:** Wife, Susan; Emily, 17, Sam, 11.

**Goal:** "Membership standards

will drive everything in the future.



Samuel Snyder

Superintendents need to be able to present themselves well and articulate their ideas in order to become a force to be reckoned with. GCSAA should provide the impetus in that area."

### GCSAA ELECTIONS SET FOR FEBRUARY

ORLANDO, Fla. — GCSAA members will elect three officers and three directors from among the 10 candidates (including Dave Fearis) at the annual meeting scheduled for Feb. 13 here.

**Name:** Mark Woodward

**Age:** 46

**Course:** Dobson Ranch and Riverview GCs, Mesa, Ariz.

**Years GCSAA member:** 20

**GCSAA posts held:** Member of membership and career development committees.

**Other associations:** Chair-elect of National Institute of Golf Management; past president and current member of Cactus and Pine GCSA.

**Education:** Bachelor's of science



Mark Woodward

degree in environmental resources and agriculture, Arizona State University; masters in business administration, University of Phoenix.

**Family:** Children: Matt, 21, Erin 19.

**Goal:** "I am passionate about everything GCSAA stands for, including the four mandates: image, environment, chapters and career opportunities. Therefore, my primary goal in running for the board is to assist the association in the advancement of the golf superintendent's profession. This would include both internally with its members and externally with those associated with the golf industry, but just as importantly, those outside the golf industry. I feel my customer service-oriented management style, my current broad-spectrum job responsibilities, my educational background, my years of experience, my representation of the public golf sector and the fact that I'm from the Western United States are all strengths I would bring to the board."

## O'Neill

Continued from previous page

our initiatives and vital role in the game of golf — to both our members and the general public — is important. But equally crucial to the continued growth and prosperity of our profession, is finding new and innovative ways to address the challenges we face every day. Whether our goal is to enhance chapter relations, increase member involvement, or ensure ongoing research and education, I pledge to do everything possible to support these initiatives."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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\* 1998 GCSAA Plant Protectant and Fertilizer Usage Report. Product effectiveness for preemergence crabgrass control.



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TURF HERBICIDE





## Fearis Q&A

Continued from page 29

proved methods of communication.

Burnout was always there; our jobs 10, 15 and 20 years ago were not easy. It requires working long hours and dealing with Mother Nature on a daily basis.

Expectations of golfers are extremely high and oftentimes unrealistic. However, I saw an article published in the USGA

Green Section about how golfers wanted faster greens. The article was written in the 1920s.

To avoid burnout, I would recommend superintendents have other interests or hobbies. I know superintendents who are volunteer firemen; are active in their church; coach their son's or daughter's sports team; serve on the city council. This is easy to say, but really hard to do.

My other interest is my involvement in GCSAA.

Golf course superintendents are workaholics; they spend 60 to 70 hours a week on their jobs. So it only makes sense that they need to get their minds off their jobs and focus on other interests or hobbies.

**GCN:** How has the consolidation of golf course ownership and subsequent growth of management companies affected the su-

perintendent?

**Fearis:** Corporate America has entered our profession. Golf has become a business first and a recreation-based game second. A result has been the growth of management companies.

Obviously, there are pros and cons. They do offer a superintendent with good business, management, and communication skills, an opportunity to ad-

vance to positions like regional agronomists, general managers, and/or directors of golf.

One of the negatives, some say, is they replace higher-paid, experienced golf course superintendents with less-experienced, lower-paid superintendents.

Who knows? Like them or not, they seem to be here to stay.

**GCN:** Has there been any adverse reaction to the requirement that those joining local chapters also join the GCSAA?

**Fearis:** I haven't heard of any adverse reaction. GCSAA realizes that its strength lies in its chapters. Therefore, we have worked very hard to provide services and programs to help our chapters. We publish a 55-page booklet, which lists these services and programs, which directly benefit the chapters and their members.

Trust is the word, and hopefully golf course superintendents realize GCSAA is there to help them with their jobs and advance the profession.

**GCN:** How do you plan to handle the many responsibilities of being GCSAA president and operate a golf club at the same time?

**Fearis:** It definitely is a challenge. When I was with Scotts & Co., I learned time and organizational skills which have helped me immensely.

Also, it is pretty obvious you have to have a good crew. I am very fortunate to have an exceptional one. They are dedicated and very professional.

It also helps that I am only 40 minutes away from GCSAA headquarters. That cuts down on travel time when board and/or committee meetings are there.

It is a time-consuming job. But if I weren't having fun, I wouldn't do it. I'm also fortunate to work with another group of dedicated and professional people — the board of directors and the GCSAA staff. Both will make my job a lot easier.

**GCN:** What is the major attribute you bring to the job of GCSAA president?

**Fearis:** I consider myself a listener and a communicator. I attribute these two characteristics to two people — Dr. Bill Daniel and Gerry Sweda.

While at Purdue, Dr. Daniel taught me communication skills. When people of importance in the turf world were on campus, Dr. Daniel would call some of the students in to meet and talk with them. You quickly learned when to listen and what questions to ask.

Gerry Sweda was the person who did most of the training when I worked for Scotts. I remember spending one whole day with Gerry on the subject of listening. Listening is a skill and actually takes a lot of practice. Most people hear, but don't listen.

I can listen and communicate the needs and concerns of the membership.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## BRIEFS



### FAZIO, BARBARON FINISH EASTPOINTE

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Barbaron has constructed a complete greens renovation for the Golf and Raquet Club at Eastpointe here. The project, which also included renovating the driving range and putting green, was under the direction of Tom Fazio Golf Course Designers. It was completed in less than eight weeks while remaining open.

### FOSTER BEGINS D'ANDREA RANCH

SPARKS, Nev. — Construction has begun on the Keith Foster-designed D'Andrea Ranch here. The course is routed through an 800-acre site that features sweeping elevation changes. The par-71, 6,900-yard upscale facility is part of a new community. Jonathan Cohen is the managing partner.

### HARRINGTON A CHARTER MEMBER

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Harrington Corp. of Lynchburg, has become the 26th Charter Member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America. Harrington manufactures HARCO brand PVC and ductile iron pipe fittings at its plant here, and operates warehouses here and in Florida and Arizona.

## New twists tried in teamwork, problem-solving

### Adaptive Management Planning for tough issues

*Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series on Adaptive Management Planning. This first article introduces the main elements to this approach to solving problems. The second will provide some illustrations of the application of this approach from the golfing industry, and the third will be answers to questions from our readers.*

By DR. ROBERT R. ABBOTT

Whether confronted with how to control a pest on the 16th fairway, or how to deal with an endangered species on the site of a new nine holes, some in the golf industry are turning to a new strategy called Adaptive Management Planning (AMP).

AMP is not rocket science, but it can be a winning alternative to the courtroom. And it can break the toughest gridlock, whether between developer and environmental regulator, or between superintendent and general manager.

How does AMP differ from other kinds of management?

Good management of people and financial resources, or real-time management, is the name of the game in the front office.

Good management of the soil, turf and water features, often with a trial-and-error approach to solving problems, is the name of the game for the golf course superintendent.

Best management practices are the benchmark for critical evaluation of how well a superintendent or manager is running their end of the business. In today's high-velocity, action-oriented business

Continued on page 36



Dennis Lyon, second from right, manager of golf for the city of Aurora, Colo., leads a contingent of people involved in new golf construction over the project site.

### 'Partnering' puts project participants on same page

AURORA, Colo. — The words "cooperation," "teamwork" and "collaboration" are replacing competition, conflict and rivalry as people in the golf industry embrace a new approach to project management.

"Partnering" is the latest buzz word as developers, contractors, architects and engineers are coming together before projects get off the ground to ensure their success. The method has gained popularity over the past few years as many have realized it can be a powerful aid in the timely completion of multimillion-dollar projects without litigation.

It's key to success: A charter mission

statement based on the group's goals and objectives is developed, and then signed by each participant.

Keeping new golf course developments on schedule and on budget is crucial since owners often don't realize any returns from their projects for almost two years after the start of construction. For many, the main draw of the partnering process has been its ability to increase the level of communication between all parties and create a strong spirit of cooperation. Understanding each other's goals up front allows everyone to make decisions or suggestions which complement one another.

Continued on page 38

## Smyers 'in tune' with the rhythm of life

Steve Smyers graduated in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Florida, where he played on a three-time national champion golf team, won the All-American Intercollegiate Championship and played in several U.S.

Amateur championship tournaments. He worked for architect Ron Garl for eight years before opening his own design firm in 1983 in Lakeland. His first solo, 18-hole course was the critically acclaimed Wolf Run Golf Club in Indianapolis, which opened in 1989. Old Memorial in Tampa was recently voted among the top 10 new private courses in the United States by *Golf Digest* magazine. He is married to professional golfer Sherrin Smyers and is the father of two boys, Scott, 6, and Trent, 8.

**Golf Course News:** What is your design philosophy?

**Steve Smyers:** Design is a multi-layered process. Each step is a building block for the next. The first step is to get a thorough understanding of the site — the vegetation, drainage patterns, soil conditions, slopes, natural elements such as wind and climate, and to understand where the powerful points of the property are, those areas where people naturally gravitate to.



Steve Smyers on site.

From there you develop a routing

plan, which is absolutely key to developing a strong golf course. If you understand the land, and come up with a solid routing, it sets up the strategy, flow, shot values. When we build courses, it's not a feature-by-feature situation. It's the entire trip, the whole 18 holes, that fits together and makes a great course. A round of golf is not just about hitting golf shots. It's the person's interaction with the landscape.

**GCN:** What is the importance of having a course like Old Memorial rated among the upper echelon of new courses in the country?

**Smyers:** The average period to develop a golf course is 40 to 42 months, from the time you are hired until the course is complete. There is a lot of hard work put into developing a course. We've had Wolf Run (Indianapolis), Chart Hills Golf Club (County Kent, England) and Southern Dunes (Haines City, Fla.) that have been very well received. It's nice to be recognized for your efforts.

**GCN:** Has your wife, an accomplished professional golfer, had an impact on your course designs?

Continued on page 34



Wolf Run Golf Course in Indianapolis won kudos for Steve Smyers.



## Q&A: Smyers

Continued from page 33

**Smyers:** When we first got married, we made several trips to Australia, Great Britain and Ireland. Sherrin was competing there and I caddied for her. The camaraderie on tour helped give me insight into how to set up courses for championship conditions. I caddied for her in several U.S. Women's Opens, Australian Opens and Masters. She caddied for me at a couple British and U.S. amateurs. We would discuss all elements of the game, not only golf courses, but also the game itself because we had a common love of the game.

She doesn't get involved in the everyday design of our courses. But she also plays a lot of corporate outings with average players and her insights into their games help.

**GCN:** Who are the key members of your staff?

**Smyers:** I have two assistant designers. Ross Galbraith has been with us for 10 years. He was educated at the University of Sydney and came on when we did our first course in Australia. Patrick Andrews has his master's in landscape design from the University of Minnesota and has been with us the past two years. Mike Lawrence is the president and handles the administrative end of the business. Sandy Stringfellow is our office manager.

**GCN:** How many course projects do you have underway at a time? What is the ideal number?

**Smyers:** We're in our ideal world right now. We have three under construction — courses in Orlando, Atlantic City and Louisiana. We have the capability to do more, but we like to have three under construction and three to five in the design phase. That's a very comfortable workload.

**GCN:** You've designed two courses in Australia (Cypress Lakes near Sydney and Carramar in Western Australia), Chart Hills in England and Royal Harare (remodel) in Zimbabwe. What similarities and differences were involved in designing a course overseas compared to the United States?

**Smyers:** Every site has its own characteristics. Each part of a country has its own culture. So you are designing not only to the site characteristics and climatic conditions, but also for cultural differences. The culture in New Jersey is different than that in Indiana, which are both different from Florida. The differences in Great Britain, Africa and Australia are even greater. But you have to consider the cultural differences there, just

as you do in the United States.

Now, getting maintenance equipment into Australia and Africa is very expensive. Labor in Australia and England is expensive. But in Africa, while equipment is almost impossible to get and very expensive, labor is not. So you have to keep those things in mind.

**GCN:** You've worked with Nick Price and Nick Faldo on course designs. What role did

they play in the final product? What role should golf professionals play in course design?

**Smyers:** As I said earlier, design is a multi-layered process that takes years of study and experience to understand. A player has a very good understanding of a particular layer of design — that might be strategy and shot values. It's very interesting to talk to them and learn how they analyze a golf course.

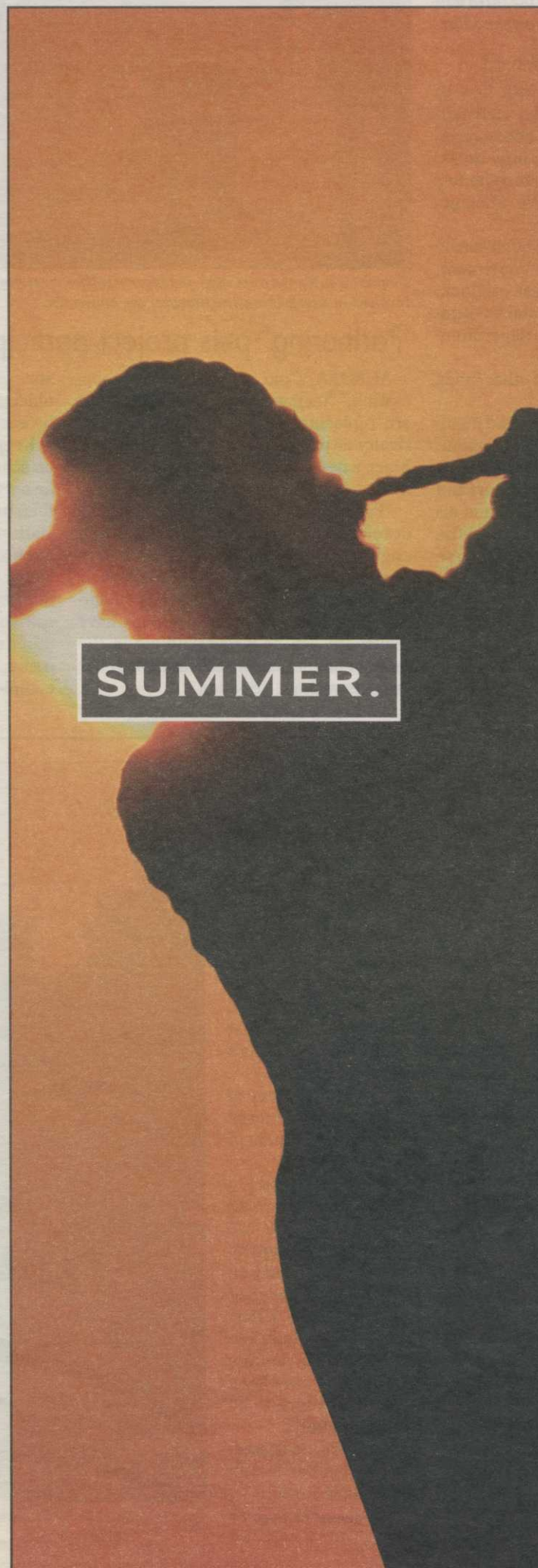
Nick Price's ability to read a course struck me. He can take all the elements in hand and hit a shot to correspond with that situation. He will go down as one of the great ball-strikers of all time, which goes hand-in-hand with his ability to read and understand a course, its condition and the shots at hand. Faldo is excellent at that as well. Faldo's ability to work the golf ball is fantastic. He always talks about

working the course into the wind or into a certain slope.

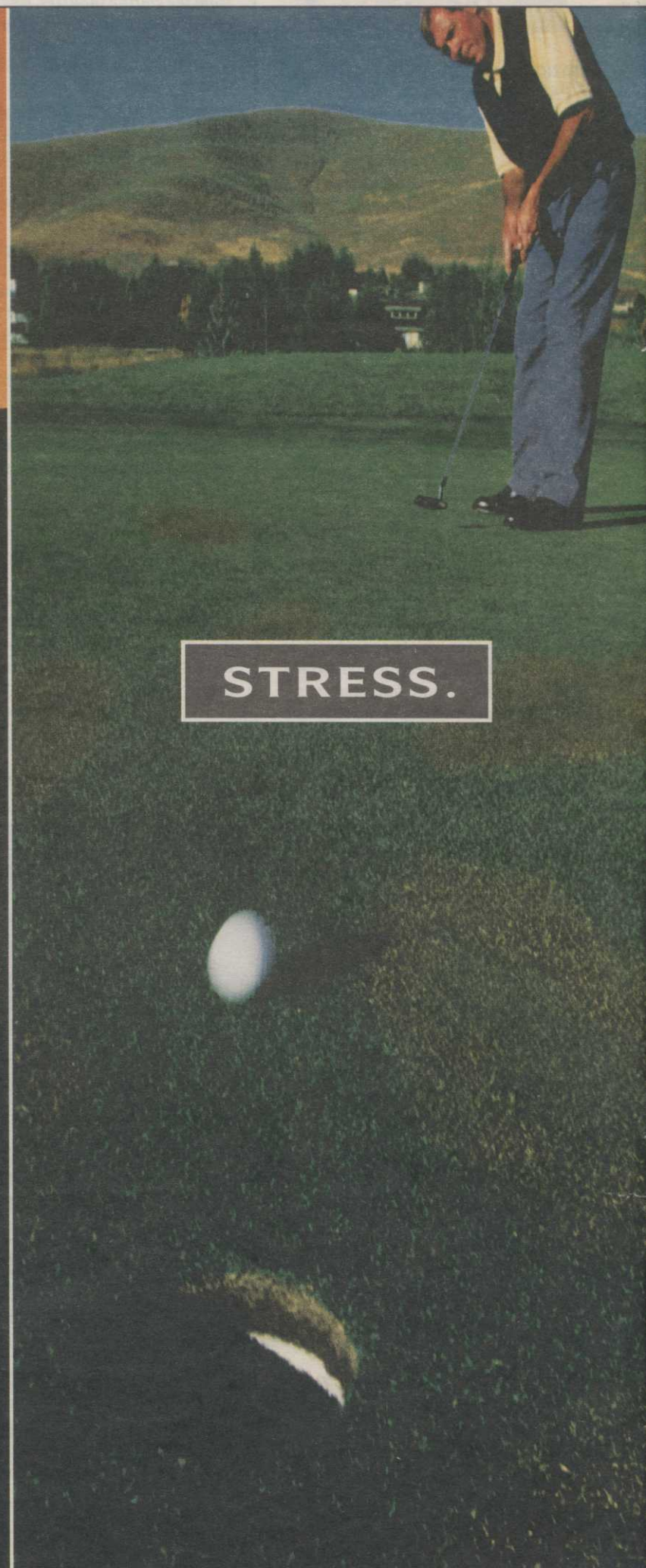
**GCN:** Was there a single course that solidified your reputation as a course architect?

**Smyers:** Wolf Run was my first project. It was an all-men's club built for a very colorful individual named Jack Leer, who passed away a couple years ago. He was a very good golfer and won the Indiana Amateur. He was good

Continued on next page



SUMMER.



STRESS.



## Palmer to get Ross Award

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Arnold Palmer, whose swashbuckling play and personal charisma helped introduce millions of people to golf, has been selected to receive the 1999 Donald Ross Award, presented annually by the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the game of golf and the pro-

fession of golf course architecture, the Ross Award will be presented to Palmer at a banquet on March 22, at the Country Club of Charleston during the 1999 ASGCA annual meeting.

"Arnold Palmer has been a driving force behind golf since he came on the scene in the 1950s," said Bob Lohmann, presi-

dent of the ASGCA. "He focused the eyes of millions of people on great golf courses throughout his tremendous career, showcasing great golf course architecture to the rest of the world. He has been a consistent voice for fair and affordable courses for more than five decades."

Starting with the 1955 Cana-

dian Open title, Arnold Palmer has 92 championships in professional competition, including 61 U.S. PGA Tour victories.

The 1960s also marked Palmer's foray into golf course architecture, when he purchased and redesigned Bay Hill Club in Orlando, Fla. He went on to consult on many other projects, and the work blossomed into a firm that has designed more than 200 golf courses around the world.

## Q&A Smyers

Continued from previous page

friends with Pete Dye. I was very young and hadn't done a project. But he hired me. It became instantly successful from a membership perspective, filling up before it opened. Jack and I became very good friends.

**GCN:** Who are your favorite classical and contemporary architects? What influence have they had on your work?

**Smyers:** You can learn something from everybody. Pete Dye is a master at intimidation. I saw him while he was redoing Crooked Stick for the PGA Championship. He was doing things to throw people off balance, that forced them to trust themselves to make a golf shot. I thought that was excellent.

Tom Fazio has a brilliance for bringing out the aesthetics in a piece of property. Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw and Tom Doak have great ability to work with the land, develop a flow and strategy from the land. Rees Jones can take dramatic sites and make them even more dramatic. Jay Morrish is wonderful at developing rhythmic features that tune into a person's internal beat.

From the classical architects, Alister Mackenzie made the first and biggest impression. I went to Australia in the mid-1980s and toured some of the courses — Royal Melbourne, Kingston Heath, Royal Adelaide, Royal Sydney. He had a hand in all those. I admired how he used the property and wind conditions to develop the strategy. From [A.W.] Tillinghast I learned the true risk-reward criteria. H.S. Colt at Pine Valley did some wonderful things. It's probably the ultimate risk-reward layout, but the course just lays on the land. Then there's Donald Ross at Pinehurst No. 2 and the way it just naturally leads you around. The bunkering and greens are in beat with your internal rhythm. The putting surfaces and surrounds just meld into the surrounding landscape.

**GCN:** Is the consolidation of the U.S. golf industry (e.g. the growth of management firms and mergers of developers and suppliers) having any effect on the course design business?

**Smyers:** Golf is a growing industry. A lot of companies are coming into it. They are serving a useful purpose in that they are developing courses for the masses to play golf.

**GCN:** Are there too many course architects?

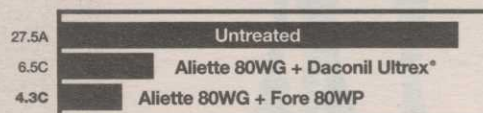
**Smyers:** I don't know. Tom Fazio said there is enough work out there for everyone right now. We're all servicing our clients. If there weren't as many, the game might not have grown as well as it has.

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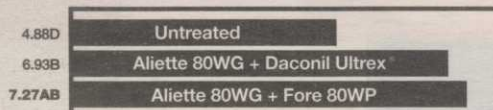
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Source: Martin, Clemson University, 1996

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## Adaptive Management Planning

Continued from page 33

world, thoughtful management is often replaced by a reactive, or seat-of-the-pants, firing-from-the-hip management style. Different people have very different management styles based as much on their genetic personality type as their training and experience.

Adaptive management con-

cerns managing in the face of gridlock. Twenty different people, 20 different opinions. How do you manage when there is simply not enough information available to make a good decision? How do you manage your golf course when corporate policy and your next paycheck is up against changing public policy and the regulatory community?

Although not a science, AMP has two key science-based attributes:

- It acknowledges that there is some uncertainty about the system being managed.

- The actions taken are intended to provide useful information about the problem.

Adaptive Environmental Management Planning (AEMP) is similar but really about big-picture issues. Adaptive Environ-

*In its most elemental form, AMP is an action-adjustment cycle.*

mental Management generally refers to the uncertainties of managing ecosystems.

Arguably, golf course turf is an ecosystem and many outside groups often have concerns about how golf courses affect

the environment. But academic usage of AEMP is generally limited to large-scale ecosystems such as watersheds, river deltas, fish communities and forests where socio-economic factors and public policy must also be taken into account.

Developers and environmental regulators often find themselves at loggerheads over issues related to endangered species on or near a planned golf course development.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, and in California, Proposition 65 can not be ignored. Regulators and environmental stakeholders can put endless demands on developers and create seemingly insurmountable roadblocks in the name of sustainability. Adaptive Management Planning is an alternative to the courtroom.

The following discussion will largely focus on AMP and look at the application of adaptive management principles to the intelligent management of a golf course.

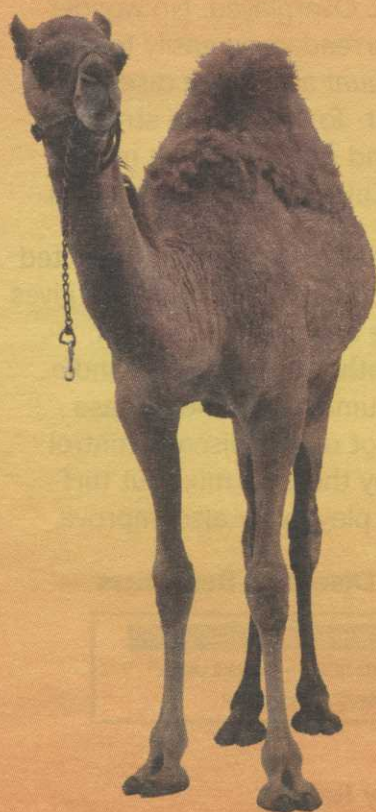
Adaptive Management Planning has its roots in system theory and theoretical engineering. Heavy stuff, but we do not have to go there. It has been distilled and reformulated for the real world. The theoretical concept has parallel expressions in American and Japanese business culture as Total Quality Management (TQM). It entered the lexicon of natural resource planners via forestry and fisheries agencies trying to arrive at optimum sustainable yield (OSY) formulas against a background of changing public policy.

In its most elemental form, AMP is an action-adjustment cycle. The manager tries something, gets some information, and then makes adjustments in their next actions that, hopefully, will achieve better results. The process is repeated endlessly. In the business world it leads to strong customer relations and responsiveness to changing markets.

If your actions are not getting the results you want, then change your actions. This is not rocket science. You do it automatically, all the time. It is a very successful paradigm of how many superintendents operate instinctively.

But let's say you have a problem and you try to fix it, but the problem does not go away. Then you try something else. If that does not work, you try something else again. In the meantime the front office is doing damage control and you are having stomach cramps about responding to some numbers that flash on your pager. Suddenly you realize you may need to go about

Continued on next page



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## Adaptive Management

Continued from previous page

this more systematically and that you need a way to justify your actions.

You call the front office and say to the general manager, "Bill, I think we need to approach this problem from the perspective of Adaptive Management Planning. I will send you an e-mail this afternoon explaining what I want to do, and how I think we should go about it scientifically."

Superintendents are managers, not scientists, but I believe they can bring the scientific method into their management arena.

The key concepts in Adaptive Management Planning are:

1. A clear statement describing the problem and objectives acknowledging economic, social, political and sustainability factors.
2. A well-defined hypothesis that can be answered by a yes or no question.
3. An experimental design.
4. Execute the experiment with careful monitoring.
5. Analysis of the data.
6. Thoughtful interpretation of results.

Problem definition, or asking the right question, is not as easy as it sounds. "Why does the 16th fairway always look like a hog run?" is not a good question.

A better problem statement might be: "How can I control pest species X on the 16th fairway?"

Making a good hypothesis can also be challenging. The hypothesis: The 16th fairway will be greener if I improve the drainage and add more iron. If you do both at the same time you will not know as much as if you would have if you had done only one treatment at a time.

Monitoring is absolutely essential. To the superintendent who is a conscientious practitioner of Integrated Pest management (IPM), monitoring is a normal daily activity.

Monitoring hot spots, keeping good records of treatments, and an open-minded perspective on ways to maintain a healthy, balanced turf ecosystem system is what all good superintendents do anyway.

Data analysis is generally a job for a specialist. Many superintendents have strong science-based backgrounds, and others come from the fields of engineering. But generally when you have a good set of data you want to call in a consultant for a few hours to make sure the conclusions you are drawing from the data are justified. Nothing will ruin an afternoon faster than to be worrying if you are making a Type I or Type II statistical error in interpreting your data. Let the people that do that sort of thing every day work up the data and tell you how strong your conclusion is, in down-to-earth English.

The revealed beauty of AMP is the formalized approach to resolving untractable problems, and the justification for taking the time and expense to get answers that will lead to better management decisions.

For example, will a 150-foot-wide buffer will work as well as a 300-foot-wide buffer for a particular threatened or endangered species? Who knows for sure? Let's find out. How? Design a species-specific management plan that tests that question.

Run the study. Monitor the results. Have an objective third party analyze the data and make a reasoned interpretation. Knowledge is gained. Everybody, including the environment, is a winner.

Golf courses harboring species of special concern have to meet the regulatory community's demands for stewardship. Developers are often confronted with the needs to devise habitat-management plans for threatened and endangered species. How wide a buffer zone is needed? How much or how little water is needed? What kind of fertilizers are to be excluded?

The answers are usually not in text-

books, or even scientific literature. Take the AMP path to a solution.

Acknowledge that more information is needed. Involve the department of fish and game and local green organizations in your project design and then take the agreed set of actions. Costs may even be underwritten by local agencies or foundations.

Solving problems on golf courses related to the introduction of exotic pests can be very challenging.

Which treatment method works best? How much will get into the ground-water table per treatment? How do you find out?

Bring in the local water board and talk it through. Try the AMP approach to resolve complex problems in a complex world.

*Dr. Abbott is a natural resource planner with more than 25 years of experience in the assessment of natural resource information for government agencies and the private sector. He is an authority on management planning for species of special concern, and the management of ponds, lagoons and reservoirs. Telephone/fax: 415-924-8261, e-mail: abbco@woldnet.att.net, http://home.att.net/~abbco/se.html*

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## Partnering

Continued from page 33

An example of the partnering method in progress is construction of Murphy Creek Golf Course in this Colorado city. Work began on the 18-hole, links-style course in August. Before ground was even broken, a partnering session was held with RBI Golf, Inc., the general con-

tractor; the owner, the city of Aurora; course architect Ken Kavanaugh; Merrick Engineers and Associates; and other project representatives. This meeting enabled each party to share its views and perspectives on how to best accomplish the project.

"We basically agreed to agree," said Ricky Maher, president of RBI Golf, Inc. "Partnering keeps the lines of communication open. This is key in making

sure everyone remains on the same page throughout the course of the project."

The partnering session, held at a neutral site in the Denver metropolitan area, was co-facilitated by Jody Randall, vice president of RBI, and Dennis Lyon, manager of golf for the city of Aurora and former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. An overview of the project's history was presented, and the group developed and signed a mission statement.

Unlike a contract, partnering is not legally binding, said Randall. "Yet, it establishes effective working relationships among the stakeholders."

Randall has facilitated a number of partnering sessions for construction projects throughout the Western United States.

According to Randall, the key elements to partnering consist of commitment; equity; trust; development of mutual goals and objectives; implementation of the goals and objectives; continuous evaluation; and timely responsiveness.

"Everyone involved has to be committed to the idea of partnering before it can work," she said.

A partnering agreement often is initiated by the owner or general contractor. In the case of Murphy Creek, the city and RBI Golf pursued the method since it worked well with another of the city's golf course projects that RBI Golf built in 1995-1996. In fact, Saddle Rock Golf Course was the first job in which RBI Golf implemented the partnering methods, and the outcome was positive, according to those involved.

"Based on our experience with Saddle Rock, a partnering session and a partnering attitude are critical for the success of large projects," said Lyon.

So far, the partnering process for Murphy Creek has helped move forward the \$6.3 million project. According to Kavanaugh, the method has been helpful. "I never understood why various entities I have worked with on past projects competed against each other, even though they were working toward a common goal."

The initial partnering session in August was followed by weekly progress meetings held at the project site throughout construction. Here, the group discusses upcoming tasks, along with time schedules and potential problems.

"A lot more people are involved in the construction of a golf course than most people think. One can affect another and not even know it," said Mike Osley, Aurora's superintendent of Murphy Creek. "Partnering allows all the parties involved to focus on the overall picture. This helps to create a better product."

Construction on Murphy Creek is scheduled to wrap up this summer. The city is planning an opening date for the course in the spring of 2000.

### NATURE AND GOLF TO CO-EXIST

FISHERVILLE, Tenn. — The brainchild of Dr. David Meyer, an internationally known ophthalmologist who envisioned the property as a pristine environment devoted to nature and golf, Spring Creek Ranch golf course will occupy more than 330 acres of rugged, natural environment when it opens here. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the course is part of the Audobon International Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program and its executive staff includes a manager of wetlands. Meyer had previously used the land to raise cattle for Third World countries that would survive attacks from indigenous bacteria.



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# Champions for Kids finds home at historic black club

By MARK LESLIE

**G**ARNER, N.C. — Champions for Kids, a 6-year-old program that had a head start on the bumper crop of youth golf initiatives being fostered around the country, is about to get a "headquarters" Junior Golf Academy and support from major industry organizations.

Meadowbrook Country Club here, one of the country's first black-owned private golf clubs, is allowing the program to use its facilities as its headquarters as well as build a new nine holes and rebuild the existing nine to be youth-friendly. The resulting 18-hole executive track will play to a par-64 for adults and par-70 for youngsters.

"We have done a lot in the six years we've been in existence," said Champions for Kids founder Larry Turner. "Now, in the development of this junior golf facility, we really feel we can be one of the models [for the rest of the country]."

The Champions for Kids mission is to provide youths 8-14 with golf training and focused academic mentoring using golf-related instructional materials, according to Turner.

The program has gained support from some famous names in the sports world. Its national spokesperson is LaRee Sugg of the LPGA Tour. LPGA Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth is on national advisory board. Calvin Peete and Jim Thorpe have participated, as has Dr. LeRoy Walker, past president of the U.S. Olympic Committee. In 1996 Golf Digest awarded Champions for Kids its Junior Development Award.

But the main cog in its future is the new Junior Golf Academy.

While the program normally has 200 youths participate each year, Turner said: "This will change immensely with the academy because we will be serving a much larger area — five counties. And it's of major significance because of the enormous amount of growth here."

The Research Triangle (Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill) region's boom has seen some of the world's wealthiest companies build headquarters here, and Champions for Kids is beginning to form partnerships with some of them.

"At the hub of this was the negotiation for the facility," Turner said. "That was the most important piece — having the home base and having the leverage of the golf industry to put their brand name on this project. Once companies hear the PGA Tour and USGA are involved, their affection changes completely."

"We will be a charter member of First Tee, and the facility will be a First Tee site."

Turner sees the program as developing more than golf skills.

"This is a comprehensive and long-range effort, with the goal of seeing these youths go on and be successful and productive," he said. "I know, from my own experience, what kept me focused and motivated as a youngster, because adults valued the kids in our community. Also, youngsters learn through sports, especially sports steeped in the values of integrity and courtesy — things you find in your home."

In the mentoring program, college professors work with golf pros to establish the junior golf curriculum and evaluate the

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

## Reaching Out

This package of stories is one of an ongoing series covering initiatives and projects developed to bring new golfers into the game, particularly youths and minorities. People wishing to submit projects for articles should contact the editorial department of *Golf Course News* at 106 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096; e-mail: mleslie@golfcoursenews.com.

*'This is a comprehensive and long-range effort, with the goal of seeing these youths go on and be successful and productive.'*

— Larry Turner, founder

program. Serious youngsters have continuing opportunities to move into college-preparatory work.

"The academy wants to promote self-respect, self-confidence and leadership through the youths' experience," Turner said. "This enables them to have personal achievement. We feel once they have a personal success experience, they can turn it into leadership capability."

How does golf help? "Their attitudes toward the game change completely once they get the ball up in the air," Turner said.

Once participants turn 15 years old, they can try out for their high school golf teams and return as mentors in the Champions for Kids program. They can also compete in junior events and/or begin to think of those fields of study related to the industry where there are internship opportunities. ("A number of internship opportunities are available for aspiring youngsters," Turner said.)

...

Champions for Kids has been at the head of the curve involving youths and golf.

"There was no For the Good of the Game, or First Tee program in 1996," Turner said. "So we were ahead of the game. But, it was hard for people to grasp that we were trying to establish a junior golf facility."

Turner had worked with Meadowbrook for several years and club members "saw the opportunity to do something that otherwise would be difficult to accomplish," he said. "Once people see that you are really doing it for the kids and that becomes your mission, they come on board."

The reward, Turner said, is watching youngsters come into the program and develop into young men and ladies.

"How you behave on the golf course is how you behave in general," he said. "It makes you want to work with kids. If we have expectations that they will do well, they will do well. If we're consistent with those expectations, it's a reward to work with kids."

...

Richard Mandell of Whole In One Design in Durham, who is designing the renovations and new nine, said the project will be built in three phases on the 120-acre site:

- From March to June 15, they will rebuild the tees and bunkers and add kids' tees to the existing 1st through 7th holes.

- Starting June 16, they will build the new nine, plus rebuild the existing 9th hole and half the 8th hole.

- Next, they will redesign the fairways and greens on the first seven holes of the existing nine.

# Group of citizens hold up gift of Va. First Tee facility

By MARK LESLIE

**R**ICHMOND, Va. — A First Tee project that seemed to be a shoe-in, with private donors providing all the money needed for construction and five years of operation, is stuck in neutral — seven months after ground was to be turned.

"It's astonishing," said Richmond First Tee Executive Director Tim Merry. "Just when we think we can't be surprised any more, we continue to be surprised."

"You've got to scratch your head and wonder what's wrong with Richmond," said local businessman Fred Tattersall, who first organized Richmond First Tee Foundation.

Hoping to open the country's initial First Tee facility making golf more affordable to youths, Tattersall raised \$2 million in private funds — \$1.5 million to build the course and \$500,000 to operate the program for five years.

The idea to build in the city apparently fell through when Tattersall's group and the city could not agree on a site. More on that later.

Chapter Two of the saga began with neighboring Chesterfield County offering land for the First Tee course in Iron Bridge Park. It was a promising beginning. The county's Board of Supervisors voted to lease the land to Richmond First Tee. And the Planning Board staff endorsed the course designed by local golf course architect Lester George.

But then came the opposition. Some park neighbors sued, claiming the county has no legal right to lease land. And the Planning Board disregarded staff recommendations and voted 3-2 to demand some bizarre design changes, including a 6-foot-high fence and a double row of hedges around a couple of ponds on the course.

In October, a circuit judge released a ruling leaning in the neighbors' favor, declaring the county may lease land but only if it controls fees and oversees the leasee's operation.

And the Planning Board, according to Merry, disregarded the fact that George designed irrigation ponds with a "safety bench," meaning the ponds would be no more than 3 feet deep a distance of 24 feet from shore.

"It's obvious they will use anything to delay and, ultimately, defeat this project," said Merry. "We went into this as a partner with Chesterfield County, but feel we were treated worse than any other developer would be. Our board members are very involved in the community and have not seen anything like this before."

"A lot of cities across this country have stepped up to First Tee and said, 'This is wonderful,'" said Tattersall. "Unfortunately, as much as it pains me, being a resident of Richmond, maybe that's why we ranked dead last in terms of affordability and accessibility in a recent poll of places to play golf."

In response to opponents:

- Chesterfield officials are appealing the circuit judge's ruling that the county cannot lease land without controlling it. The county already leases land for a variety of purposes from an airport to ball fields. But, County Administrator Lane Ramsey, who serves on the Richmond First Tee board, said the Virginia Supreme Court could take up to a year to decide the case.

- Richmond First Tee has presented a proposal that would eliminate the irrigation ponds, but it would mean an added cost of \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year in water-use charges, Merry said.

Why are neighbors opposed to the First Tee project?

"We tend to think the opposition is because they think only inner-city kids would be coming and they don't want that," Merry said. "There are a lot of misconceptions. It is a course for all kids."

Meanwhile, Richmond First Tee has returned to Richmond with a new plan to build a three-hole youths' facility on the property first suggested by city officials.

The site is a former landfill that now contains a driving range. George has drafted a two-phase plan calling for refurbishing the range and adding three holes. Merry said if the city provides enough additional land, the foundation will add six holes on that property.

"We never really walked away from the city," said Merry. "And with Chesterfield County stalling out, we've turned our emphasis back to the city."

"Since the new City Council took office in July, it has been working to get the inner-city project done," said Tattersall. He added that the foundation has agreed to spend up to \$500,000 to build three holes and refurbish the range, or \$1 million to build nine holes.

"Our great hope now," Tattersall said, "is that we start construction on the inner-city site by February if we're only doing three holes, or by April on the nine holes."





The 3rd hole at Colleton River's new course is uniquely Dye.

10th anniversary  
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

## Dye completes Colleton River course

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, N.C. — Pete Dye is putting the finishing touches on his Colleton River course, his third — and perhaps final design — in the Hilton Head Island area. The Dye course, which officially opens in April 1999, joins the existing 18-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed course at Colleton River Plantation that opened in 1992.

The course sprawls across 300 acres of coastal property and offers long, sweeping views of rich tidal marshlands, the waters of the Colleton and

Chechessee Rivers, the Port Royal Sound and the Atlantic ocean.

The Dye course takes full advantage of its location which sits a good six to seven feet higher in elevation than most Lowcountry properties in the area. The end effect is that many of the tees and landing areas are elevated, enhancing the views and allowing the golfer to look down on the hole.

Tees and greens will be Tifdwarf Bermuda, the fairways will be 419 Bermuda.

## Palmer's Rivers Edge GC on track

SHALLOTTE, N.C. — The developers of Arnold Palmer-designed Rivers Edge Golf Club have announced the course is on schedule for a fall opening.

The course's new name better conveys the true spirit and beauty of a seaside golf course than its old name, Tree Rock. The design features seven riverfront holes. The interior holes boast natural and dramatic topography with lots of elevation changes and dense forests.

A group of Charlotte golf course developers has teamed with property owner R.D. White to construct and manage Rivers Edge Golf Club within an exclusive new residential community being developed by White. The group has been involved in four other golf courses in the Charlotte area.

Rivers Edge is located in one of coastal North Carolina's most pristine areas along freshwater lakes, salt marshes and the mile-wide Shallotte River.

## The Granddaddy boldly redone

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Pine Lakes International Country Club, Myrtle Beach's oldest golf course, is getting a new look. Last summer, "The Granddaddy" began a bold renovation of the back nine holes of the course. Renovations for 1998 were completed on schedule and the course officially opened for play on the back nine holes at the end of August.

The Rick Robbins-designed renovations of the Robert Whit track included major changes in the par-3 11th hole, where the green is not noticeably higher, its undulation more severe, and a water hazard was added; and the 417-yard 13th, which has a new green decorated by bulkheading.

Other renovations will include creating better drainage and visuals, elevating some of the greens, and changing the lay of the land on the back nine holes. The front nine will undergo minor alterations. All the scheduled renovations will give golfers some of the most beautiful views in Myrtle Beach.



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## Tour world's best on 18 holes

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — A new layout that will allow golfers to play replicas of some of the greatest holes in golf is preparing to open around mid-year, according to its owner.

However, Mel Graham, the Charlotte-based developer who conceived the idea for World Tour Golf Links, said he will not rush the opening of the 27-hole course being built in the heart of Myrtle Beach. For that reason, no firm opening date has been set for the course located just west of the Intracoastal Waterway off Highway 501.

More than seven years in planning, World Tour represents a difficult construction job at best, as engineers and contractors have sought to replicate famous holes from around the world in as authentic detail as possible. The task has been made even more difficult by the unseasonable weather patterns that have plagued the East Coast during the past year.

"Throughout the past winter, spring and much of the summer, El Nino dumped record rainfall on the entire Southeast and, certainly, Myrtle Beach. That put us behind schedule," Graham explained. "Then, Hurricane Bonnie came along and kicked us in the shins again. In fact, last fall and this past winter were the wettest since they started keeping records in South Carolina."

Graham said he had hoped to open World Tour in early 1999, but weather delays made that an ambitious goal even before Hurricane Bonnie damaged the clubhouse and snapped more than 200 trees on the 250-acre site. Though little damage was done to the course itself, time lost in cleaning up the debris from the storm has forced Graham to delay the opening date.

When Hurricane Bonnie struck the Carolina coastline in late August, construction of the World Tour clubhouse was well underway. Even though the brunt of the storm was felt in North Carolina and Virginia, strong winds along the Grand Strand twisted and destroyed the steel framework of the clubhouse. Contractors had to strip away debris before construction could begin again from the foundation up, costing approximately a month's work in the process.

"We spent more than seven years planning World Tour and we'll have close to two years invested in its construction, once it opens. We aren't about to rush things at this point, just to meet an arbitrary opening date," Graham said.

Once open, World Tour will afford golfers an opportunity to play holes inspired by famous holes from courses like Augusta National, St. Andrews, Troon, Seminole, Baltusrol, Royal Melbourne, Pinehurst No. 2 and Pine Valley, among others. They can test holes that replicate the famed and feared island green 17th at the TPC at Sawgrass, "Amen Corner" at Augusta National, the "Postage Stamp" green at Troon, the namesake 18th at Doral's Blue Monster and more.

## Pinehurst, Fazio work on Nos. 4 and 5

PINEHURST, N.C. — Fresh off a renovation of its No. 5 course, Pinehurst Resort starts in early January a thorough redesign of No. 4. Tom Fazio, with lead architect Tom Marsolf, will reroute four holes entirely and extensively change the other 14, including all 18 greens complexes and irrigation.

"It will be a new golf course," said Director of Maintenance Brad Kocher about No. 4 which was originally designed by Donald Ross and since redesigned by Richard Tufts and Robert

Trent Jones Sr.

Kocher said officials hope to reopen No. 4 in December. It is situated between No. 2 and No. 7. Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. is the builder.

On the Ellis Maples-designed No. 5, Fazio redesigned two greens complexes and the rest of the work was done in-house, with crews repositioning bunkers, recontouring greens, and building two sets of ladies' tees so that there is now a far-forward set that measures 5,200 yards.

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# 'The Big Three' designing nine apiece for new Augusta golf club

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Golf's legendary Big Three — Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus — are joining forces to build what appropriately will be called The Big Three Club here.

The 27-hole course will be located 15 minutes away from Augusta National, the home of The Masters. The design collabora-

tion of the Hall of Famers, whose rivalry and playing records in the 1960s earned them the moniker "The Big Three," is their first joint architectural venture. Each golfer will design nine holes for what is planned as the ultimate corporate club.

Seventy corporate golf lodges will be developed in conjunction

with the club. The six bedroom cottages are intended to provide corporations with entertainment, meeting and accommodation space during Masters week. Regular club memberships also will be made available.

"This is very exciting for all of us," Player said. "We've been friends and competitors for a

long time. I'm sure that it will be fun to see which one can build the best nine holes."

Player, Palmer and Nicklaus won 13 Masters tournament titles. The Big Three Club will commemorate the achievements and contributions made by the game's greatest competitive trio.

The proposed private course

will be built on 2,216 acres that run from Washington Road to the Savannah River.

The target opening date is April 2001, and tentative plans call for ground-breaking this spring. The golf course will be situated in a new real-estate development, Riverwood Plantation.

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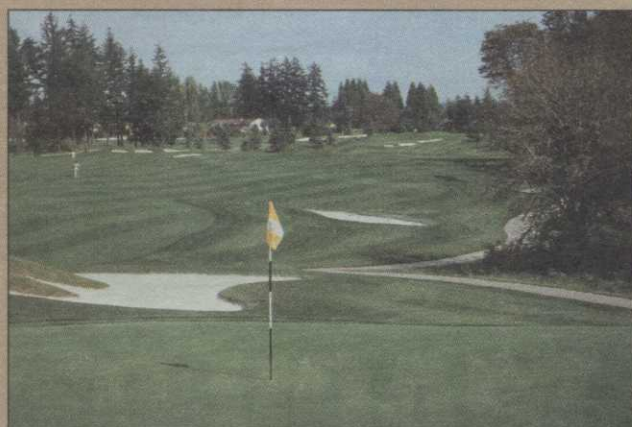
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## PGA, Weiskopf rebuilding TPC's Scottsdale track

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — PGA Tour Properties has chosen Tom Weiskopf to oversee rebuilding of all 18 greens on the Stadium Course at the PGA Tour's Tournament Players Club (TPC) of Scottsdale.

As part of the Tour's "upgrading" plan, Weiskopf was involved earlier this year in overseeing the placement of over 200 specimen trees and desert vegetation, in an effort to add more landscape features and enhance the competitive nature of the Stadium Course.

According to Bill Calfee, executive vice president of competitions for the PGA Tour, "In order to provide a product that meets the requirements of the facility to resist desert heat, endure heavy play and uphold the highest standards of the PGA Tour, it was deemed necessary to completely excavate and rebuild each green accompanying green side bunkers."

Weiskopf, who designed the course and is a Scottsdale resident, visited the site regularly, working with the superintendent to approve all of the work during each step of the project.

As Weiskopf said, "I am very positive about the results of this work (greens remodeling and landscaping) and especially having the opportunity to work with the PGA Tour, to help enhance the playability of the Scottsdale TPC course and the experiences of those who have a chance to play it."

**BROWNING DESIGN TO OPEN**  
CANMORE, ALBERTA, Canada — The Gary Browning-designed Stewart Creek Golf Club at Three Sisters Resorts here has been built and is projected to open in July, just 12 miles east of Banff National Park. Although Browning has worked on projects from Asia to Canada, his coupe de grace may be his involvement in the planning and design of the 54-hole golf course resort for Three Sisters Resorts. Scottsdale-based Western Golf Properties, Inc. is the management company for the course.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



## Webb's Revere set to open in January

HENDERSON, Nev. — The Revere at Anthem is the first of four new high-end, daily-fee golf courses planned for Del Webb's Sun City Anthem Community in the southeast corner of the Las Vegas Valley here. The Revere, which was designed by PGA Tour Hall of Famer Billy Casper and architect Greg Nash, broke ground in December 1997 and is scheduled to open in January.

"We intend to provide players with a golf experience they won't find anywhere else," said Director of Golf Clay Meininger. "The golf course is set in the floor of a desert canyon. The topography has tremendous variety and great views of the valley, extending all the way to downtown Las Vegas. Plus, we'll provide services and amenities you only expect from fine, private clubs."

The Revere is located 15 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip which is visited by more than 30 million tourists annually. At the same time, the course will provide a unique amenity to the Sun City Anthem community.

"Our goal is to create an atmosphere that will be conducive to the needs of the tourists as well as to the homeowners," Meininger said. "The addition of this course will provide Vegas golfers with exceptional variety and challenge. Plus the space of the course will serve to create some dramatic views for the residents."

In designing the 7,010-yard, par-72 Revere course, Casper/Nash & Associates was dedicated to creating an experience that would be different from those currently available in the surrounding Las Vegas golf course communities.

"The land is perfect for a golf course," Nash said. "It is built directly into the desert canyons which provides natural elevation changes and a feeling of seclusion from the outside commotion of the city. It is also unique because it doesn't look like other golf course communities. The houses are on the rim of the canyon rather than being dispersed throughout the course. This style of set-up allows players more freedom and superior, unobstructed views of the course and city below."

## North and Packard form Genesis Golf Design

CHICAGO — Andy North and Roger Packard have created a new company, Genesis Golf Design, formerly Packard & North. The new name and corporate structure provides additional management assistant, vital resources and the latest technology necessary to support the course designs by Packard and North.

Genesis Golf Design has more than 45 years of experience and more than 200 course projects on three continents, many of which have earned design recognition. Other services provided by Genesis Golf Design include landscape architecture, clubhouse architecture, environmental impact studies, land-use planning and site planning.

According to North, "Our vision for Genesis Golf Design is to continue to build upon our reputation by creating challenging and innovative course designs that respect the natural environment, as well as the tradition of the game."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

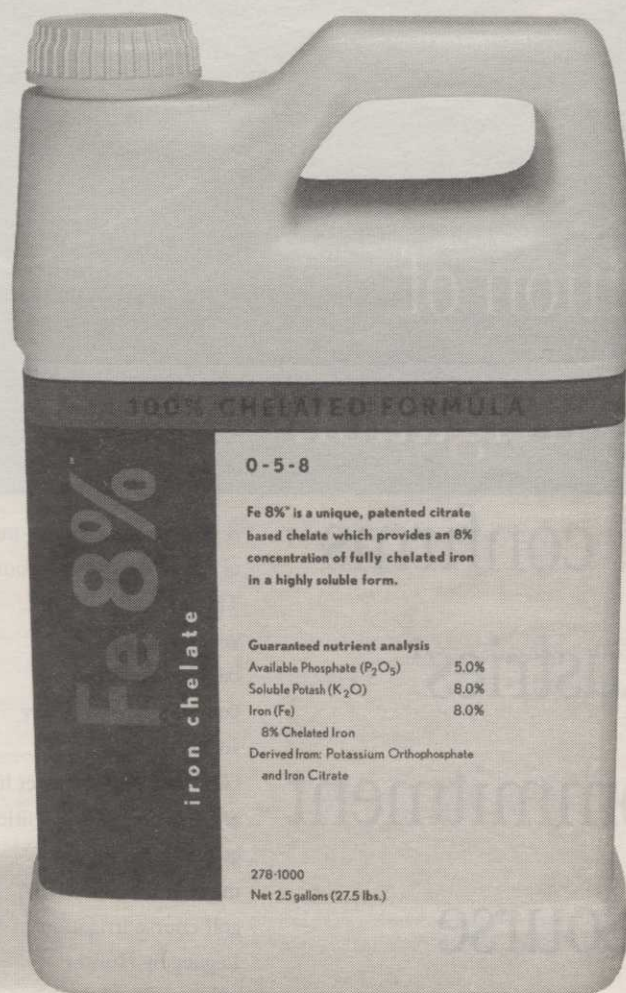
Nash also created several waterfalls that make this course even more dynamic in its natural setting. This feature is especially prominent on the 490-yard, par-5 No. 7 hole. The hole is played off the side of a canyon on to a wide fairway below. From there, players have to go back up to the green that lies at the end of a boxcanyon. The view from the fairway gives players the illusion of shooting into the waterfall because of its positioning behind the green.



Billy Casper and Greg Nash cut The Revere at Anthem out of the Nevada desert.

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## Celebrate Virginia to build five courses in major plan

By PETER BLAIS

**F**REDERICKSBURG, Va. — Construction has begun on a 2,100-acre commercial development along Interstate 95 between Richmond and Washington, D.C. that will eventually include five golf courses and serve as a starting point for historical tours of the area.

In addition to the five courses, Celebrate Virginia will include 2.4 million square feet of commercial space; a 600-acre visitors campus offering first-class accommodations, on-site historical and cultural attractions; an eco-center and conference facilities; and a world-class office campus.

The golf courses will be located across the Rappahannock River from the main commercial center.

Enclosed gondolas will ferry golfers across the river to the links.

The Silver Companies, a major Fredericksburg firm, is developing Celebrate Virginia.

The company's chief executive officer, Larry Silver, expected to choose by the end of the year between several different golf development firms to oversee the golf component.

The golf developer would choose five different architects to design the courses and be

expected to operate the golf resort once it opened, Silver said.

Silver said he planned to start construction on the first course by mid-1999 and have all five open within five years.

Between 150 and 300 two-bedroom golf villas may be built to accommodate those doing business with corporations in the office campus.

## Childs busy in Michigan

**SYLVAN LAKE, Mich.** — Don Childs Associates is working on several projects in Michigan. Work is nearly complete for the total renovation of Selfridge Air National Guard Golf Course in Mount Clemens.

The project was a \$2.6 million renovation. The old facility existed on an extremely flat site with very heavy soil conditions. Many rounds were lost each year to wet conditions in the spring and fall.

The federal government contract was awarded to Golf Course Construction, Inc. of Howell. Working under the guidelines of a federal contract brought many challenges and requirements in how the project was to be built, administered and handled, Glenn Caverley of Golf Course Construction retained the services of Childs and Design 3 of Lansing.

The two firms maintained separate responsibility for adhering to the strict quality-control requirements of the government contract and the renovation design of the new golf facility.

Construction began the first of May, and was completed in November, except the seeding of two golf holes and the driving range. To eliminate the drainage problems of the old golf course site, the builder excavated a series of five ponds to capture storm and sub-surface drainage.

The entire site is graded so that there is a minimum of a 3-percent grade change. Surface water is captured by a series of storm-water collection basins that tie into the ponds. The five ponds that were excavated accounted for approximately 140,000 cubic yards of earth that was then used to construct the new green and tee complexes.

Nine holes will be available for play mid-spring, with the remaining holes available by mid-summer. The facility will also offer a new clubhouse and conference facility, and a new maintenance facility.

Meanwhile, Bay Valley Resort in Bay City is undergoing a complete bunker renovation and restoration program.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## Boulders' \$1M restoration under Morrish's eyes

By PETER BLAIS

CAREFREE, Ariz. — The Boulders Resort here is in the midst of a \$1 million renovation designed to restore the AAA Five Diamond-rated resort's two golf courses to the original Jay Morrish design.

"It's not major surgery. But the work we are doing will make a significant difference in the way the golf courses play," said Rick Reiss, vice president and general manager of The Boulders Resort.

"The North Course and South Course are still among the finest in the country. But time does take its toll, particularly in the desert.

Morrish is overseeing the facelift. Signature Golf Co. of Fountain Hills, Ariz., is the course contractor.

The most notable efforts, Morrish said, will be restoring the game strategy and playability of the courses to their original intent.

"During the 10 years or so since I first designed these courses," Morrish explained, "the desert around them has changed dramatically. And, in many cases this growth has affected the shot values and strategy of many golf holes.

"For example, the growth of the



Boulders Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz., is in the midst of a 36-hole renovation to the Jay Morrish design.

desert plants in front of the tees has, in some cases, created blind shots where none existed just a few years before. We went in and evaluated the courses hole by hole and are making the necessary adjustments to ensure

they provide the types of golf experiences we intended when we designed them."

Among the more notable adjustments are the removal of a greenside creek and an expansion of the green on the

South Course's 1st hole; a makeover of the South Course's 12th hole to restore it to its original design — a potentially drivable par-4; the addition of several intermediate tees throughout both golf courses to give average players greater playing options; and a thorough rebuilding of all bunkers.

Alterations to the South Course were completed last fall. Work on the North Course will begin in late spring 1999. The North Course will remain open until then.

"The new sand has been put in the North Course bunkers down to a depth of about 2 inches," said Club Manager Mike Kelly.

"The plan is to do similar bunker work to the North Course [dig down to the drainage tile and replace all the sand] next spring and summer, since business now is at its peak. We'll close nine holes at a time to do that work. We've spent about \$500,000 on the South Course, so far."

The Boulders Resort is owned and operated by Grand Bay Hotels & Resorts. Other Grand Bay properties include: Carmel (Calif.) Valley Ranch; The Lodge at Ventana Canyon in Tucson, Ariz.; Grand Bay Coconut Grove (Fla.); Grand Bay Toronto, Canada; and The Peaks Resort & Spa in Telluride, Colo.

## Pebble Beach puts 'missing link' in place

Continued from page 1

ocean properties of the Del Monte Co. in 1919. This makes this great course one of the first real-estate-driven golf developments in the West. As such, the balance between land sales, cash flow and construction costs all became factors in the creation of the golf course.

In April 1915 Del Monte Properties brought up Samuel B. Morse from the San Joaquin Valley to help stimulate land sales in the Monterey area. Morse brought an eagerness to impress and plunged into the task at hand. His efforts were rewarded as he quickly made a sale of a 5,436-acre parcel on the bluff overlooking Stillwater Cove. The parcel was sold to William T. Beatty, president of Austin Manufacturing Co. of Chicago.

This choice spot overlooking the ocean would become a prized piece of property during the next few decades, a fact that Morse actually seemed to realize even when he sold it to Beatty. In his unpublished biography, Morse noted his comments at the time of the sale: "I will probably regret this."

During 1915 Morse invited a group of architects and premier golfers of the era to look at the Pebble Beach area to discuss the possibility of a golf course. All who came agreed that the course should run along the ocean as much as possible. Morse began an effort to buy back some of the parcels that had already been sold. But one owner, Beatty, was not interested in trading for another parcel or selling the coveted spot.

This forced the designers of Pebble



The new 5th hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links offers Monterey Bay views.

Beach — Jack Neville, and Douglas Grant — to route the course around the Beatty estate with the uphill 5th hole that exists now. While they made every effort to set this dramatic course out along the ocean, the area at the 5th hole became the awkward bend inland that has existed for 80 years.

The hole sits in a secluded area and is surrounded by tall eucalyptus trees that inhibit both sunlight and air flow. For many years the maintenance crews have battled to keep this green healthy. Drastic measures, such as an underground heating system, have been installed to help. During tournaments, this area is a notorious bottleneck where spectators and players have to walk up the narrow path to the green.

Over the years the coveted Beatty Estate twice came up for resale — during the Great Depression and World War II, but Pebble Beach Co. did not have the funds to buy it back. A Mrs. Jenkins bought the land and held on to it until her death in 1995. It

was at this time that Pebble Beach finally secured this five-parcel, for \$9.5 million.

Construction of the new hole began in June and should be completed by January. Plans are to have it ready for the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am. The hole tees off just behind the 4th green, boasting a stunning view of the 6th hole rising up the cliffs and the back of the 7th tee clinging to the rocks. The prevailing winds will swirl into this green site to help make it a challenging hole.

In order to make the golf hole blend into the rest of the course, The Pebble Beach maintenance staff has painstakingly created a sod nursery from cores harvested from the course's other greens. The goal is to blend the new hole into the course so that it feels and plays as though it has always been there. Finally, the missing link of Pebble Beach will complete a string of uninterrupted golf holes from The Lodge at Pebble Beach all the way to Carmel Beach. Finally, the dream that Grant and Neville had in 1915 will be realized.

### RYANGOLF REBUILDING BOCA WEST

BOCA RATON, Fla. — RyanGolf of Deerfield Beach has been awarded the total reconstruction of Boca West Golf Course No. 3 here. The course is one of four in the exclusive residential community. This will be the second Arnold Palmer reconstruction that RyanGolf has contracted with Boca West since 1997. The accelerated construction schedule will begin in March, with completion planned for July. Anticipated grand opening is December for club members.

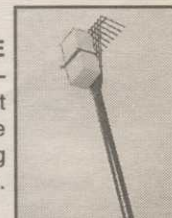
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## BRIEFS



### MARTIN JOINS SIBBALD ASSOC.

ST. LOUIS — Randall Martin, long-time businessman and green committee chairman, has joined John Sibbald Associates, a 23-year-old search firm specializing in recruiting superintendents, general managers and golf professionals for private clubs. Martin is former green committee chairman at Algonquin Golf Club in St. Louis and current chairman at Crystal Downs Country Club in Northern Michigan. He can be reached at 616-352-9421.



Randall Martin

### ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF ADDS PAIR



Eric Bescoby



John McNair

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf has appointed Eric Bescoby director of golf course maintenance and John McNair director of golf management. Bescoby, formerly director of Rain Bird's golf division, will manage the business unit dedicated to golf course maintenance at current courses and seek to increase overall business. McNair, formerly general manager of Environmental Golf's Cherokee Run Golf Club in Conyers, Ga., will oversee golf course operations and the development of new management services.

### CMAA CONFERENCE SET

SAN FRANCISCO — The Club Managers Association of America will hold its 72nd World Conference on Club Management and 22nd Annual Exposition in San Francisco from Feb. 28 through March 4. Approximately 90 conference sessions will focus on a variety of topics. For more information contact 703-739-9500.

### GOLF TRUST BUYS COOKS CREEK

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Golf Trust of America has closed its acquisition of Cooks Creek Golf Course, an 18-hole upscale, public facility located in Ashville, Ohio, near Columbus, for \$6.1 million. The course will be leased to Cook/Rainieri Management.

# Getting right to the heart of the matter

## A little forethought can help emergency personnel save a life

By MARK LESLIE

LOMPOC, Calif. — After Village Country Club lost one member to a heart attack while on the course, and another collapsed from allergic reaction to a bee sting on the 8th green, the president and superintendent had an idea that many courses across the country might copy.

They labeled all perimeter out-of-bounds posts with the street address of the nearest house. Therefore, if an ambulance needs to be called, by cellular phone or radio, life-saving time can be saved.

"With a membership whose average age is 65, we need to minimize medical emergency response time," said superintendent Bob Taeger.

"Hopefully, the plan will never be needed. But, if an emergency does occur, the few minutes saved locating the emergency site will minimize the injury."



The street address of the house in the background is posted on this out-of-bounds marker at Village CC to help emergency vehicles quickly locate an injured golfer.

## Automated external defibrillators: standard equipment for courses?

By DOROTHY NELSON STOOKEY

Without warning, while enjoying a round of golf, an elderly man with no known heart disease collapses from sudden cardiac arrest. Fire department personnel respond in less than eight minutes.

But they have no automated external defibrillator (AED). They initiate CPR. Twenty-two minutes later, paramedics arrive with a de-fibrillator to shock the man several times. But it's too late. He's dead.

I didn't write this scenario to scare golfers and course operators. In fact, I didn't write it. It's the first paragraph of an American Heart Association (AHA) pamphlet called "Cardiac Arrest and the Need for Early Defibrillation." The AHA is

leading a campaign to have AEDs installed in emergency service vehicles and public places, such as office buildings and sports arenas. Some country clubs and golf courses have bought

Continued on page 52

Continued on page 50

## ClubCorp, Golden Bear develop first joint golf project

DALLAS — ClubCorp and Golden Bear International—which recently formed a partnership to build, own and operate Jack Nicklaus signature courses worldwide—will develop their first joint venture project in Dahlenega, Ga., located an hour north of Atlanta.

The newly formed joint venture is developing the signature Nicklaus links and related club facilities at BirchRiver, a new mixed-use development. The new layout will be semi-private when it opens in the summer of 2000, with plans for it to become fully private as the BirchRiver community matures.

"We know this project at BirchRiver is only the beginning of a highly successful partnership," said Dave Richey, vice president of development at ClubCorp.

The new course will be situated in the Chestatee River valley, surrounded by mountain views and known for its past and present opportunities to pan for gold. The course will play across the river five times, and feature an island green. Other amenities will include a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis court, pro shop, and dining facilities.

"Over the years, we have teamed

Continued on page 49

## RCGA sells Glen Abbey to ClubLink

OAKVILLE, Ontario, Canada — The Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) has reached an agreement to sell Glen Abbey Golf Club to ClubLink Corporation, setting the stage for RCGA growth and regionalization in Canada, according to Executive Director Stephen Ross.

The deal was expected to be completed and the purchase price announced by late January.

As part of the association's long-range plan, the RCGA is currently surveying properties in the Greater Toronto Area, Montreal and Calgary.

"We have taken the first step towards creating a new foundation for golf in

Canada," explains Ross. "This deal opens many doors of opportunity to further develop our grassroots initiatives, as well as develop new golf facilities, all focusing on enhancing support of the game across the country."

The RCGA has owned the Jack Nicklaus-designed Oakville layout since 1981, but the association's desire to geographically expand and continue to develop its member programs resulted in this decision.

Contributing factors to the sale of Glen Abbey included:

- the RCGA's plan to increase its pres-

Continued on page 49



Rolling Hills Golf Club in Davie, Fla., the course where the movie "Caddyshack" was filmed, was recently purchased and renovated by Wayne Huizenga's Florida Panthers Holdings. See story on page 1.



## KSL Recreation purchases Maui's Grand Wailea

WALEA, Hawaii — KSL Recreation Corp. has contracted to purchase the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa in Wailea Resort on Maui. La Quinta, Calif.-based KSL Recreation owns and operates such destination resorts as La Quinta Resort & Club and PGA West in La Quinta, Calif. and Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami.

KSL will purchase the 781-room facility, which opened in 1991, from New York-based International Hotel Acquisitions, LLC, (IHA), an affiliate of Credit Suisse First Boston; and Secured Capital Corp. which has controlled the resort since a financial restructuring in June, 1998. The property operated as a Grand Hyatt

Hotel from 1991 to 1993.

There are three 18-hole courses within Wailea Resort and another four located within 15 minutes.

KSL Recreation also owns and/or operates The Claremont Resort & Spa in Berkeley, Calif.; Lake Lanier Islands, near Atlanta; and the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich. The firm

also owns KSL Fairways, a Manassas, Va.-based company that owns and operates 31 community courses located east of the Mississippi.

The sale was expected to be completed in December.



ACQUISITIONS

## Huizenga

Continued from page 1

The issue of public stock in the Florida Panthers National Hockey League team gave rise to the Florida Panthers Holdings Inc. leisure division approximately 18 months ago, according to Applegate.

The company quickly acquired six resort hotels: The Boca Raton (Fla.) Resort and Club; The Bahia Mar and The Pier 66 in Ft. Lauderdale; The Edgewater Beach Hotel and The Registry in Naples, Fla.; and The Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix.

"Where there is golf, we're making improvements to it, through redesign or renovation" Applegate said. "Where the hotels do not have golf, we're making acquisitions to complement the hotels through a golf component."

In addition to Plantation and Rolling Hills, the 1930s-era course at the Boca Raton Resort was completely renovated for \$6.5 million last summer by Gene Bates. A Rees Jones-designed course called Grand Naples recently broke ground in Naples and will open in late 1999 with two more to begin construction in 2000. A use treaty is in place for the existing two courses at the Arizona Biltmore with no plans for additional courses at present.

Applegate said there is no timetable for additional acquisitions or developments. "We'll just take them as they come," he explained. "With American Patriot, Starwood and KSL out in the marketplace, every time a property comes up, there is a lot of competition. We're after the same properties they are, so it's competitive."

"The general plan is to buy good properties, add value to them, add a membership structure and create more volume and recurring income."

Huizenga is chairman of the board and Rick Rochon president of Florida Panthers Holdings.

"It goes back to his basic business premise of consolidation and diversity with all his public companies," Applegate explained of Huizenga's interest in the golf business. "He doesn't put all his eggs in one basket with any company he's involved with."

Applegate owned and operated Gary Player's design firm for many years before selling the company to Player and his son, Mark. Applegate started his own firm, Signature Course Design, several years ago, before Huizenga offered to put him in charge of FPH's golf development operations. Applegate sold Signature to a Philadelphia Group called Prime Golf before joining Huizenga. Applegate's son, Scott, is one of Prime's lead architects.



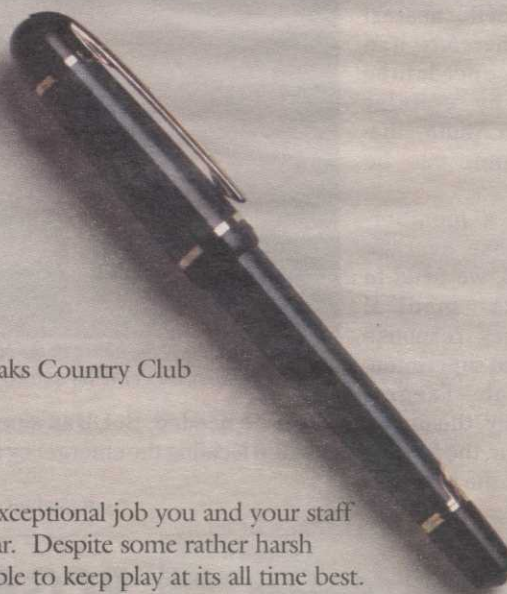
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## Glen Abbey

Continued from page 47

ence across Canada to help develop the game;

- RCGA's future plans to develop three multi-course golf facilities that will each support a championship stadium-style course, teaching complex and nine-hole Future Links short course;

- RCGA's desire to further develop and expand its core programs, such as its junior golf initiative, Future Links, presented by Mackenzie Financial Corp.

Notable terms of the agreement:

- all of Glen Abbey's staff will continue as ClubLink employees;
- the arrangement includes 240 acres of land, all equipment and facilities;

- the RCGA will lease Golf House — RCGA offices located on the grounds of Glen Abbey — and the Leonard E. Shore Building (home of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame) until 2003;

- the Bell Canadian Open will be played a minimum of four times at Glen Abbey through 2009, a minimum of one time from 2010-2014, and a minimum of one time from 2015-2019. Glen Abbey will be leased at market rates for this purpose (the RCGA will work in co-operation with Bell Canada to determine other possible venues);

- the RCGA has the opportunity to host the Bell Canadian Open at other ClubLink facilities for the next 21 years;

- good faith negotiations between the RCGA and ClubLink regarding other partnership opportunities, including Future Links junior golf initiatives, teaching academies, environmental research projects and potential joint initiatives regarding golf facility development, ownership and operation.

The Royal Canadian Golf Association, the governing body of men's amateur golf in Canada, determines national policies and standards relating to the game on behalf of its more than 282,000 members.

## ClubCorp

Continued from page 47

with ClubCorp on several notable projects, such as the Jack Nicklaus/Jack Nicklaus II signature course at the Aspen Glen Club (Colo.), the Golf Club at Indigo Run on Hilton Head Island (S.C.), and the Melrose Course at Daufuskie Island Club & Resort (S.C.)," said Ira Fenton, president of Golden Bear Financial Services.

The BirchRiver community is being developed by Habersham Investment & Developer Corp., an Atlanta-based residential and mixed-use developer, in partnership with Owens Valley Farm, L.P.

## Family Golf adds four to stable

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Family Golf Centers, Inc. has acquired four golf facilities: Timber Ridge Golf Club in Kansas City, Mo.; Coyote Creek Golf Club in Vancouver, Canada; Douglassdale Golf Club in Calgary, Canada; and Pine Canyon Golf Center in Voorhees, N.J. The company also has leased two golf

centers: Golf Dome in Markham, Ontario, Canada and Cal State Golf Center in Sacramento, Calif.

In addition, Family Golf Centers has signed letters of intent to acquire three golf facilities: the 82nd Avenue Golf Center in Portland, Ore.; El Cajon Golf Center in San Diego, Calif.; and Fore Seasons Golf Dome in

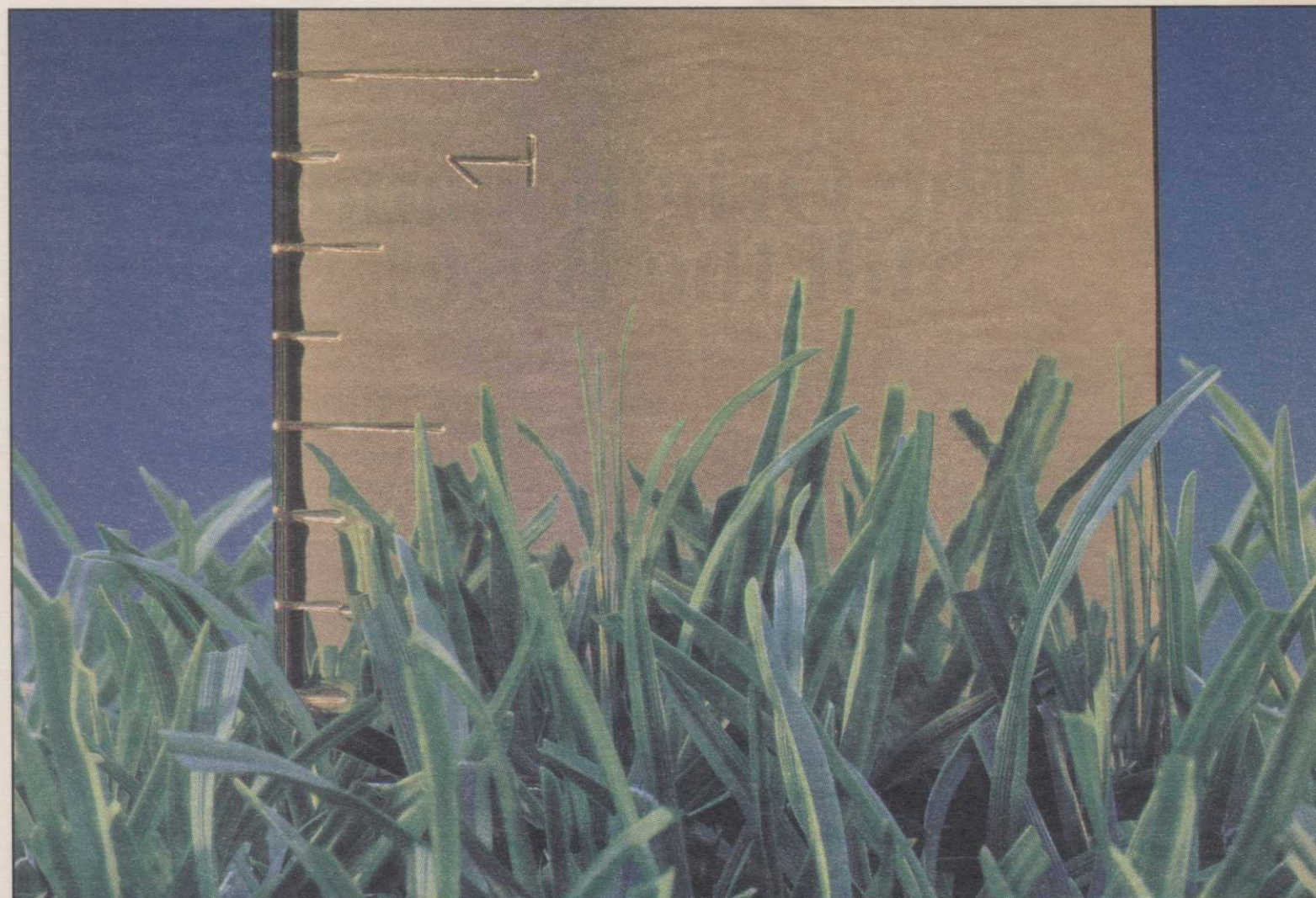
Thunder Bay, Ontario. The company expects to close these transactions shortly.

Dominic Chang, chairman and CEO of Family Golf Centers, said, "With these new acquisitions — four of which were initiated by our Eagle Quest subsidiary — we already have exceeded our goal of operating 115 golf facilities by the end of 1998.

The company also reported

the opening of two newly-constructed facilities: Family Golf Center at CB Smith Park in Pembroke Pines, Fla., and Sports Plus, an ice-skating, golf and family-entertainment super center in Englewood, Colo.

The Englewood skating facility will be the official training site of the Colorado Avalanche, the National Hockey League franchise.



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## Defibrillators

Continued from page 47

the units, which cost \$3,000 to \$4,000, and trained staff to operate them. Other courses have received AEDs as donations, sometimes organized by members following a tragic death on the course.

No current law requires a golf course to have a defibrillator and trained operators. This may

change, however, as the devices spread from police cars and fire trucks to airports and airplanes, malls, stadiums, concert halls and health clubs. The average golfer is getting older and more senior citizens are on the links than ever before, bringing their increased risk of cardiac problems with them. Even without a law requiring them, if there is a trend toward widespread use and reliance on portable

defibrillators, golf course owners and operators should be aware of how that trend might affect their liability exposure.

What is an automated external defibrillator? It's a smarter, smaller cousin to the device you see emergency room doctors use on TV when they grab the paddles and yell "clear!" before shocking a flat-lined patient back to life in time for the commercial break.

Only doctors can use the defibrillators found in hospitals, but lay persons can be trained to use AEDs. Most models are a little bigger than a laptop computer, weigh less than 10 pounds, and have voice instructions to walk the rescuer through the procedure. Following a diagram, the rescuer places electrode patches on the victim's chest. The computer takes an EKG and analyzes it for signs

that defibrillation is needed. The machine then prompts the operator to stand clear and push a button to deliver the electric shock. Most importantly, AEDs are designed to not deliver a shock to a heart that does not need defibrillation, because shocking a beating heart can be fatal. AED operators should be trained, but the AHA believes that anyone who can learn CPR can learn to use an AED safely.

The campaign to increase public awareness and wider placement of AEDs is driven in part by statistics like these:

- Up to 350,000 people suffer from sudden cardiac arrest every year — in the United States almost 1,000 every day.
- 95 percent of them die.
- Most victims are aged 65 or older and have other heart conditions, but sudden cardiac arrest strikes people of every age, often without warning.
- Most people are stricken at home, but golf courses are among the top five public places where sudden cardiac arrest is likely to occur.

• The chance of survival drops 10 percent for each minute that passes without defibrillation in cases where the shock would restore a heartbeat. For example, in New York City, where the average response time to defibrillation of a sudden cardiac arrest patient is over 12 minutes, the survival rate is less than 2 percent. In Seattle, where the response time averages less than seven minutes, the survival rate is almost 30 percent. (Source: American Heart Association)

As the population ages and Baby Boomers enter retirement, golfers will continue to look a little grayer. Course operators who are considering how to manage the increased risk of a cardiac emergency may consider buying an AED, but they are asking some important legal questions first. The law in this area is different in every state, so I will discuss each issue generally.

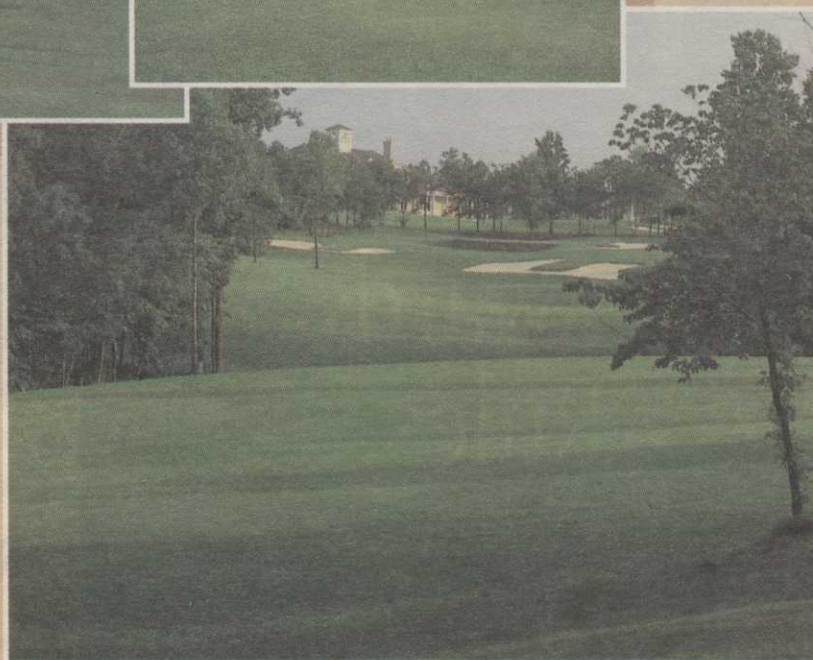
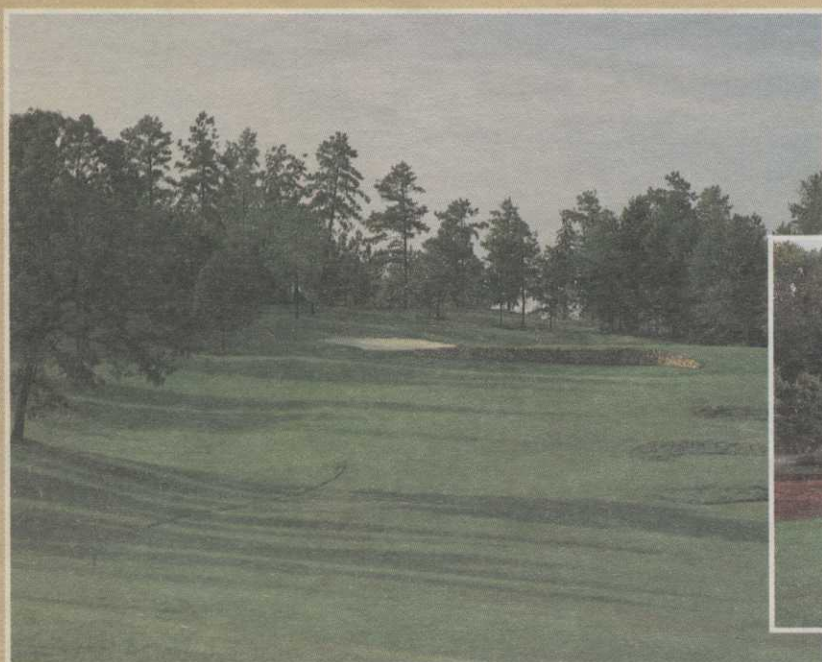
*1. Can courses be held legally liable for not having an AED?*

Probably not. At least not now. As I noted earlier, no current law requires a golf course to have a defibrillator and there probably will not be such a law unless they become as common as fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. If the trend is toward widespread placement of defibrillators in public places, the issue in the event of a lawsuit may not be what the state legislature requires, but whether having a portable defibrillator has become a reasonable expectation of a golf course operator.

To understand the issue, consider CPR. When it was a new technique, CPR training was only expected of doctors, nurses, and

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## Defibrillators

Continued from previous page

paramedics. Its widespread use now makes it reasonable for the public to expect that the staff of health clubs, stadiums, airlines and other public facilities will be trained to save a life with CPR. If AEDs continue to proliferate and become cheaper and even easier to use, having one and training staff to use it will become a part of doing business. The AHA campaign is trying to raise awareness and push public facilities in that direction. In a negligence suit, the reasonableness of a having an AED would be determined by looking at what a reasonable course operator in the same or similar circumstances would do. If other courses in your area have AEDs, you might want to review your emergency plans. I would generally advise my clients not to be the last course operator in their area to get an AED. Should there be a tragic death on their course — preventable or not — it would be too easy for a plaintiff to point to every other course in the area and ask "Why didn't your course have one?"

*2. Are courses liable for the improper use of an AED?*

Buying a portable defibrillator is serious business and it is an understandable reaction to wonder what might happen if you or a member of your staff use a defibrillator improperly and hurt someone. Could this be a legal Catch-22, or would you be immune from liability under a good Samaritan statute?

The same laws that protect lay persons who give CPR might protect lay persons who use an AED. There are good Samaritan laws in all 50 states, but they differ in scope. Generally, they provide immunity from civil liability to people who, gratuitously and under no obligation to do so, render aid in an emergency to someone in urgent need of care, who does not refuse it.

There is, of course, no immunity for gross negligence. Many laws, such as those in Massachusetts and Connecticut, only grant immunity for a CPR provider who is currently certified in CPR by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. There are bills in at least two state legislatures, including California and Kansas, that would specifically include lay people who use an AED under the good Samaritan law. Neither has passed, but wider use will spur some legislatures to act in response to the genuine concerns of facility owners who fear liability for trying to save lives.

As a general rule, acquisition of an AED should be made part of your course's existing emergency plans, and should include training for staff. To help protect

a course from liability, designated staff should be certified to operate an AED and those certifications should be kept current with refresher courses. New AEDs are smart, but not completely foolproof. Putting one in the hands of an untrained staff member is asking for trouble.

*3. What happens if a course has an AED, but no one trained to use it is available when it's needed?*

A course operator who buys

an AED may be acting with the best of intentions to protect the golfers who are not only customers or members, but often friends. That well-intentioned act may expose the course to liability, however, if the course operator cannot or does not follow through when tragedy strikes.

Generally, if you are not under a legal duty to offer some protection to your patrons, but you undertake to do it voluntar-

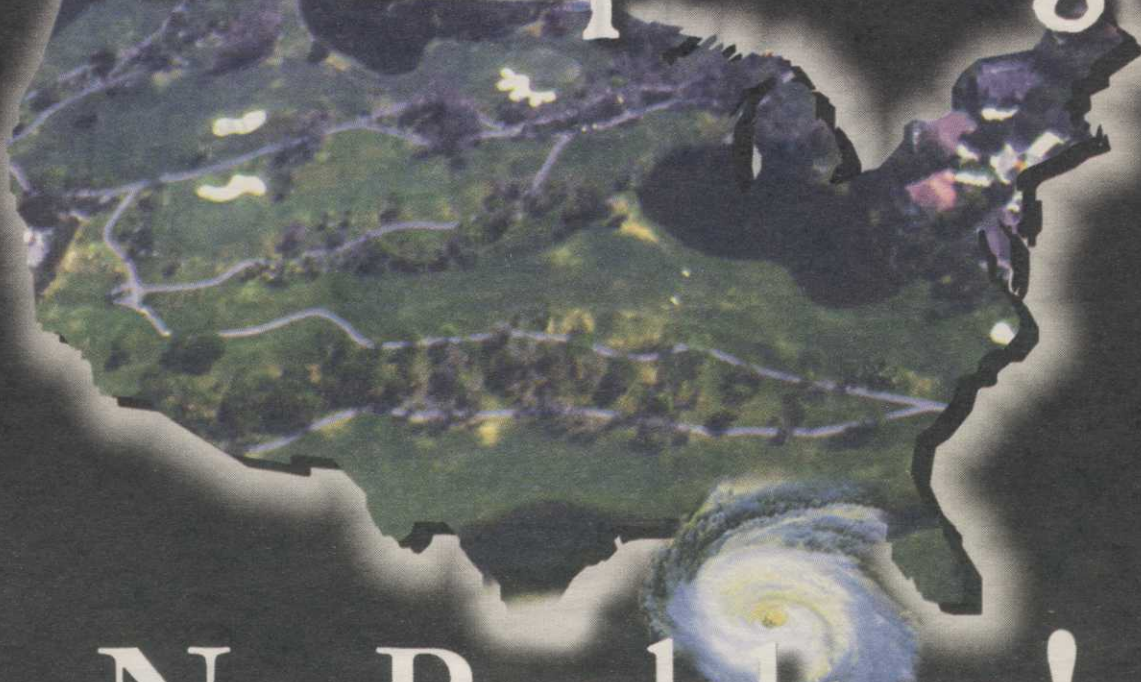
ily, you create an obligation to follow through and offer that protection in a reasonably prudent manner. If, for example, you voluntarily decide to build lightning shelters on the course, you would be exposing yourself to liability if you then failed to maintain them.

Similarly, if you purchase a defibrillator, your emergency response plan should include training for enough staff to make

sure trained personnel are reasonably available to put it to use during any shift. Just as everyone on your staff should know when to call 911, everyone should know where the AED is in the event of a cardiac emergency and how to get it in the hands of a trained operator. Failure to do so would be unnecessarily exposing the course to potential liability. Good inten-

Continued on next page

# Mother Nature Not Cooperating...



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## MGM, Primadonna merge assets

LAS VEGAS— MGM Grand, Inc. and Primadonna Resorts, Inc. have approved, in principle, MGM Grand's acquisition of Primadonna in an all-stock transaction. The merger is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1999.

Primadonna Resorts, Inc. is an entertainment, hotel and gam-

ing company. Primadonna owns Whiskey Pete's, Buffalo Bill's and the Primm Valley Resort in Primm, Nev., two championship courses in California, and a 50-percent interest in the New York - New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

MGM Grand, Inc. is an entertainment, hotel and gaming com-

pany headquartered in Las Vegas. The company operates the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino there, the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino in Darwin, Australia, owns a 50-percent interest in New York - New York and manages casinos in South Africa.

The terms of the merger provide for Primadonna's stockholders to receive 0.33 shares of MGM Grand common stock for

each share of Primadonna stock held, or a total of approximately 9.5 million shares of MGM Grand common stock. The transaction is subject to the execution of a definitive merger agreement, Primadonna shareholder approval and the satisfaction of various conditions to be contained in the merger agreement, including obtaining certain regulatory approvals.

## OB markers

Continued from page 47

Members are encouraged to bring cell phones when golfing. If an emergency occurs, a golfer can go to the nearest out-of-bounds post and call the appropriate emergency number. "The way cell phone calls are routed," Taeger said, "you may want to ask the nearest fire department for the appropriate emergency number. The fire department then proceeds to that address and runs directly onto the golf course and emergency scene."

Taeger uses a stainless steel tape writer, which costs \$200, to make tags. Each contains the address and emergency response phone number, then is nailed to the back of the 4- by 4-inch post.

Two recent emergencies led to the brainstorming and address tags. Last spring a member died of a heart attack on the 6th tee. Then, in August, a member of the club president Robert Flaherty's foursome was stung in the leg by a bee and collapsed, with shallow breathing and a slow heart beat.

In the case of the heart-attack victim, the emergency response time did not contribute to his death, but the call to the "6th tee" caused confusion, Taeger said.

When the bee-sting incident was called in, emergency personnel responded quickly and saved the day. Soon afterward, Flaherty told Taeger of his frustration in trying to describe to the fire department how to get to the emergency site.

"Together, we formulated the idea of labeling the stakes," Taeger said. "We consulted the fire department and they agreed the idea had merit."

## Defibrillators

Continued from previous page

tions alone will probably not prevent you from being held liable if a patron dies while a defibrillator sits idly by.

As AEDs become cheaper and more commonplace, you should be alert to the benefits and costs to your facility. Course operators should carefully consider the issues raised in this article and others, such as the age of their golfing clientele and the reliability of local emergency response systems, before deciding to make an AED part of their emergency plans. Consult your insurer, if not an attorney, before doing so.

*Dorothy Nelson Stookey is a partner in the 50-person, general practice law firm of Sherin and Lodgen LLP, with offices in Boston and Los Angeles. She specializes in the area of labor and employment law and is the head of the firm's Golf and Hospitality Law Group.*

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Ronstar <sup>d</sup>	●	■	NR	●	●	NR	NR	NR
Surflan <sup>e</sup>	■	■	■	●	▲	●	■	■

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<sup>a</sup>Novartis

<sup>b</sup>Rohm and Haas Co.

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# Unseasonably warm weather good for revenue but battles spring course prep

BY ANDREW OVERBECK

While golfers from Maine to Michigan were enjoying the warm, Indian summer conditions that extended the playing season, superintendents were busy getting prepared for the inevitable cold wind, ice and snow of winter.

The basics of the process are the same for most courses: blowing out the irrigation system, putting down the greens covers, applying snow mold fungicide, dormant seed and potassium-based fertilizers, top dressing tees and greens to combat desiccation and doing a general course clean up.

While the extent to which these basics are followed varies from course to course, most superintendents are praying for what Terry Buchen, principal of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International, calls the ultimate winter conditions. "If the ground is completely frozen and you get a good snow cover on top that stays there all winter — that's the kind of weather you want."

But Joseph Baidy, superintendent of the Turning Stone Casino Resort in upper New York state, realizes that he probably won't get those conditions, and with young greens he isn't taking any chances.

"We've top dressed the greens three times to protect the crowns from desiccation, we've put down three applications of potash, and two applications of snow mold." And although he's tested out his green-side drainage, he'll be checking up for ice all winter. "We'll take the covers off and check whenever possible. If we have ice we'll have to get in there with Milorganite, coal, even do some verticutting backwards to get the ice off and get air to the turf," said Baidy.

But while he is preparing for the cold, Baidy admits that he has been walking a fine line by taking full advantage of the warm fall weather that is helping the new turf take hold. "You don't want to let it get too lush, but at the same time you want to grow it," said Baidy.

Over in Massachusetts, Stephen Cadenelli, superintendent at Cape Cod National Golf Club, is proceeding a little

differently. Winter on the Cape is not typically as severe, but cold weather is still a threat. "We have to be more concerned with pink snow mold out here, which can put a lot of pressure on the turf and cause it to be a little slower to recover in the spring," said Cadenelli.

This year, Cape Cod National will also be top dressing from tee to green. "We need to watch for desiccation on the tees and greens, but our primary goal for doing the fairways this year is to help build up the root zone and control the thatch," said Cadenelli.

And according to Cadenelli, the warm temperatures have been an advantage, giving his crew more time to get maintenance projects done. "We are doing stuff now that we usually wait until spring to do."

The seasons usually change more dramatically for Gerald Faubel, superintendent of Saginaw Country Club in northern Michigan. "We get a good snow cover up here, so we don't cover

the greens, and desiccation really isn't too much of a problem since the trees block most of the wind."

But warm weather have presented Faubel with a new set of challenges. Crews have had to continue watering the course due to unusually dry weather and winter preparations have been delayed. "We normally start putting down applications of snow mold fungicide in early October once the fall rains come. This year we have had to push that back and we are now combining applications in order to get everything down," said Faubel.

Al Pondell, the superintendent of Deerfield Country Club in suburban Chi-

cago has had similar warm weather difficulties. He'll likely have to make additional applications of snow mold fungicide as the winter progresses, but chalks

it up to the dual responsibilities of the job. "You know, you put down the snow mold, and you'd rather not get a lot of play, but the fact being that's the way revenues are, and at this time of year if you are able to get guys out playing golf that's what you want."

With above average winters predicted for the Midwest and New England this year, the cold weather will eventually set in and superintendents will have to be prepared. "We are going to pay for this warm weather later," warned Buchen.

*We normally start putting down applications of snow mold fungicide in early October once the fall rains come. This year we have had to push that back and we are now combining applications in order to get everything down.'*

— Gerald Faubel, Saginaw Country Club



Using parts of two hillside fairways, Stawovy and his crew are able to create two slopes — a junior slope of 600 feet and a main run that measures 1,400 feet.

## Willowbrook Golf Course makes hay in the snow

By MICHAEL LEVANS

BELLE VERNON, Pa. — When the skies turn gray and frosty mornings put an end to the season's rounds, Tim Stawovy is ready to kick Willowbrook Golf Course into high gear.

Stawovy needs three to four days of transition time and Willowbrook transforms from a 9-hole golf course averaging 40,000 rounds a year to a down-hill ski area attracting 24,000 skiers a season.

"Our mainstay is golf," said Stawovy, part owner of Willowbrook, "but skiing helps out significantly with the year's bottom line."

Using parts of two hillside fairways, Stawovy and his crew are able to create two slopes — a junior slope of 600 feet and a main run that measures 1,400 feet. "Not very big, but a great place to start out," he said.

The key to the quick conversion, said Stawovy, is pre-installed equipment that

is up year-round but out of the way of the golfers and easily accessible once the snow starts to fly.

"We have snowmaking pipes buried in the ground so they're out of sight, but we've designed a way to slide the rest of the snowmaking equipment, like guns, into the ground and into place for the season fairly easily," said Stawovy.

The structures of the three lifts — rope, poma and J-bar — have been constructed so they're out of play, and stay up the entire year. Stawovy simply takes the seats off the lifts when spring comes around.

"Cosmetically it looks like a golf course in the summer and a ski slope in the winter. It's a pretty slick conversion," he said.

The change-up doesn't end on the grounds. The clubhouse features a fake wall that hides the golf course's stock of ski boots. "We put all the boots on the shelves and as soon as spring comes we cover it with paneling so it looks like a wall. The

skis go out in a room on the porch."

Stawovy started tinkering with the idea of the ski conversion back in 1970 as a way to supplement the course's income. Being less than one hour away from Seven Springs and Hidden Valley, two of Western Pennsylvania's premier ski resorts, Stawovy thought he could fill the niche of a small, beginner's slope to prepare skiers for the bigger hills.

The terrain, climate and location seemed agreeable, he just needed a way to get skiers to the top.

"We bought an eight horse-power commercial rope-tow, but we found out that it could only handle six or seven people at a time," he said. "We found a local guy to build one out of the rear end of an International milk truck. That one could handle as many as we could put on it."

With the new lift, skiers, mainly beginners, took advantage of the \$4 lift ticket and go their turns in shape.

"In 1975 we took the next step. We realized that to have good skiing in the East you need snowmaking," said Stawovy, who bought his first snowmaker, an air/water type gun, from Seven Springs, in nearby Champion, Pa. "We ended up sticking with the guns and compressors since you can make snow at higher temperatures. But for the most part, coverage is pretty easy to maintain. We're skiing on grass, so if we get six inches we can do it, there are no rocks or tree roots the snow has to cover."

Stawovy's future plans include moving the operation to the north side of property to increase the length of its season. "We're one of three slopes that face south. One is in Vermont and the third one is out of business," he said. "When you face South you get direct sun in the morning and as soon as you turn the snow makers off the snow melts. That doesn't help the cause."



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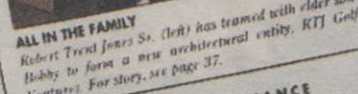
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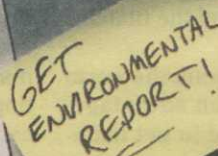
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**SENSITIVE STROKES**  
Architect Ron Earl worked sensitively around wetlands of the newly opened Indian River Club, located in Vero Beach, Fla. Indian River is only the third course in the world to be granted Audubon Sanctuary status. The course also embodies the Environmental Principles for Golf Courses recently issued at the conference on Golf & The Environment. See page 163.



BY MARK LESLIE

Warried the cost of golf is starting to drive people from the game, the incoming and outgoing presidents of the American Society of Golf Course Architects have presented arguments that would lead developers to make harsh choices about their projects.

Picking sides in a point-counterpoint atmosphere, Past President Jeff Brauer of Golfscaapes in Houston and new President Denis Griffiths of Braselton, Ga., agreed construction costs have escalated too high but disagreed over the cure.

"Ten years ago there were few upscale daily-fee projects," Griffiths said. "Everyone today is doing

Continued on page 46

**Ciba-Sandoz**  
J. H. PHILLIPS, the chemical trade  
based

**Ciba-Sandoz**  
By HAL PHILLIPS

Consolidation in the chemical trade continues apace, as Des Plaines, Ill.-based Sandoz Agro and Greensboro, N.C.-based Ciba—both divisions of enormous Swiss-owned pharmaceutical and life sciences conglomerates—have agreed to join forces, creating a \$6 billion agricultural giant.

The new entity will be known as Novartis, and will be led by Bill Liles, head of Sandoz. Ciba's president, Hans Turf and Ormiston, will head the new firm. The two companies have been working to create a joint identity in a decade. First came Ciba-Geigy.

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## BRIEFS



### KINSER GETS THE NOD FROM AGREVO

MONTVALE, N.J. — AgrEvo has announced that Karl Kisner recently joined the company's Green Industry Group as product manager. In his new

position, Kisner will focus on promoting the company's Delta Gard brand of insecticides, as well as its full line of products for the Green industry. Kisner has



Karl Kisner

nearly 10 years experience in the turf market, with the last six as a regional manager for Terra Industries.

### JACKLIN SEED PROMOTES TWO

POSTFALLS, Idaho—Jacklin Seed, a division of the J.R. Simplot Company, has promoted Susan Samudio to plant breeder in recognition for her work in developing turfgrass varieties that have placed in the top-ten listing of national USDA trials. Three of her perennial ryegrass varieties, Caddieshack, Accent, and Monterey, demonstrated excellent third-year performance in this trial. Jacklin has also promoted Mark Sellmann to plant breeder in recognition of his work in turfgrass varietal development that placed two tall fescue varieties in the top-ten listing of the NTEP trials.

### DOW AGROSCIENCES BOOSTS MIEHLE

INDIANAPOLIS—Bruce Miehle has been named general manager of turf, ornamental and technical products at Dow AgroSciences. As a 25-year veteran of Dow AgroSciences, Miehle has held several positions in the company including field technical sales, group marketing manager, and global business leader for urban pest management.

### LASCO NAMES SMITH KIRBY MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — LASCO Fluid Distribution Products has appointed Hannah Smith Kirby to the position of merchandising coordinator. Smith Kirby will be responsible for coordinating bar code numerology and labeling, as well as retail packaging and displays. She has been a part of LASCO's team for over six year.

### LEEMCO NAMES NEW GOLF SALES MANAGER

CORONA, Calif.—Leemco Inc., a manufacturer of joint restraints that attach plastic pipe to ductile iron fittings on golf irrigation systems, has appointed Nunzio DiChristopher as golf sales manager. DiChristopher will be responsible for all sales worldwide in the golf irrigation market.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

## Yamaha, KSL share the ride

By MICHAEL LEVANS

NEWMAN, Ga. — Yamaha recently scored a win in the hyper-tight golf-car-supply-contract race by finalizing an exclusive with KSL Recreation Group Inc.

According to the contract, KSL's existing fleet will be replaced with more than 5,000 Yamaha cars over a period of five years.

"This is probably the most creative deal we've done," said Mike Muetzel, division manager for Yamaha Golf Cars. "We got this because of our creativity and our ability to answer our customer needs. In this day and age and in this market that's something that I'm pretty proud of."

"We had a year-long process of screen-



ing the major manufacturers and it came down to quality and price," said Eric Affeldt, general manager of Doral Golf Resort and Spa and KSL's representative on the deal. "We had an excellent relationship with one of the other manufacturers and they've certainly done a great job for us.

But after visiting facilities and carefully examining both product and quality, Yamaha came out ahead."

According to Muetzel, the initial deal was for Yamaha to cover KSL Fairways, a division that owns and operates 28 golf facilities with 30 courses. "But the customer came back to me and was interested in doing a deal for the rest of the

Continued on page 58

## Toro: First 'official' supplier to The First Tee

MINNEAPOLIS — The Toro Co. has become the official equipment and irrigation supplier to The First Tee, a concerted initiative to create accessible golf facilities for minority and junior golfers around the country.

The agreement, recently announced by Michael Hoffman, Toro vice president and general manager, and First Tee executive director Tod Leiweke, will provide First Tee chapters with significant discounts off commercial golf course maintenance and irrigation equipment.

"This cooperative effort between The Toro Company, in conjunction with the Toro Foundation and our independent distributors, provides the absolute best overall values to The First Tee Chapters," said Toro's Hoffman.

According to Leiweke, the agreement makes Toro the first official supplier to

The First Tee. "Our goals in structuring the official supplier agreements are to provide the best possible cost savings, ensure accessibility and quality service to all the Chapters, and align ourselves with the industry leaders. With Toro, we have met or exceeded all of those objectives," he said in a statement.

The key to a successful relationship is the participation of the Toro distributors, said Hoffman. "Since this is a philanthropic effort as opposed to a business-to-business effort, many of our distributors will step up beyond what Toro does and do more service, support and even some additional discounting."

The Toro agreement also provides for new course grow-in equipment, further discounts off reconditioned equipment, and includes warranties and ongoing after-market support.

## BIRD CONTROL

### EBI gets EPA label approval for liquid biopesticide

By MICHAEL LEVANS

WILMINGTON, Del. — Gunshot noise, fake swans, even specially trained dogs have been used to control geese in sensitive green and fairway situations. Now Environmental Biocontrol International (EBI), a new player in the golf course market, is getting ready to release Flight Control, a biopesticide/bird repellent based on the chemical anthraquinone — a chemical found in certain plants from the *Cassia* family.

"We were working with the chemical in other areas, such as in waste water to control bad odors,"

Continued on page 58

### R.J. cleared for 'fogging' application

CINCINNATI, Ohio — R.J. Advantage has received EPA registration for applying its ReJeX-iT TP-40 bird control by "fogging."

The product had been registered for spraying on landfills and on non-fish bearing bodies of water; however, the company said that fogging is a more effective and practical application method for controlling birds at large and more

Continued on page 58



### NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH: JACOBSEN TURF CAT 500 SERIES

RACINE, Wis. — Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has introduced the newest family of Jacobsen Turfcats out-front rotary mowers, the Turfcats 500 Series. Turfcats 500 Series features a variety of engine and cutting deck choices, as well as a wide range of optional accessories. Turfcats 500 models T523D, T528D and T535D feature the power of a liquid-cooled Kubota diesel engine with 22.5-, 28- and 33-hp engines, respectively. Model T531G is powered by a 31-hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine. A 12-gallon fuel tank makes for fewer stops and enhanced productivity. Turfcats 500 Series mowers have a new all-hydraulic traction drive and self-adjusting, "turn-assist" brakes on the left and right wheels that help to ensure sure-footed stability on undulating terrain and excellent maneuverability overall. For more information, contact 414-637-6711.

## Scotts, Rutgers form biotech alliance

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Company said that it has completed an agreement with Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey, to develop improved grasses for professional golf courses through genetic engineering.

Under the agreement, Scotts will receive exclusive worldwide rights to Rutgers' patented transgenic varieties of creeping and colonial bentgrasses, including any new varieties developed over the period of the agreement.

According to Michael Kely, senior vice president of Scotts' professional business group, "We envision Scotts brand turfgrasses with disease resistance and other traits that will justify a trait premium while allowing professional golf course superintendents to cut their chemical and labor costs substantially."

Rutgers will be responsible for the advanced biotechnology research to isolate genes with desirable traits and for inserting these genes into their superior bentgrass germplasm.

Through its 80 percent ownership of Sanford Scientific Inc. (SSI), Scotts holds the exclusive license to use biolistic ("gene gun") technology in the commercial development of genetically transformed turfgrasses.





## Q&A: STNI's Roberts considers turf market boom

*The turf business has been thriving of late along with the boom in golf course construction world wide. GCN recently caught up with Don Roberts, vice president and managing director of Southern Turf Nurseries Inc. (STNI) to talk about the reasons for the increase in the amount of turfgrass sod on golf*

*courses and to see how STNI was meeting the demand.*

**Golf Course News:** What aspects of today's market have lead to increased demand of turfgrasses and what role has STNI had during this growth period?

**Don Roberts:** Southern Turf was one of the first companies

that focused primarily on warm season grasses and tif-hybrids and we have developed turf varieties that have become the standard for the industry. And since warm season grasses automatically require either sodding or sprigging for grow in, turf sales have increased.

However, back in the early to

mid-80's you were looking at mostly sprigging for grow-in, and with the right planning it worked pretty well. But in the last decade there has been a huge increase in the amount of sod being used on the typical golf course project because owners want to speed up the opening



Don Roberts

date, they want to protect the environment by controlling erosion and they want to limit the costly effects of washouts. More people realize that using more sod saves time and money in the long run.

**GCN:** How much more sod is being used these days?

**Roberts:** The total amount of sod being used on a golf course today has risen. Ten acres of sod used to be the design standard for a warm weather course, but now that number is closer to 40 acres, and the number of courses that are going with total sod has increased as well.

**GCN:** What are some of the projects that have gone total sod this year?

**Roberts:** Greyhawk in Canton, Ga. was a total sod course and we are seeing one to two a year in the Atlanta area choose to go all the way. We also just upped the amount of sod for Twin Eagles in Naples, Fla. because they wanted to speed up their grow in time, which is great for business.

But it also scares us a bit because anticipating demand is so hard to plan for. With the sheer volume of turf needed, we've started to automatically figure 10 to 15 percent more per order since the client always needs extra turf. As we near the end of the season this year we are scrambling to get the extra turf needed.

**GCN:** What is going on with the overseas markets?

**Roberts:** I just returned from the Hong Kong/China golf show in Shenzhen and that was very positive. There are a number of things going on over there and the business potential is great. Also in Asia, the Philippines has remained very stable. Europe is strong as well and we just opened a turf farm in Chile to grow cool season grasses.

**GCN:** Are you looking to start up more farms overseas?

**Roberts:** Having farms internationally will help tremendously because it gives our clients more value for their money—they don't have to pay for freight, customs, etc. It also means that we don't have to go through the exportation process on our side—totally cleaning the turf and making sure that it is free of all insects and soil. The only challenge is getting the registered-class turf over to the specific country and growing it in to make sure that we have a certified variety.

**GCN:** Do you think the turfgrass market will continue to expand?

**Roberts:** Certainly. This year has been great and we anticipate a better year next year. I don't see the market stopping in the foreseeable future.

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developed not only to facilitate absorption by the leaves and roots, but to increase mobility of the calcium within the plant as well.

Quelant™-Ca is normally applied as a foliar spray and may also be applied through fertigation. Either way, it is tank-mix compatible with herbicides, soluble fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and plant growth regulators. It will even help improve the efficiency of most of these treatments by increasing their absorption and translocation within the plant.

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Will Hawkins and Jon Williams will play key role in Flowtronex product development.

## Flowtronex forms new product development team

DALLAS — Flowtronex PSI is designing a new process that integrates all company personnel into the product development process.

The effort is being driven by a new product development team consisting of Will Hawkins, a seven-year veteran of Flowtronex, and Jon Williams, who devoted 13 years to product development at Toro.

The two will operate under the guidance of a new product development steering committee headed by President Emil Gram, Board Chairman Dave Brockway, New Product Consultant Lee Dunbar, Chief Engineer Bruce Weir and General Manager Tom Male.

"What we're doing goes be-

yond dedicating two bodies to product development," said Williams. "We're taking our joint and separate experiences and creating a whole product development process that involves the entire company."

The company said this promises to significantly shorten the product development cycle.

## Hunter acquires Legacy line

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Hunter Industries has acquired the Legacy Golf line of irrigation products from Buckner Incorporated of Fresno, Calif.

Hunter will acquire the Genesis Central Satellite and the Viking Decoder Control Systems, which have been marketed with Hunter golf rotors and sold under the Legacy Golf Irrigation banner since 1995.

Hunter Industries, which is based in San Marcos, Calif., will continue to produce Legacy Golf control systems in the Fresno area. Legacy rotors, including the G-60, G-70 and G-90, will be manufactured at Hunter plants in San Marcos and Cary, N.C. All golf products will be marketed under the Legacy by Hunter trade name.

## SRO opens in Ariz.

GLENDALE, Ariz.—Seed Research of Oregon has opened its new Glendale, Ariz. office/warehouse facility. This new location will serve as a central office for the staff and enhances the Arizona operation's shipping, receiving and warehousing abilities.

The Arizona division is responsible for Seed Research's warm-season domestic and international sales. The staff brings over 50 years of combined experience with warm-season grasses.

## PHC ALIGNS WITH ECOGEN

PITTSBURGH — Plant Health Care Inc. (PHC) has formed a strategic alliance with Ecogen Inc. that allows PHC, Inc. to introduce, promote and sell four new biopesticide products into the commercial turfgrass market in the U.S.

Under the terms of the agreement, PHC will package and see AQ10 biofungicide and Cruiser, Crymax and Lepinox biological insecticides under its own label. The alliance with Ecogen marks the entry of PHC, Inc. into the biocontrol market. The company currently manufactures and markets mycorrhizal fungi, beneficial bacteria, biofertilizer and water management products for the green industry.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## KSL/Yamaha

Continued from page 55

KSL properties. Then we looked at doing a national deal, which was basically integrating the resort properties," said Muetzel.

Muetzel and Affeldt eventually ended up with a deal that, "Ultimately will cover all KSL properties," said Affeldt. "The contract is written that if we have any exist-

ing agreements with the other major manufacturers we will honor those contracts. But as new properties come on line, and where we would not be contractually obligated, they would become Yamaha. And as existing properties roll off existing contracts, they would become Yamaha."

KSL properties that will eventually be affected by the deal include: La Quinta Resort and

Club and PGA West near Palm Springs, Calif.; Doral Golf Resort and Spa, Miami; Lake Lanier Islands, Atlanta; and the Claremont Resort and Spa, Oakland, Calif.

The contract also signals a move in the right direction for Yamaha, said Muetzel. Four years ago, Yamaha didn't hold a single management contract. "Now we have two of the top five or six. So things are moving along."

## BIRD CONTROL

### EBI/Flight Control

Continued from page 55

said Ken Ballinger, president of EBI. "But while I was looking for other uses of the chemical I found in some old literature that a chemical company in the 1940s found that it repelled birds quite well."

Ballinger asked the USDA if the chemical had been used as a

bird repellent in the U.S. He was told it didn't work in that capacity. "So we took some proprietary steps in the formulation and it turned out to be just great for repelling birds," he said.

Flight Control—which has been picked up by Lesco and has received full label approval from EPA—is a liquid that is sprayed at a rate of a half-gallon per acre. Its super-fine particles dry and cling to the grass leaf. According to Ballinger, the particles are visible to birds in ultraviolet (UV) light.

"The way birds evaluate quality of turf as a food source is by looking in the visual range and the UV range," said Ballinger. "The combination of those wave lengths indicate to the birds what is good grass to eat. When we mess around with the UV side, they see the green grass but it doesn't look all that great to eat."

If they eat it the chemical gives the bird a non-lethal gut response and the birds steer clear of the treated area. "It's hard to measure in a goose just what that [gut reaction] is," Ballinger said. "Once swallowed it takes about 15 minutes. They'll shake their heads from side to side and start scratching, all the classic signs of irritation."

EBI originally thought that the chemical would attract and deter by simple conditioning. However, the company has found that it may go farther than that. "We've had plenty of cases where the birds avoid it when they see it. We think there's a parallel in nature, that it's imitating something they just don't like," he said.

Testing results are coming back positive, Ballinger added. The company has tested at several golf courses under control conditions and it's currently testing on the turf at Washington National Airport. "We put it on 14 percent of the turf area in the first round of testing and reduced the number of birds at the airport by 50 percent," said Ballinger.

## RJ Advantage

Continued from page 55

diverse areas, like golf courses and warehouses.

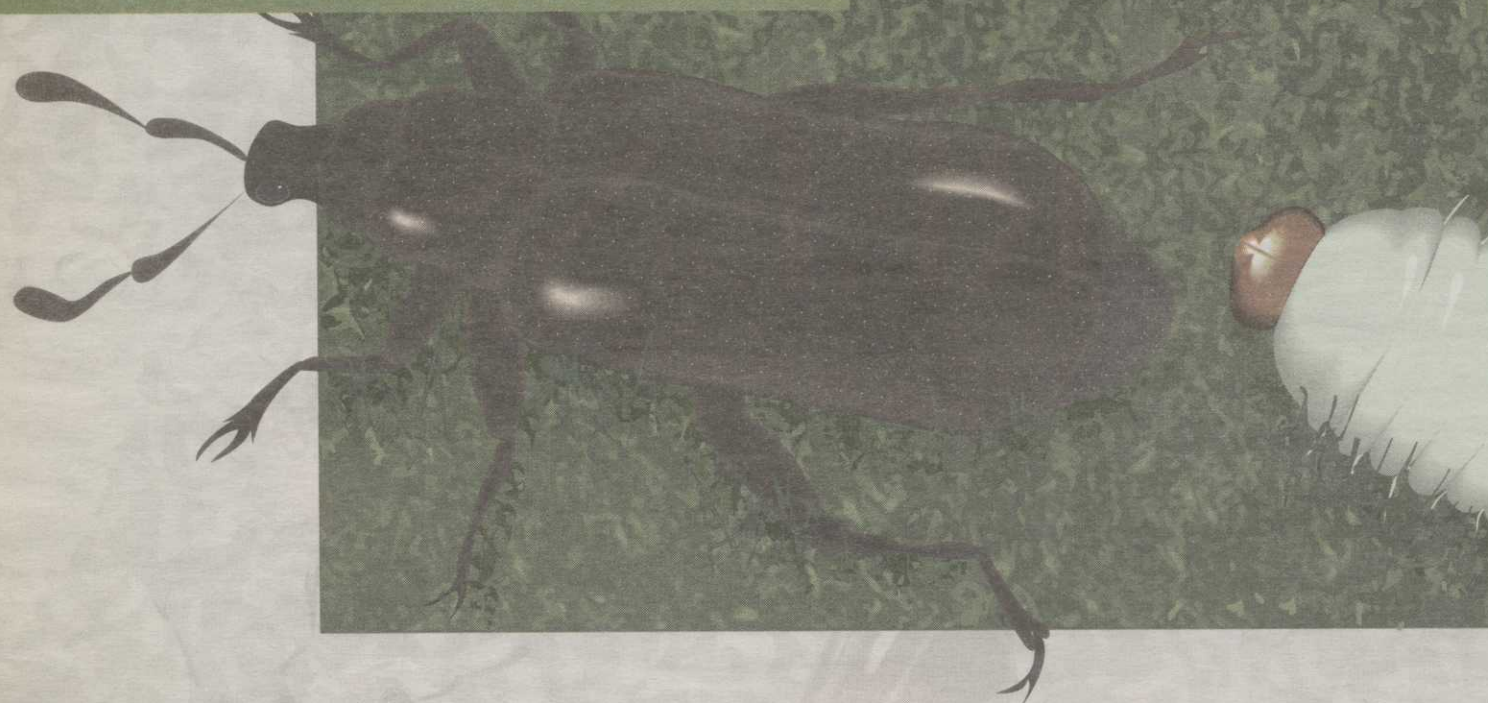
According to R.J., depending on the operator's skills, it takes from one to six fogging applications of 2.5 ounces per acre to repel established bird flocks for the season.

A TP-40 fog irritates target bird's eyes and mucous membranes, forcing the bird to leave the area. The company said that exposure chases birds to roosting site and eventually teaches the birds that their former roosting areas are no longer desirable.

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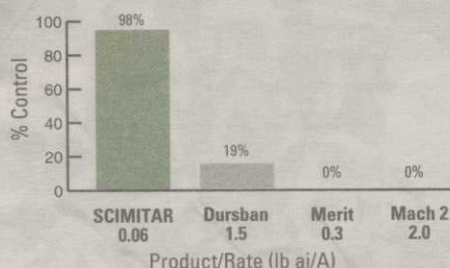
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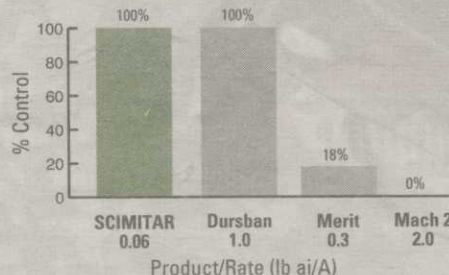
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#### Control of Annual Bluegrass Weevil



Source: S. R. Alm, et al, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, 1997.

#### Control of Adult Black Turfgrass *Ataenius* Weevil



Source: H.D. Niemczyk, Ohio State University, 1996.

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4-8 — *Cornell University Golf Short Course in Ithaca, N.Y.* Contact 607-255-1792.

4 - Feb. 19 — *University of Massachusetts Winter School for Turf Managers in Amherst, Mass.* Contact Trudie Goodchild at 413-545-2484.

4 - March 12 — *Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School in New Brunswick, N.J.* Contact Susan Wohl at 732-932-9271.

5-7 — *Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in Toronto.* Contact Peggy Nagle at 519-824-4120, Ext. 3814.

5-7 — *Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show in King of Prussia.* Contact 814-863-3475.

6 — *GCSAA seminar on Golf Greens: History, Theory, Construction and Maintenance in Pleasanton, Calif.\**

7 — *GCSAA seminar on Preventive Maintenance of Turf Equipment in White Haven, Pa.\**

7 — *GCSAA seminar on Disease Identification and Control in Columbus, Ohio.\**

7 — *Northeast Turf and Grounds Exposition in Albany, N.Y.* Contact NYSTA at 800-873-8873.

8 — *GCSAA seminar on Maximizing Teamwork in White Haven, Pa.\**

11 — *GCSAA seminar on Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent in Manchester, N.H.\**

11 — *GCSAA seminar on Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System in Portland, Ore.\**

11 — *GCSAA seminar on Managing People for Peak Performance and Job Satisfaction in Atlanta.\**

11-12 — *11th Annual Arkansas Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show in Little Rock.* Contact Angie McSwain at 501-664-8048.

11-15 — *National Institute of Golf Management golf course management seminar in Wheeling, W. Va.* Contact the Oglebay Resort & Conference Center at 800-624-6988, ext. 4019.

11-15 — *Cornell Sports Turf Short Course in Ithaca, N.Y.* Contact 607-255-1792.

12 — *GCSAA seminar on Golf Greens: History, Theory, Construction and Maintenance in Pittsburgh.\**

12 — *GCSAA seminar on Personnel Stress Management in Charlotte, N.C.\**

13 — *GCSAA seminar on Spanish for Golf Course Management I in Denver.\**

14 — *GCSAA seminar on Human Resource Management in Oak Brook, Ill.\**

14-16 — *Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show in Chicago.* Contact 847-526-2010.

15 — *GCSAA seminar on Personnel Stress Management in Oak Brook, Ill.\**

16-20 — *National Golf Course Owners Association Annual Conference and Trade Show in Monterey, Calif.* Contact 800-933-4262.

18 — *GCSAA seminar on Managerial Productivity in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.\**

18-21 — *69th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference in Lansing.* Contact Kay at 517-321-1660.

19 — *GCSAA seminar on Financial Essentials for the Superintendent in Richmond, Va.\**

19 — *GCSAA seminar on Advanced Weed Management in Rockport, Maine.\**

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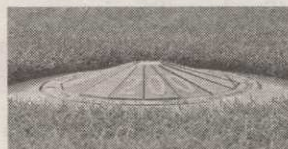
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143	Bearcom	60	4261
144	BoardTronics	61	—
145	Continental Bridge	61	2361
146	Eagle Golf & Landscape Products	60	5103
118	EarthWorks	28	3787
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140	Formost Construction Co.	24	—
158	Golf Search Personnel	60	—
108	GolfSolutions.com LLC	12	4555
149	Great Lakes Containment	60	5431
150	Harrington/Harco Corp.	60	3667
125	Hunter Industries	44	1861
151	Irrigation Aftermarket Parts Corp.	61	—
128	Jacklin Seed Co.	49	653&753
102	Jacklin Seed Co.*	36	653&753
127	Jacklin Seed Co.	40	653&753
126	Jacklin Seed Co.	32	653&753
152	Jesco Products/Pinhigh	61	150
—	John Deere	13	2461
153	Kirby Markers	61	4167
129	Kubota	38	3042
104	Lesco	18-19	643
—	Lofts, Inc.	25	3361
139	Markers, Inc.	21	4053
142	Master of the Links	45	5063
—	NOVARTIS	14-15	1043
—	NOVARTIS	6-7	1043
—	NOVARTIS	5	1043
130	Nutramax	56	593
117	Palmer Course Design	17	—
—	Par Aide	21	3351
110	PBI/Gordon Corporation	63	1273
154	Precision Small Engine	61	277
155	Quail Valley Farms	61	5345
131	Regal Chemical	50	1672
106	Rohm & Haas	26-27	2883
107	Rohm & Haas	34-35	2883
132	Rohm & Haas	31	2883
133	Rohmid LLC	41	—
119	Roots, Inc.	43	3170
156	Ryan Inc. Central	60	—
134	Seed Research of Oregon	42	3243
120	Southern Turf Nurseries	37	961
—	Standard Golf	17	1360
157	Steadfast Bridge Co.	60	4386
111	Tee-2-Green	2	5001
112	Textron	16	1543
113	Textron	64	1543
135	Toro Comm'l. Prod. Div.	57	232
136	Toro-Irrigation Div.	20	232
137	United Horticultural Supply	4	2973
141	York Bridge Concepts	25	3753
138	Zeneca Professional Products	58	2060
103	Zeneca Professional Products	22-23	2060
114	Zeneca Professional Products	46	2060

\* Appears in regional editions.



## Bombardier NV goes in both 'golf' and 'drive' mode

The Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle is an environmentally-friendly and quiet mode of transportation. What makes the vehicle unique is that it's designed for the fairways and the roadways. In "golf" mode, the Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle reaches a top speed of 15 mph (to help it comply with golf course standards).

In "drive" mode, for off the

course, the Bombardier NV reaches a maximum speed of 25 mph, providing drivers with a fun and sporty vehicle for getting around town. The Bombardier NV is great for the golf course and the country club, and also for trips to the store or visiting friends in the neighborhood. For more information, contact 888-638-5397.

CIRCLE #201



Trucktor T-Series

## Trucktor T-Series: A machine for all seasons

The new Trucktor T-Series Combination Tractor-Truck work vehicles now offer their rugged four-wheel drive units equipped with turf-tread tires and an assortment of gang

mowers, rototillers, front bucket loaders, aerators and overseeders for golf-course construction, repair and maintenance.

Made in Massachusetts, the diesel-powered Trucktor T-Series

(Kubota 4-cylinder 49 and 56-hp, and Continental 66-hp diesel engines) has just won the OEM "Emmie Award" for 1998. For more information, contact 508-748-1200.

CIRCLE #203

### GCSAA SHOW PREVIEW

## GCSAA Tourney

Continued from page 29

greens, and I hit two consecutive 40-foot putts which is something that doesn't happen every day," said Pondel on last year's championship effort. "And this year I feel pretty good, although you never know what's going to happen—if you look at the trophy not too many guys have won back to back."

Pondel, along with defending chapter team winners Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in gross, and California No. 14 net are looking forward to the beautiful courses that await them. Tournament activities will get under way with practice rounds on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5-6, a four-ball championship on Sunday, Feb. 7. The official two day tourney gets underway Monday, Feb. 8.

The following is a brief rundown of the courses that will host the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship:

— **The Westin Innisbrook Resort** will be hosting the event at three of its courses, all of which were designed by Larry Packard.

— **Copperhead** (host superintendent, Rob Giampietro/course rating 74.4, slope 140). The Copperhead course is the home of the season ending J.C. Penny Classic. The 7,087 yard, par-71 course features pine tree-

lined fairways and rolling terrain and demanding long and accurate tee shots. Designed by Larry Packard in 1973, this resort course is reminiscent of a classic Carolina layout.

— **Island** (host superintendent, Carl Collins/course rating 74.1). The Island course stays true to its name with the first six holes featuring lateral water hazards. The remainder of the 6,999 yard, par-72 course features rolling terrain and cypress and pine trees that will require pin point accuracy. The 18th hole which dog legs left over water will provide a stern finish.

— **Hawk's Run** (host superintendent, Mike Blanchard/course rating 70.5, slope 125) The Hawk's Run course may be deceiving in distance, but with water hazards coming into play on almost every shot, the 6,260 yard, par-70 layout will surely test all golfers. In addition to the water, there are also 46 bunkers and a resident 10-foot gator to contend with. This 1992 Packard-designed run is not the place to spray shots.

— **World Woods Golf Club** will be hosting the event at two of its Tom Fazio designed courses.

— **Rolling Oaks** (host superintendent, Quinn M. Kuite/course rating 73.5, slope 136). The Augusta National-inspired fairways at Rolling Oaks, lined

with live oaks, dogwoods and magnolias, roll gently through this 6,985 yard, par-72 layout that is one of the top upscale daily fee courses in the country. The layout features challenges like the 10 bunkers on the par-5 third hole and a 300-year-old live oak tree that menaces the right side of the finishing hole.

— **Pine Barrens** (host superintendent, Robert M. Roessing/course rating 73.7, slope 140). Waste areas abound at the Pine Barrens course which will force golfers to take a more measured approach to their game. The 6,985 yard, par-71 links course is also reminiscent of a Carolina layout featuring plenty of pine trees and rolling terrain. High scores will plague those who find themselves in the native sand waste areas.

— **Southern Woods Golf Club** (host superintendent, John Morrison/course rating 72.9, slope 126) This 6,900 yard, par-72 layout designed by Hale Irwin in 1992 features natural rolling terrain and lush forest areas. The challenge on this course will be the drainage retention areas that border almost every hole at Southern Woods. Land in these grassy holes and you will face elevation changes of 20 to 40 feet from the fairway to the green areas. Strategically placed bunkers and water hazards add further dangers to this otherwise straightforward layout.



## John Deere enhances 2500

The new John Deere 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower's cut quality is enhanced by a new cutting unit suspension that is designed to carry the weight of the lift arms on the traction unit and on the cutting units. The 22-inch cutting units are John Deere designed and manufactured and come with eleven blade reels, 3-mm standard bedknives and a smooth front roller.

CIRCLE #202

## Vermeer packs stump cutting punch

Packing the most power in Vermeer Manufacturing's premier line of stump cutters, the 106 HP (79 kw) SC1102A stump cutter offers the most significant advancements in stump cutting technology in years—Vermeer's Auto Sweep system. The patented Auto Sweep function better equips the SC1102A to meet the needs of land clearing contractors, golf courses, municipalities, public works departments and rental centers. For more information, contact 1-888-Vermeer.

CIRCLE #205

## Textron/Burtner

Continued from page 1

Jacobsen and Bunton lawn-care machinery.

Reporting to Burtner will be Philip Trailies who is responsible for turf care in the Americas; L.T. Walden, president of E-Z-GO; Tom Meier, president of Steiner; Bob Grenhart, vice president of finance; and in Europe, Paul Hollingworth will be managing director responsible for the European operations.

Burtner joined Textron in 1980 and held various executive positions with Greenlee Textron, including president. In 1995, he was promoted from Greenlee to Textron's world headquarters as vice president of human resources. In January 1997, he became president of Industrial Components.

Peter Wilson, ex-president of Ransomes, was heading up Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products worldwide, but has since been promoted to president of Textron Fastening Systems (TFS) Europe. Wilson will remain in England and oversee 23 operations across Europe with more than 5,500 employees and revenues exceeding \$700 million.

According to Trailies, Burtner's move to Elgin from world headquarters in Provi-

dence makes sound, geographic sense. "Textron has a fastening office that's being built in Elgin," said Trailies. "So it made more sense to have Burtner outside of Providence and closer to Chicago and closer to Racine."

As far as the ongoing consolidation, "We're about 90 percent there," added Trailies.

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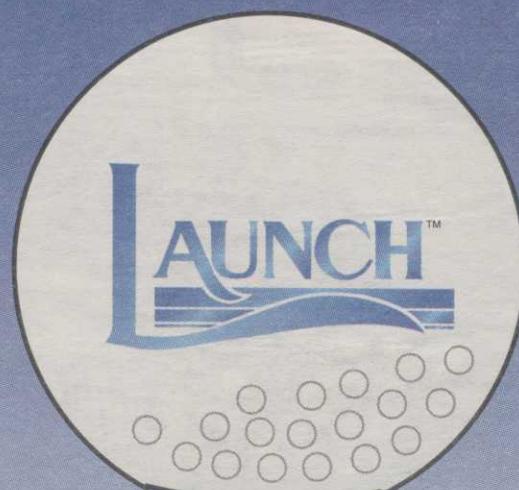
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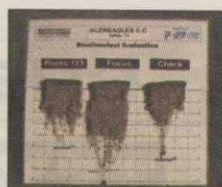
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