

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7  
JULY 1999 • \$5.50

INSIDE

## Research Dollars

USGA Green Section prepares for another round of research funding ..... 11

## Bermudagrass Report

Existing varieties improved, new types are on the developmental horizon.. ..... 17-19



### MOUNTAIN MEN

Dick Phelps, left, and son Rick have earned much of their reputation designing golf courses in the mountains. But they have also left their mark on the lowlands, and continue to do so. See Q&A with Dick Phelps, page 21.

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

Super Focus: Bandon Dunes' Russell ..... 11  
Equipment storage — clean and organized ..... 13  
Fla.course joins Audubon Signature program ..... 15

### COURSE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Golfers, rounds drop slightly ..... 3  
American Skiing Co. delays projects ..... 21  
ClubCorp/Golden Bear begin teamwork ..... 25

### COURSE MANAGEMENT

Changes in store for Arizona firm ..... 27  
Kemper signs California course agreement ..... 27  
CB Richard Ellis brokers several deals ..... 29

### SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Toro acquires U.K. aerator maker ..... 31  
'Gray market' tractor fine recommended ..... 31  
New products featured ..... 32

## Of ants, flies and other friendly pests

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Ants that devour the eggs and larvae of cutworms, grubs and other pest insects. Parasitic flies that kill mole crickets. The risks, or lack thereof, associated with golfer exposure to pesticides.

The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section will reveal the results of investigations into these and many other matters in a soon-to-be-released report on the latest USGA-funded research projects. The research covers a gamut of topics from course construction practices and integrated turfgrass management to turfgrass germplasm enhancement, the environmental impact of golf and the Wildlife Links Program.

But key to the entire program are naturally occurring biological controls, which are becoming more

Continued on page 16

## Sports & Fitness expanding its portfolio

By PETER BLAIS

MANCHESTER, Mo. — It's going to be a busy summer for Sports & Fitness Management, the Missouri-based golf and health club management firm.

Sports & Fitness will open Fred Couples/Gene Bates-designed Stone-Bridge Golf Club in Bossier City, La., later this summer and recently agreed to purchase Garden Valley Golf Resort in Tyler, Texas. The firm is also about to break ground on a Gary Kern-designed course near St. Louis called Aberdeen and is negotiating a three-course purchase with a management firm operating facilities in Louisiana and Texas, according to Vice President

Continued on page 30



Ocean Trails Golf Course suffers landslide between the 12th and 18th fairways, losing a bulldozer into the chasm.

## Oceanside course trying to stay out of the water

By ANDREW OVERBECK

RANCH PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Southern California's answer to Pebble Beach suffered a massive setback June 2 when a 200-by 400-foot section of the 18th hole shifted out 50 feet from the rest of the course, leaving behind a 60-to 90-foot-deep ravine between the 18th and 12th holes.

The section of the course that shifted sat on an ancient landslide, which was bisected by an aging Los Angeles County sewer line. It is widely speculated that a leak in that sewer line touched off the land movement.

The Ocean Trails Golf Course, designed by Pete Dye, was only weeks away from opening and develop-

Continued from page 4

## Tests reveal good & bad of ultradwarfs

By A. OVERBECK

BELTSVILLE, Md. — As ultradwarf Bermudagrass continues to find its way onto golf course greens across the United States, independent research and on-site testing suggest that best management practices for these "super dwarfs" are radically different than for standard Bermudas.

In cooperation with the United States Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is currently in the second year of a five year ultradwarf test at eight courses across the

Continued on page 17



### WEISKOPF BUSY IN MICHIGAN

Cedar River Golf Club at Shanty Creek joins The Legend, Schuss Mountain Golf Club and Summit Golf Club at the four-season golf and ski resort. See story, page 26.

## Pebble Beach megasale being worked out

MONTEREY, Calif. — Pebble Beach has changed hands for the fourth time this decade. A group of investors that includes Arnold Palmer, former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, actor Clint Eastwood, former United Airlines CEO Richard Ferris and General Electric Pensions agreed June 17 to purchase

the Pebble Beach golf resort for \$820 million.

Pebble Beach was bought for \$841 million in 1990 by Japanese businessman Minoru Isutani, who turned around two years later and sold it to Taiheiyo Club, Inc., a Tokyo-based resort company, for

Continued on page 25