

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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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.

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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

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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

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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-

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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

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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

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Ocean Trails

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-ers are now faced with the task of reconstructing the damage.

"It has always been complicated with this project," said developer Ken Zuckerman, who has spent 15 years trying to turn the Ocean Trails concept into a reality. "This is nothing new, and everyone knows how to accomplish what must be done."

Zuckerman knew about the ancient landslide prior to construction and took the following measures to ensure that golf course irrigation would not effect the stability of the land.

"We put down a three-foot layer of impermeable clay and six inches of sand and then a herringbone drainage system," said Zuckerman. "That fed into a sump pump, which pumped the water to an irrigation lake on the course." Unfortunately, the leaking sewer line was buried beneath the clay cap.

Dye, who was on his way to Ocean Trails the day of the slide to give the course his final stamp of approval, has already examined the damage.

"When I got there the next day it looked like the shoreline had been there for a million years, you could see the fairway, the bunkers and the green," said Dye. "I have been around for 73 years and I have never seen anything like it."

There are a couple of repair options available to the developers, according to Dye. "They can put the hole back where it was without a great deal of fight, or you could leave it out there," said Dye. "All you really have to do is clean out the valley, grass

CLARIFICATIONS

Recently, it has been reported in many golf course and grounds maintenance media that the manufacturing and marketing of the Cushman range of turf utility vehicles is now being handled by E-Z-GO Textron, a subsidiary company of the Textron Golf, Turf Care and Specialty Products Group. Please note that this integration of operations only affects the Cushman line of industrial vehicles — products that are sold to warehouses, manufacturing facilities, shipping and rail yards, etc. — NOT the vehicles sold to the turf maintenance industry. Sales and marketing of Cushman vehicles, such as the Turf-Truckster, Jr. Turf-Truckster, Hawk and White Truck, will continue to be the responsibility of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

The autonomous mower story which ran on the front of the June issue should have been datelined Gainesville, the site of Ironwood Golf Course.

the thing and fix what has been broken out of 18."

With Dye's thoughts in hand, Zuckerman is now working with his civil, soil and geological engineers to work over the options. "Once Pete and the engineers are clear, we will have to take our plans to the city and the California Coastal Commission," said Zuckerman. "After everyone buys off on the concept, we will draw up

the final improvement plans."

Whatever is decided, the ground will have to be stabilized. Although preliminary reports from geologists suggest that major earth movements are unlikely to happen again along the ancient landslide and the leaking sewer line has been repaired, Zuckerman plans to proceed with great caution.

"We will remove the material

that fell into the graben [ravine] and excavate to a stable level and pin everything into position and build back up on top of that," said Zuckerman. "But there will be at least 15 to 20 percent shrinkage, so the level of the hole is going to go down about nine feet." Zuckerman maintains that the routing of the course will not change.

Zuckerman has decided

against a partial opening of the club and plans to allow the city to run a golf clinic on the course while the reconstruction work progresses.

"We would like to get the work done by the end of the year," said Zuckerman. Once an agreement is reached with city and environmental officials, Zuckerman expects the work to take three to four months.

How

to make the perfect core

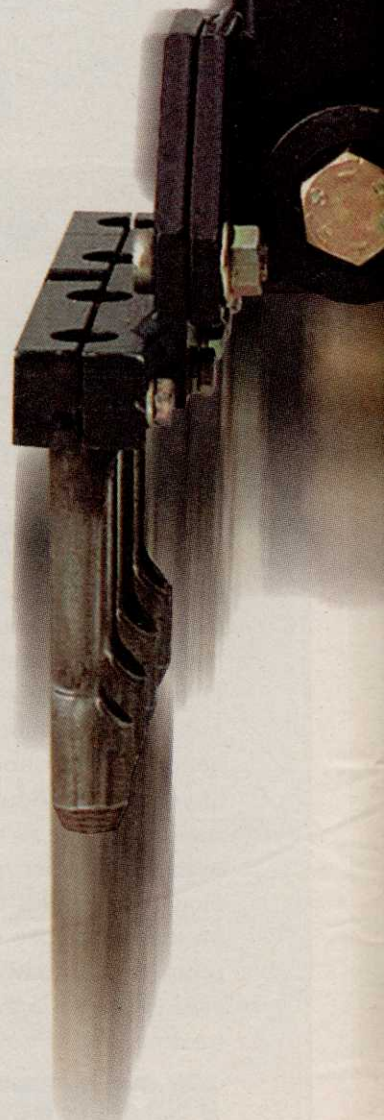


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