

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6
JUNE 1999 • \$6.00

INSIDE

Organic Golf

Judge rules Suffolk County, N.Y., must take 'hard look' at building chem-free course 3

No Mas, No Mess

Border collies have changed the face of golf course geese problems 13



THE DYNAMIC DUO OF PINEHURST NO. 2
PINEHURST, N.C. — Paul Jett, No. 2 Course superintendent (left), and Bradley Kocher, director of golf course maintenance, have kept cool heads in their preparation for this year's U.S. Open. See *Super Focus*, page 13.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

NTEP plans overseeding tests 17
Audubon Int'l publishes case studies 18
Sugarloaf hires full-time steward 19

COURSE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

ASGCA President LaFoy weighs in 11
O'Meara adds course design to career 35
Asian Update: Business as usual 39

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Private clubs seek image-building 43
ServiceMaster buys ServiScape 45
Smart Buy Network adds suppliers 46

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

AgriBioTech reshuffles management 47
LESCO, Southern Golf ink pact 48

Ojai reclaims one of world's best par-3s



OJAI, Calif. — An ambitious project to renovate Ojai Valley Inn & Spa's George C. Thomas-designed course will return two signature holes that have been "lost" for over a half-century, including one which was hailed as one of the world's best par-3s.

"We have an extraordinary opportunity to preserve a piece of history," said the inn's director of golf, Mark Greenslit. "Our classic course is reclaiming two of its most unique and beautiful holes."

The terrain of these two holes is so spectacular that PGA Tour great, historian and course designer Ben Crenshaw said, "This shot is going to be once again one of the best shots in golf."

Continued on page 37

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Fully autonomous, 'intelligent' mower tackles turf in Fla.

By ANDREW OVERBECK

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Engineers at the University of Florida's Mechanical Engineering School have developed a fully automated robotic fairway mower that may very well revolutionize golf course maintenance. The unit, which utilizes a Global Positioning System (GPS), sonar sensors and five on-board pentium computers is truly a "smart mower," according to engineer David Armstrong.

"This has a large platform with a lot of intelligence," said Armstrong. "I've taken it out and let it run for three or four hours and it stays within an inch or two of where we want it to be."

Continued on page 49

GOLF COURSE NEWS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1
PREMIERE ISSUE

INSIDE

Features

4 **GEARING UP** for a major tournament
9 **ASGCA's** new president looks ahead
20 **HURDZAN** and economy courses

SUPERS' SHOW OPENS

See Details on page 28/29

Departments

ASSOCIATION NEWS
Architects, others choose officers 68

SUPER FOCUS
Sherwood Moore shares some insights 10

GOVT UPDATE
Clubs worry about privacy issue 11

NEW COURSES
Builders, developers, architects busy 17

CALENDAR
Turf conferences highlight winter 22

EQUIPMENT NEWS
I-Z-G-GO lists warranty 23

ON THE MOVE
Promotions 27

NEW PRODUCTS
Manufacturers have geared up 35/38

Nation's eyes on board ruling

BY COVER PHOTO

The National Environmental Board is sitting on a decision that could affect golf course development nationwide. "These National Board members are sitting on a decision that could affect golf course development nationwide," says Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Missouri's Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. His committee is expected to be the last word.

That would mean that any construction, local, statewide, or even national, would have to be approved by the board. The board, which has a wide representation of interests, is expected to be the last word. That ruling will be expected to be the last word.

Insurance spreading nationwide

BY MARK LESLIE

A recent study, which surveyed nearly 100 golf courses, found that nearly 50 percent of the courses have some form of liability insurance. The study, which was conducted by the National Golf Course Owners Association, found that the majority of courses have some form of liability insurance.



Dr. Michael Hartman, right, and David P. Moore, left, are part of the National Environmental Board. Hartman is a professor at the University of Missouri, and Moore is a professor at the University of Tennessee.

Hyundai eyes cart market

Giant hopes to make splash

BY MARK LESLIE

Hyundai, the South Korean car manufacturer, is looking to make a splash in the golf cart market. The company, which is known for its cars, is looking to enter the golf cart market.



David P. Moore, a professor at the University of Tennessee, is part of the National Environmental Board.

Builders cite USGA section

BY MARK LESLIE

The Golf Course Builders of America, which is the trade association for golf course builders, is looking to make a splash in the golf course market. The association, which is known for its advocacy, is looking to enter the golf course market.

10 YEARS LATER GCN CONTINUES TO SET THE PACE

YARMOUTH, Maine — From a small town in coastal Maine, Golf Course News has helped set the pace of the golf course industry for the past 10 years. In a special 14-page section, some of the industry's best and brightest weigh in to put the past decade into perspective and share their visions from golf's crystal ball. Above, a copy of GCN's premier issue, February 1989.

SunCor on fire in the Southwest

By PETER BLAIS

PHOENIX — Things are heating up here in the Valley of the Sun for SunCor Resort & Golf Management Inc.

The Phoenix-based subsidiary of SunCor Development Co. is building 45 holes of golf in the Phoenix area, 18 in St. George, Utah, and operating another 108 holes scattered between four greater Phoenix-area properties.

Among the properties under construction are:

- A Hale Irwin-designed 18-hole executive course called The Lakes Course and a nine-hole pitch 'n putt layout across Litchfield Road from the Art Hills-designed Palm Valley Golf Club, which SunCor

Continued on page 46



MILLER/GRAVES & PASCUZZO COMBINE EFFORTS AT THE BRIDGES

SAN RAMON, Calif. — The Bridges at Gale Ranch, a daily-fee golf course designed by Johnny Miller Design and Graves & Pascuzzo Limited, has taken a step closer to opening with the recent hiring of superintendent Mike Orren. Inspired by Royal Dornoch in Scotland, the course features a 16,000-square-foot, three-tiered green. Pictured above is the 13th green. The course is due to open late fall.