

BRIEFS



LAKE CITY OFFERS IRRIGATION TECH

LAKE CITY, Fla. — Lake City Community College is offering a new one-year certification program in irrigation technology to train residential and commercial irrigation technicians for the golf, irrigation and landscape industries. Instructor Steven King has more than 15 years of irrigation experience. He has developed a state-of-the-art irrigation laboratory on campus. The extensive curriculum was developed with input from practicing irrigation professionals, the Florida Irrigation Society and the Irrigation Association. The first class began Aug. 23. Interested people should contact John Piersol, chairman of the Golf, Landscape and Forestry Division, at 904-752-1822, ext. 1225.

CYBULSKI EARNS CGCS

Scott Cybulski, head superintendent at Falmouth (Maine) Country Club, recently received his designation as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, making him just the fourth active superintendent in the state to earn the distinction. Cybulski has been at Falmouth CC since 1992 and served as head superintendent since 1995.

MSU adds Spanish to turf curriculum

By MARK LESLIE

EAST LANSING, Mich. — In a testament to the prominence of Hispanics on golf course grounds crews, Michigan State University has made a class in the Spanish language mandatory for two-year turfgrass students.

The class, Spanish for Golf Course Management, has been taught in the turfgrass program for two years, but this will be the first time it is mandatory, said MSU Professor John "Trey" Rodgers. He added that it will be available, but not mandatory, for four-year students.

"It's interesting that when our four-year students come off internship, one of the first questions they ask is if the Spanish class is available," Rodgers said.

Around the country, he said, Hispanics often comprise a large portion of the golf course work force, and Spanish is their operative language. Without knowing Spanish, it is difficult to work with them, Rodgers added.

The 10-week, three-day-a-week, two-credit course has two focuses:

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Post-traumatic stress syndrome

Cleaning up after The Majors is like clearing a battle field after war

By MARK LESLIE and TREVOR LEDGER

PINEHURST, N.C. — It's five weeks after the U.S. Open and the roughs are lower, the fairways longer and the greens slower on Pinehurst No. 2 here. "You would hardly know right now that we had [an Open]," said Director of Golf Course Maintenance Brad Kocher, whose course is blessed with fast-growing, fast-healing Bermudagrass.

Augusta National Golf Club Senior Director of Golf Course Operations Marsh Benson and superintendent Brad Owen opened their course for play the day after the Masters Tournament concluded and, in this dry year, had the playing areas back in shape in two weeks.

Three weeks after Carnoustie Golf Links hosted the British Open, July 15-18, superintendent John Philp was removing all the periphery items which come first in the regeneration of the famous course after its first Major in 24 years.

But at Medinah (Ill.) Country Club, whose No. 3 hosted the PGA Championship on Aug. 13-15, superintendent Danny Quast was in more of a rush, waiting for the last of the corporate tents to be removed from the neighbor-



This gallery area between the 14th green and 15th tee is indicative of the damage superintendent Paul Jett and his crew faced following the U.S. Open. The inset shows how it appeared on June 23. Above is how it looked by July 6.

ing No. 2 course so that his crews could seed bentgrass and return it to normal playing conditions.

Quast, who hosted the Open in June in 1990, pointed to the importance of timing in recovering from his mid-August event.

"The main concern about how the course will look next spring is how fast they get the tents out of my way," he

said. "But some have an urgency to do so: They need to get out to Boston for the Ryder Cup.

"The main trick of success is how soon you can seed the course. The later you do it, the longer it takes to germinate. If I can get it to germinate in the first part of September, we will have very beautiful fairways next spring. If

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George Frye, H2O and The Ocean Course



Lack of quality water the bane of Kiawah super

By MARK LESLIE

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." George Frye could pen his own refrain to this lament. The superintendent at Kiawah Island Resort's famed Ocean Course, which is running short on available effluent, is paying the high price of potable water and monitoring his three sister courses on the island, which are watering with deep-well, brackish and waste water.



George Frye

Frye may be best known for readying the Pete Dye-designed Ocean Course for the 1991 Ryder Cup even before the course was built, or for preparing Tom Fazio's Turtle Creek course here for the World Cup matches in 1997, or for his course being a test site for a major Clemson University toxicology study. But he points to water as his most consuming issue.

"Water. It's getting as expensive, if not more, than providing electricity. It's our biggest challenge of the future," said Frye, calling for extensive research into how to grow turfgrass with low-quality water.

The Kiawah Island courses "are considered — not to golfers or myself, but others — as sewage dispersal sites, a means of getting rid of excessive effluent," Frye said. "The problem right now is, we have too many courses for the effluent. We need more houses in order to provide effluent."

In the meantime, the Ocean Course is irrigating with aquifer water and a small amount of effluent, while the other courses get a combination of potable, effluent and deep-well water.

Dealing with less-than-perfect water has led to experimentation with methods to treat that water. For instance, the deep-well water contains "a lot of bad constituents, such as high bicarbonates, high carbonates, high sodium, high boron," Frye said.

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AUDUBON CERTIFIES OCEAN COURSE

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The Ocean Course has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS). The Ocean Course is the fourth in South Carolina and 177th course in the world to receive the honor. The other three courses in South Carolina are The Club at Seabrook Island, Palmetto Hall Plantation, and Whispering Pines Golf Course.





The coquina shell sand at Kiawah Island resort's Ocean Course fits in as a natural substance, as well as one that compacts tightly, for the cart paths. The sand is available from a number of sand companies in the Carolinas.



ON THE GREEN

## A 'natural' solution to dusty cart paths

By MARK LESLIE

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.— Superintendents on courses where golfers and the grounds crew eat dust while riding the cart paths have looked for a solution since oil-based products were outlawed.

Enter coquina shell sand.

The crushed-up shells, mixed with sand, are used extensively and effectively at The Ocean Course here.

"It was [course architect] Pete Dye's idea," recalled superintendent George Frye. "We wanted natural cart paths as one of the design features."

"Looking at this golf course, you couldn't imagine how you would put in cart paths because it seemed it would destroy the integrity of the course."

Although he hasn't seen it used

elsewhere on golf courses, Frye endorses coquina.

"For us, it packs in and fits the natural environment here and the overall presentation of the course. It also has aesthetic appeal," he said.

The only time Frye has experienced even "a little trouble" with his cart paths has been under extended, heavy rains — say, nine inches in 10 days. Then they must be regraded, he said.

Coquina shell sand is available, with varying quality, from sand companies. Frye said the price can vary depending on the supplier and trucking costs.

Though coquina might not "fit" the natural look of an inland or mountain course, "for a lot of people it can serve as a means of keeping dust down," Frye said.

## New York prepares for 50th-year expo

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with Cornell University, will celebrate its 50th year at the annual Turf and Grounds Exposition, on Nov. 9-11 at the OnCenter here.

The conference theme, "Committed to Excellence: Plants, People, The Environment, and You," exemplifies the overall commitment that NYSTA has made throughout its 50-year history.

The conference will feature more than 60 business and technical sessions addressing all aspects of the green industry — new product updates, golf turf,

lawn and landscape, grounds maintenance, sports turf, and equipment management.

The program has been restructured to provide interactive educational sessions.

Speakers from across the country will present the conference topics. Keynote speaker will be Brian Holloway, four-time All-Pro and holder of the NFL record for most consecutive plays from the line of scrimmage.

To obtain conference information, or exhibitor trade show material, people may call NYSTA at 800-873-8873.

## MSU mandates Spanish course for two-year students

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teaching students how to speak to Hispanics about the specific jobs they want them to do on the golf course; and learning the culture of the Spanish worker.

"I learned very quickly, visiting my students, that this [learning the culture] was extremely important," Rodgers said. "The superintendents who had good relationships were the ones who had understanding and respect for this culture."

The idea, he said, "is not so much that students are going to be able to speak Spanish, but they will have the confidence to initiate conversations because, obvi-

ously, they are going to learn it on the job."

The reputation of Hispanic workers is growing in the golf industry.

"I think it's categorical," Rodgers said. "Some superintendents will pointblank say that they will hire no one else but Hispanics for their crews."

MSU's turfgrass program contains slightly more than 200 students. Rodgers said two years ago 17 were enrolled in the Spanish class. That grew to 30 last year, and he expects 50 this fall.

It has been taught by Marco Dias, a PhD student in the Spanish Department.



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