

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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NEWSPAPER

Geologists examine Ocean Trails; future unsure

By ANDREW OVERBECK

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — In the weeks since the landslide at the Ocean Trails Golf Course here, geologists are still examining the geological substructure beneath the golf course to determine what exactly caused a 200-by 400-foot section of the 18th hole to slip towards the Pacific Ocean. However, the largest earth movement to hit the Palos Verdes Peninsula since the Portuguese Bend landslide in the mid-1950s, has unsettled more than just a fairway and a green complex. Environmental activists, regulatory bodies, planning commissions and even other golf course

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Drought plagues East Coast

I just got back from New Jersey. You've got to feel for the superintendents down there. It's been so dry, even the weeds are brown.'

— Scott Cybulski, superintendent, Falmouth (Maine) CC

By PETER BLAIS

Scott Cybulski's sympathy for his fellow superintendents is well placed, according to Stan Zontek, agronomist for the United States Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Atlantic region.

During his travels throughout his five-state area — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia — Zontek has witnessed the effects of what some are calling the worst drought in the past 100 years.

"It's a notch above awful," Zontek said. "Today [Aug. 5], the state of Maryland imposed mandatory water restrictions. Watering of fairways is only allowed with syringe irrigation with an 80-percent reduction in water usage required. Greens and tees are limited to the minimum necessary.

"Delaware is on voluntary restric-

tions and will probably go into mandatory water restrictions by noon on Friday [Aug. 6] north of Wilmington.

"Pennsylvania went to mandatory water restrictions last week. They allow watering of tees and greens only and syringing to a maximum of 15 minutes a day to heat-sensitive grasses, which are defined as bentgrass and *poa annua* fairways. Any irrigation of sodded or seeded areas can only occur from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., which isn't going to help for sodding or seeding.

"In Maryland, they don't even allow that. No agricultural irrigation is allowed at all.

"West Virginia was just designated a drought emergency by the President. Virginia has voluntary restrictions, although in the far western corner of the state it's wet,

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WALK, DON'T RIDE

Colleton River Plantation's Pete Dye Course hosts its grand opening in September, hailed as a cog in the trend towards walking and "core" golf courses, and full caddie service. Since the course's "soft opening" last Dec. 15, half the members have walked track, which stretches from 5,105 to 6,889 yards over Lowcountry property on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Above is the 135-yard 13th hole.

Mark Brown photo

Golf Communities files for bankruptcy

By PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Golf Communities of America, a publicly held Orlando-based course owner and operator that recently filed for bankruptcy court protection, hopes to submit a reorganization plan by early fall, according to R. Scott Shuker, an attorney representing GCA.

GCA and its 21 subsidiaries operate five active courses, have three courses in planning or under construction and own property in Florida, Texas, Utah and North Carolina. Among GCA's courses are Cutter Sound Golf & Yacht Club in Palm City, Fla.; Hillcrest Country Club (under con-

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