

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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### Best Builders of the Year



#### GCN'S GOLF COURSE BUILDERS OF THE YEAR

*Golf Course News'* annual Builder of the Year Award will be presented to Allan MacCurrach III, right, president of MacCurrach Golf Construction. The Best Small Builder of the Year Award will go to Golf Development Construction, represented by Managing Partner Louis Miller, left. The awards will be presented during the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual banquet on Feb. 18 in New Orleans.

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#### PERIODICAL



SUPERINTENDENTS STEAM INTO NEW ORLEANS

For a preview on the 71st International Golf Course Conference & Show, Feb. 14-20, see pages 17-28.

## Gene that limits plant growth discovered

By ANDREW OVERBECK

SAN DIEGO — A team of genetic scientists at the Salk Institute lead by Dr. Joanne Chory have discovered the gene that controls plant height by limiting the activity of a growth hormone. The scientists have been successful in transferring the gene to tobacco plants and experiments are underway with rice. If

### Prospects are bright for no-mow turfgrass

that works, potential applications in turfgrass may not be far off.

"If it works in tobacco there is promise," said Dr. Mike Kenna, director of research for the United States Golf Association (USGA). "If

they can get it to work in corn or rice, then the chances of it working in turf go from promising to highly possible."

In the popular press, the discovery of the growth gene has garnered headlines touting the possibility of "no-mow" turf, prompting joy among homeowners who believe they will

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## Century's Top Supers: Sherwood Moore, Warren Bidwell

By PETER BLAIS

Warren Bidwell and Sherwood Moore were the most influential superintendents of the 1900s, according to a *Golf Course News* survey of past Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presidents, former Canadian Golf Superintendents Association presidents and current GCSAA chapter presidents.

Bidwell — a 64-year GCSAA member, national direc-



Sherwood Moore



Warren Bidwell

tor and Distinguished Service Award winner — received the most votes among deceased nominees.

He was followed, in order, by Colonel John Morley and Chester Mendenhall (tied for second), Joe Valentine, Leo Feser, Arthur Snyder, Harold Stodola, Bill Lyons, Marshall Farnham and Tom Johnson.

Moore — a longtime GCSAA member who served as

Continued on page 27

## New openings eclipse 500

By MARK LESLIE

JUPITER, Fla. — The golf boom of the 1990s has continued into 2000—in a record-eclipsing way. Some 509 golf courses came on line in the United States in 1999, surpassing the record 468 set in 1995, according to the National Golf Foundation (NGF).

At the same time, the pipeline continues to be full. At the end of the year, 946 courses were under construction and 908 were in planning. This compared to the end of 1998 when 1,069 were under construction and 708 were

Continued on page 3



#### GOLF BOOMING INTERNATIONALLY

*The Hole of the Gods — the 3rd hole at Golfplan-designed Bonari Kogen Golf Club in Numajiri, Japan — is one example of the mountains of work being done expanding golf throughout the world. See a report on international course construction, pages 61-68.*

## Meadowbrook becomes 3rd-largest manager

By PETER BLAIS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Meadowbrook Golf Group has acquired the balance of Fairways Acquisition Corp., the entity formed to facilitate last fall's 30-course acquisition of KSL Fairways from KSL Recreation Corp. Meadowbrook now owns 100 percent of Fairways Acquisition Corp.

KSL Fairways was the non-resort division of KSL Recreation, which continues to own such high-profile properties as Doral in Miami and LaQuinta and PGA West in Palm Springs, Calif.

Fairways Golf consisted of 24 golf properties primarily in Virginia, Maryland,

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## BRIEFS

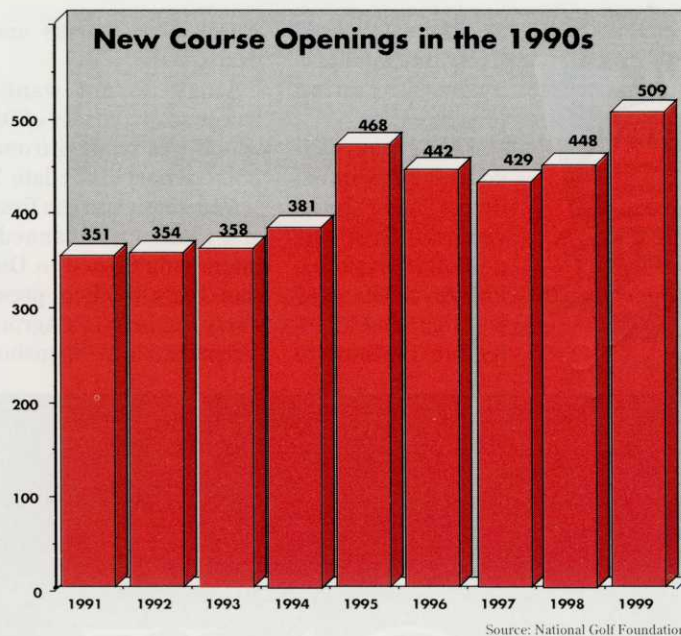
**BLOOMINGTON, Ind.** —The Indiana University administration has been in talks since September with the private developer Indiana Club LLC to lease land for the construction of a championship course that would be home to the golf team, a private club of 2,400 members and limited public play. The course would be located near Griffy Lake. Men's Golf Coach Mike Mayer said the current course, on which an estimated 40,000 rounds are played a year, has reached its saturation point.

...

**MIAMI** — Greens To You, Inc. has acquired Costa Greens Golf Club located near Doral. Plans are in progress for adding \$1 million of improvements to this daily-fee facility, including new cart paths and sand bunkers, extensive tree pruning, new maintenance equipment and renovations to the irrigation system, clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant.

...

**MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.** — Tide-water Golf Club here has completed its three-month renovation and reopened for public play Jan. 15. The greens were planted with A-1, an improved variety of bentgrass that better tolerates the Southeastern climate.



## New courses open at record pace

Continued from page 1  
in planning.

As the golf industry entered the 1990s the thought of 300 courses opening in one year was extraordinary. But when 351 opened in 1991 that started a momentum that accelerated through the decade. The biggest jump occurred between 1994, when 381 new courses opened, and 1995 when the figure rocketed to 468.

Asked to explain the phenomenon, American Society of Golf Course Architects President John LaFoy said: "Regardless of what any of the golf pundits say, what it boils down to is that people feel they need more golf courses. They are building according to

demand. That's the only thing that makes any sense to me.

"There is demand being met, especially for affordable and accessible courses. You've seen a shift in the type of course being built and who they're being built for."

Richard Singer, who as director of consulting at the NGF has spent the last few months studying the strategic perspectives of golf into 2010, predicted changes and warned: "We need to be ready as an industry to react to those changes. We have found that supply is not a constant thing."

Continued on next page



The Pete Dye course at the PGA at The Reserve in Port St. Lucie, Fla. is one of a record number of new course openings in 1999.

Photo by Rolling Greens Photography/Ken May

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## Chlorpyrifos re-assessment continues to move forward

By ANDREW OVERBECK

With the initial public comment period completed, it is now up to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to decide what use restrictions, if any, to place on the widely-used organophosphate chlorpyrifos. In the

coming months, the EPA will evaluate the comments it has received from end users and industry and environmental groups and then will release a revised risk



assessment that will likely include proposed mitigation measures.

As a group, golf course superintendents have been vigilant in their support of chlorpyrifos, known to them as Dursban and an effective method to

combat cut worms and other pests.

Many do not want to see Dursban go the way of Diazinon, which was banned from use on golf courses in the late 1980s.

"Diazinon was the first choice and when it was banned, superintendents turned to Dursban," said Terry Buchen, president of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International in Williamsburg, Va.

Another change will not come easy.

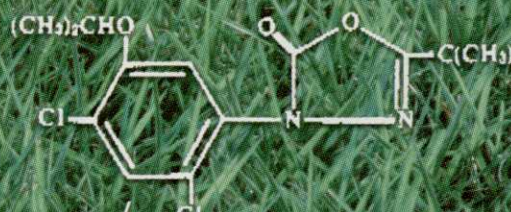
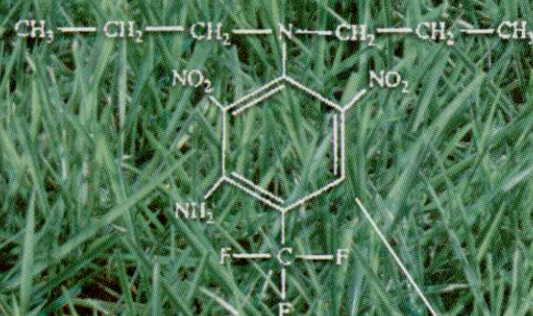
"It is one of our primary insecticides. I am familiar with it and I have never looked into using anything else because I have always had good results," said Carl Tegetmeyer, superintendent at Holiday Hills Resort and Country Club in Branson, Mo.

"We have had significantly more comments sent in with chlorpyrifos than on other compounds that have gone through the process," said Tim Maniscalco, manager of government and public affairs at Dow AgroSciences. "A good amount of these have been from superintendents ... the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has done a good job to get the word out about how the process worked and what was at stake. We have had great user-group response."

Through its government relations department, the GCSAA has been instrumental on getting the word out. "We are waging an intensive war," said Carrie Riordan GCSAA government relations manager. "We sent out e-mails to our 600-person government relations network and all of our 101 chapters and their

Continued on page 11

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## New courses

Continued from previous page

Saying that "market forces, economic forces and the highest and best uses of property dictate what developers will do," Singer added: "There are a lot of 18-hole facilities now. You might see more alternative facilities of all different types and configurations.

"What should be done is highly localized. But, certainly, all types of facilities that cater to all different levels of skill, ability, time commitment, willingness to participate, etc. have to be considered as part of that equation."

Because of the onslaught of new 18-hole facilities, Singer said a number of nine-hole courses have trouble competing.

That could explain the number of nine-holers that have been expanding to 18 the last few years.

Construction was "equally distributed regionally" around the country, Singer said, basically proportionate to population.

LaFoy thought golf course development has also received a boost because of positive feelings among the public concerning the industry's sensitivity to the environment.

"I give superintendents and architects a lot of credit," he said. "One thing we've done that is telling, in the Northeast in particular, is showing we can build environmentally friendly and safe golf courses." ▶

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