

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

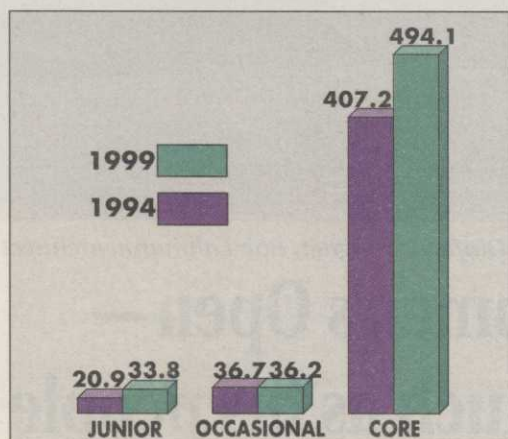
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TOTAL ROUNDS PLAYED (MILLIONS)



Rounds played in 1999 reached the highest point ever (564 million), according to the 2000 edition of the National Golf Foundation's Golf Participation in the U.S. study. For more on the NGF study, see story on page 3.

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PERIODICAL



Architect Tom Fazio on site at the Virginia State Golf Association's Independence Golf Club. When the course opens next summer, it will have a 9-hole Kid's Course. For more on this story, see page 19.

Eco-terrorists strike Pure Seed test farm

By JAY FINEGAN

HUBBARD, Ore. — An underground eco-terrorist group styling itself the Anarchist Golfing Association attacked Pure Seed Testing Inc. here last month, smashing into greenhouses, overturning and stomping on experimental grass plots, scattering identification labels, and spray painting such slogans as "Nature Bites Back."

Crystal Fricker, director of research and new president, estimated damage at about \$500,000, but said the value of projects destroyed in the raid could easily have run over \$1 million. "It's hard to put a value on it," she said. "We've lost years of research."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation swung into action quickly, assigning 10 agents to the case. At press time, no arrests had been made.

The vandals stole onto the 110-acre research farm



Damage to Pure Seed's experimental grass plots.

during the night. "They hit two different greenhouses and went across 70 acres of the farm, hitting different nurseries, pulling up plants, cutting the heads off plants, and dumping 200 pots of ornamental grasses collected from around the world," Fricker said. "They left little clues that they had been everywhere — golf balls embossed with their insignia: a circle-A anarchist symbol, Continued on page 5

dot-coms primed to revolutionize market

By ANDREW OVERBECK

While the buzz surrounding the launch of several Internet-based business-to-business ventures earlier this year has faded, work behind the scenes continues as these high-tech companies clamor to define strategies, attract vendors and buyers and get up and running. In the meantime, web-savvy superintendents are beginning to embrace the concept of purchasing goods on-line.

New players have also burst onto the scene in recent weeks, bringing the total of superintendent specific



Rhonda Knipp

Continued on page 25

Jack's back in Monterey

By ISAAC HILLSON

MONTEREY, Calif. — In the charged atmosphere of the weekend before the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, Jack Nicklaus made some noise a few miles east as he unveiled his latest course design.

Pasadera Country Club is set inland, just east of Laguna Seca Public Course and a few miles from the ocean. Cut into the familiar brush-covered hills of the California countryside, the course caters to the recently rich forty-something retirees of the booming San Francisco Bay area and offers some relief from the unpredictable fogs of the coastal areas of the Monterey Peninsula.

Continued on page 21

Destructive beetle spreading fast through Northeast

By JAY FINEGAN

BRETTON WOODS, N.H. — An unusually pernicious turf-destroying beetle, the European chafer, is marching briskly through Northeastern states and appears poised to extend its range. Speaking to superintendents

from Maine and New Hampshire at the Mount Washington Hotel here, entomologist Stanley R. Swier said the chafer can do "a phenomenal amount of damage."

Swier also expressed concern that the insect may be on the verge of a breakout phase. "The chafer will lay its eggs in potted nursery plants, and these plants will be shipped around the country," he said. "They can also be carried by cars and trains. They emerge by the millions in late June, and they'll fly right into vehicles. When you look at



European chafer depositing eggs.

the routes of major highways and rail beds, you see the chafer following those tracks. It's getting a free ride from place to place."

The brown, inch-long beetle, a native of central Europe, first appeared in the United States in 1940, when it turned up in Newark, N.Y. Its advance from there had been gradual. Now, however, the insect has spread as far north as Portland, Me., and southern Canada, Continued on page 10

Course owners, IRS negotiate

By A. WASHBURN

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA), working with the national accounting firm KPMG, met here recently with officials of the Internal Revenue Service to seek more favorable tax treatment for golf courses. At issue was a 45-year-old tax regulation dealing with real estate depreciation which, course owners contended, failed to account for the construction and maintenance costs of modern layouts.

Revenue Ruling 55-290,

Continued on page 30

Nicklaus

Continued from page 1

"They want to leave the intensity of the Bay Area and retire to the relaxed lifestyle the Monterey Peninsula affords," says managing general partner Lee Newell. "The schools here, both public and private, are outstanding, and the city's growth limitations restrict density and traffic. Plus, most of these young millionaires realize that real estate in Monterey adjacent to a Jack Nicklaus-designed course is a sound investment for the future."

Frequent Nicklaus collaborator Chuck Reeves was charged with the construction and operation of the project. Reeves was saddled with the task of creating a playable, enjoyable course for club members on top of a drastically uneven landscape.

The par-71 layout maintains a natural feel with transition areas planted with native grasses. The fairways and tees are straight rye, and the roughs have a combination of rye and native fescue. The greens are standard bent.

WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

The terrain provided an interesting challenge for Reeves. In addition to difficulties presented by the unevenness of the property, wilderness preservation restrictions limited the amount of land that was legally workable. These significant obstacles and Reeves' design experience generated the character of the course. Narrow landing areas for tee shots and confidence-testing carries over wilderness areas are Pasadera's signature.

There is a total elevation change of 375 feet across the course, with many holes having significant slopes. Nearly half of the holes are upward sloping and present players with difficult choices on how much of the slope they want to eliminate with their tee shots. Long drives are challenged by ever narrowing fairways and strategically placed traps.

"What made Jack great as a player was strategy. The same

thing makes him great as an architect," Reeves says. "He always wants you to think off the tee, but not take the driver out of your hand."

The course has some interesting design features. The fairways of the par-3 sixth and the short par-4 fifth criss-cross.

"I think we did it safely," Nicklaus said with a wry grin.

The signature hole at Pasadera is the 211-yard par-3 14th, which requires golfers to carry a hun-

dred-foot-deep canyon in order to reach safety. The views from this hole, and many on the course, especially on the back side, are spectacular. Glimpses of the white-capped Monterey Bay and nearby Mt. Toro abound on the 565-acre property.

Still, the Golden Bear is tentative about calling his creation a difficult course. He quickly rebuts efforts to label it "tournament difficult." "This is a golf course for

people to enjoy, not for tournament players to enjoy," said Nicklaus. "I don't do golf courses for the people who are going to play them."

The road from conception to completion has not been a quick one. The property was first looked into as a possible course location nine years ago. Though Monterey's city ordinances did not prevent the team's plans to

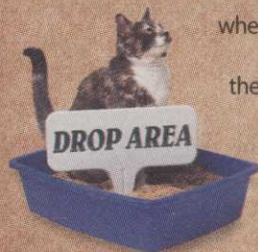
build 255 new homes on the Pasadera grounds, the California Coastal Commission did intervene and have much to say about what could be built, and where they could build it. Although the restrictions presented a design challenge, the course more than retained the terrain's natural beauty. ▶

Isaac Hillson is a GCN contributor based in San Francisco.

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Keystone

Continued from page 19

expertise in designing environmentally sensitive courses. For the River Course, the architects incorporated native plant species, such as sagebrush, native grasses, and 12 different kinds of wildflowers. The course was also designed for players of all levels — each hole has five or six tee boxes, allowing beginners to play alongside experienced golfers.

"Keystone isn't just a world-class ski resort," Rutter said. "We're truly a year-round resort that offers world-class golfing, mountain biking, hiking and many other recreational amenities." ▶