

BRIEFS



O'NEILL, MAIBUSCH ON GCSAA BOARD

LAWRENCE, Kansas—Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Scott Woodhead has named two new members to the GCSAA board of directors. Mike Wallace's election as GCSAA secretary/treasurer and the resignation of director Samuel R. Snyder VII of Hercules Country Club in Wilmington, Del., left two director positions, each of one-year service, to be filled. Woodhead filled the first position by appointing Tim O'Neill of The Country Club of Darien in Darien, Conn. and the final director spot with Bob Maibusch of Hinsdale Golf Club in Clarendon Hills, Ill.

OTF DONATES \$137,000 TO OSU

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) has presented a \$157,000 check to Ohio State University (OSU), including \$137,000



in research grants to 10 technical advisors from OSU and \$20,000 in scholarships to turfgrass majors at

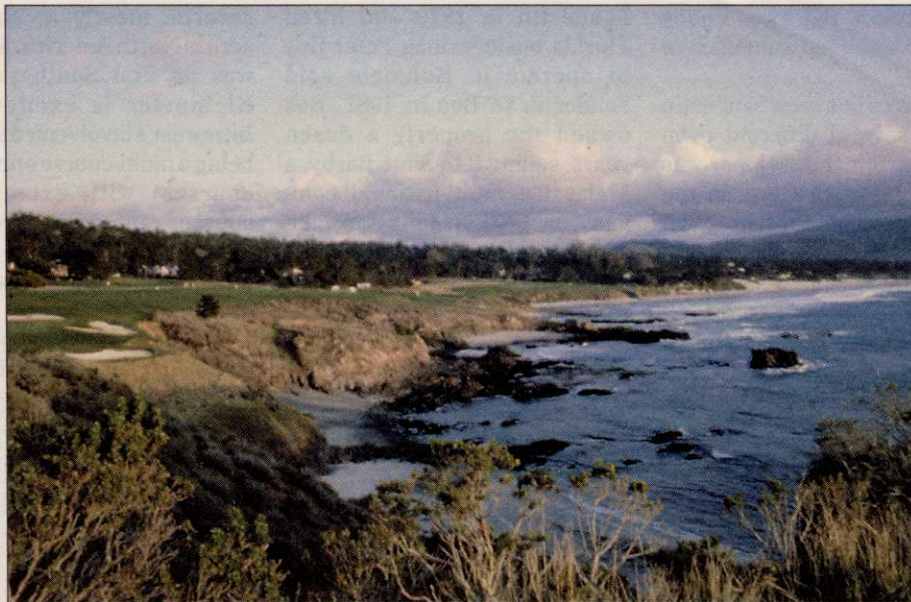
OSU and Agricultural Technical Institute. The OTF has donated more than \$3.3 million in research grants and more the \$300,000 in scholarships in its 40 years of support to the industry.

MILLIKEN BENEFITS GCSAA FOUNDATION

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Milliken Chemical Co. has pledged a commitment that could exceed \$250,000 to support programs of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation. The pledge places Milliken in The Foundation's Old Tom Morris Society, the highest giving level in the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign created to fund applied research and advanced education. Funding for the commitment comes from a percentage of sales from Milliken Chemical's foliar product line.

TAYLOR SIGNS ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF

TAYLOR, Calif. — The city of Taylor has selected Environmental Golf to provide maintenance at both Taylor Meadows and Lakes of Taylor golf courses. After five years of maintenance practices being implemented by Environmental Golf at The Lakes of Taylor site, it was the desire of the city to bring both courses under one qualified maintenance company.



Pebble Beach Golf Links' 8th, 9th and 10th holes hug the ocean cliffs.

Pebble Beach readies for Open

By DOUG SAUNDERS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — A smorgasbord of major and minor changes have altered the face of Pebble Beach Golf Links recently, but a new head superintendent and his veteran staff intend to have the course in shape to be "the fairest possible test" for the U.S. Open, June 15-18.

"This is a very professional staff here at Pebble Beach," said new head superintendent Eric Greytok. "Their experience of preparing for last year's U.S. Amateur was invaluable in getting Pebble ready

for this June. They understand what the USGA [U.S. Golf Association] expects and how to meet those expectations.

"They know the program and I can rely on them to assist me as I work into my new position. They mean every hing to me."

This will be the fourth Open and the 10th USGA Championship held at the venerable Pebble Beach. It is fitting that this Open, the 100th contested, should return to the venue that has been the site of some of the greatest dramas in Open

Continued on page 20

Kleinpeter: At Sandestin since the start

By PETER BLAIS

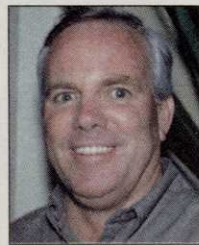
SANDESTIN, Fla. — George Kleinpeter has seen Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort through the construction of four courses and a half-dozen owners in his 27 years at the northwest Florida resort.

"My first job was running a tree spade and transplanting trees all over the property," remembered Kleinpeter, who first joined Sandestin in October, 1973, as an equipment operator and landscape installer during construction of the resort's first layout, Tom Jackson-designed Links Golf Course.

It didn't take Kleinpeter long to advance through the ranks. He became assistant superintendent of the Links in 1975 and head superintendent in 1977. Kleinpeter left his head superintendent's job (although he remained on the Sandestin payroll) in 1981 to caddie on the PGA Tour. But two years later he returned to Sandestin as full-time Links superintendent.

Shortly after his return, Kleinpeter oversaw construction of Sandestin's second layout, Jackson-designed Baytown Golf Club, which opened in 1985. Sandestin promoted Kleinpeter to head of grounds maintenance in 1991.

Continued on page 14



George Kleinpeter



The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Raven Golf Club at Sandestin offers Mackenzie-esque challenge

Intrawest opens the Raven GC at Sandestin

By PETER BLAIS

DESTIN, Fla. — The new Raven Golf Club at Sandestin marks a couple firsts for course designer Robert Trent "Bobby" Jones Jr.

The 18-hole, 6,900-yard layout is the first Jones Jr. design in northwest Florida. It is also the first time he and brother Rees have built courses side by side at the same facility.

While the Jones brothers admit their relationship isn't particularly close, their

Canadian GSA board elected

TORONTO—The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) has elected its board of directors, who will serve under new President Merlin Affleck of Stanhope Golf & Country Club (G&CC) in Stanhope, Prince Edward Island.

Affleck is joined by Vice President Jay Leach of Cottonwood G&CC of Dewinton, Alberta; Secretary/Treasurer and Ontario Director Bill Fach of New York Downs G&CC in Unionville; Atlantic Director Jim Nix of Abercrombie Country Club in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Manitoba Director Ian Martinusen of Breezy Bend Country Club, in Headingly; and Quebec Director Tim Harkness of Club de Golf Le Royal Bromont in Bromont.

Continuing their two-year terms are British Columbia Director Jim McGarvey of Seymour G&CC in North Vancouver; and Saskatchewan Director Bill Radke of Candle Lake Golf Course in Candle Lake. Neil Blayney of Highwood G&CC in High River, Alberta, was appointed as Alberta director to finish Leach's term.

Past President is Dean Pillar of Cordova Bay Golf Course in Victoria, British Columbia.



Pebble Beach

Continued from page 13

history, including Jack Nicklaus' win in 1972, Tom Watson's miraculous chip-in for victory in 1982, and Tom Kite's gritty performance on a windswept final round in 1992.

The 85-year-old course will offer some changes from previous years — most strikingly the new par-3 5th hole that was added in

1998, and the decision to play the second hole as a long par 4, leaving the course to play to a par of 71 for the championship. These changes will be obvious to the casual observer. Not so readily evident is the seven years of diligent work to improve the infrastructure at the grand old course.

"We have been involved in a series of major projects to improve drainage and control erosion, and refurbish bunkers over

the past years," said Director of Golf Ted Horton. "The new seawall at 18 and drain work are dramatic projects that will help the course withstand the ravages of nature for future generations."

The loss of the tall pine tree that protected the green on the left side of number 2 last winter necessitated changing the straight-away hole from a par 5 to a par 4. The USGA enjoys toying with such holes, but num-

ber 2 has always been a birdie hole, so it should not bring howls of complaints from players.

While course preparations have been running smoothly for the past two years, a transition in command has pushed Greytok into the spotlight. The 27-year-old graduate of Penn State has been on board as assistant superintendent since last November, but was promoted to the top spot in February when former

head superintendent Mark Michaud left to take the top spot at 2004 Open host Shinnecock Hills in Long Island.

"It was a bit unexpected for Mark to leave so soon," Greytok said. "He had worked hard to develop a great plan to make Pebble Beach the fairest possible test for the championship. Though he planned to be here through the Open, everyone understood that he had to move on when he did. I worked very closely with Mark for the months that we were together so that really I just need to keep that plan on track."

Greytok comes to Pebble Beach with strong credentials, having worked as an assistant at Merion Country Club out of college and then under Paul Latshaw at Riviera Country Club in 1997 and most recently at Congressional Country Club in Maryland. The transition to the head superintendent has been smooth and Greytok has learned to appreciate the crew he inherited.

The Pebble Beach staff has completed clean-up after the AT&T National Pro Am in February and is concentrating its efforts on just the final cosmetic touches in preparation for the tournament. The course still has to be prepared each day for the 175 daily players at this public course. Efforts then can be put into dealing with minor trouble spots.

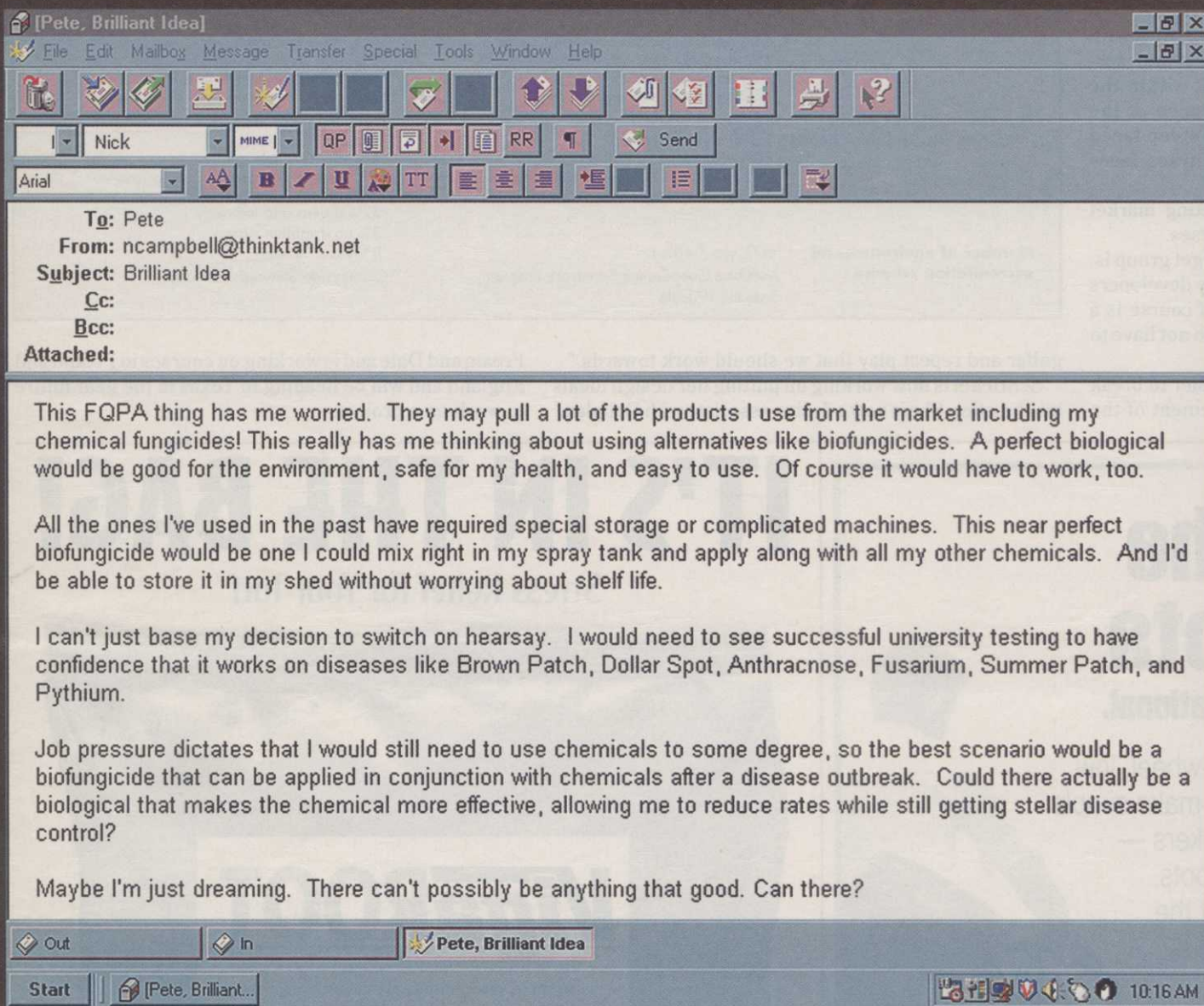
"For the next month we are working any areas that will help create a uniform condition throughout," Greytok said. "We have been aerifying some dry spots on the fairways, and working on some contours around the rebuilt bunkers. We have had excellent weather this winter and that will allow to have the course in dry, solid condition come June."

With daily play continuing until just a few days before Open week, the Pebble Beach staff won't begin to grow in rough until the first of May.

"That is our prime growing season and we can get the ryegrass up to 3/8 inch very quickly. We will start to mow the greens shorter around the first of June, but not take them all the way to tournament specs until Open week," Greytok said.

The weather is the only factor out of his control. The final round of 1992 saw a fierce wind and hot sun turn the greens baked and fast, leading to one of the most brutal final rounds in Open history. Everyone hopes the normal overcast and cool June weather on the coast will prevail.

"We are riding a fine line when you get your course up to tournament standards," Greytok said. "It is during the event that our work really begins, but this staff is ready for the challenge. We just want Pebble Beach to be the fairest test possible. I'm looking forward to see the best players take this great golf course."



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