

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

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Legend Weighs in on Design

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DROUGHT DEVASTATES PARTS OF TEXAS
Battling rainless conditions for most of the year, Texas golf course superintendents struggled to save turf and trees. See story, page 3.

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PERIODICAL

US-UK study: It is greener on the other side of pond

By ANDREW OVERBECK

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — The top American golf courses earn twice as much and spend twice as much on maintenance as their U.K. counterparts, according to a survey by novice architect Bettina Schrickel.

Following a year comparing the maintenance practices of 25 of the top golf courses in both the United States and the United Kingdom for her graduate thesis in golf course architecture at Merrist Wood College in Surrey, England, Schrickel has published the findings of her study.

"Some of the numbers really surprised me," said Schrickel. "For example, the large gap between the financial income of the clubs, the maintenance budgets and the number of greenkeepers."

Of the American courses that she visited, the average income was \$2 million, the maintenance budget was \$970,000 and the number of greenkeepers was 18. Comparably, U.K. courses had an average income of \$800,000, a maintenance budget of \$340,000 and an average of eight greenkeepers. Further, annual member-

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BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS

The world of biological controls is changing rapidly and GCN's special section, on pages 21-28, provides an in-depth look at the new research and products that are driving the industry. As government regulations and local legislation continue to take chemicals away from golf courses, the industry is primed for growth and many superintendents are starting to take notice. Also inside, a report on two ground-breaking research projects that use burrowing owls and wasps to fight pests on courses.

Certification the goal of CMAA env'l audit

By PETER BLAIS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Audubon International (AI) hopes to develop a certification program within the next 12 months for clubs, club managers and superintendents, using the recently developed Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) Full Facility Environmental Audit for Clubs (see March issue).

"Audubon and CMAA are discussing what to do next with this information," said AI Executive Director Ron Dodson, referring to the self-audit that CMAA began mailing to its members in late March. "What we

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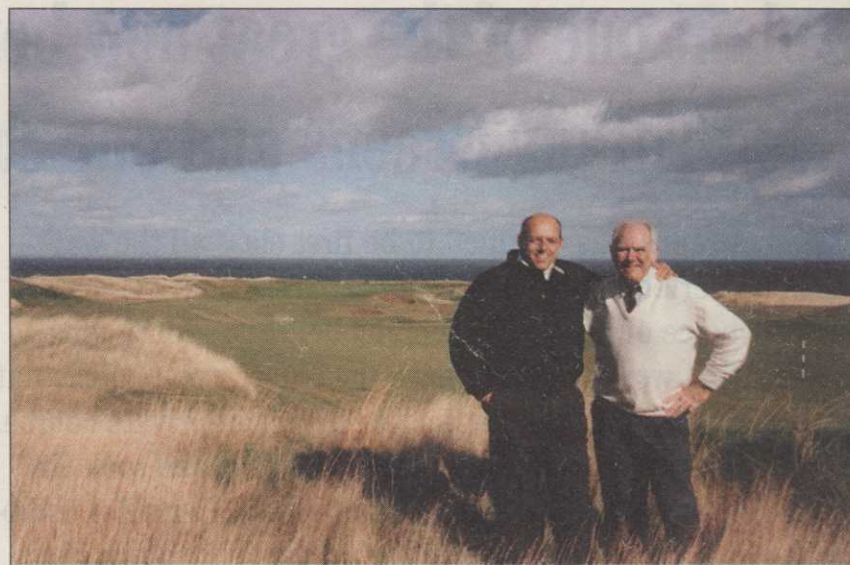
Simplot to buy Turf Partners

By A. OVERBECK

RANCHO BERNARDO, Calif. — Eco Soil Systems Inc. has accelerated its original February deal to sell the assets of its Turf Partners subsidiary to Post Falls, Idaho-based J.R. Simplot Co. Instead of buying \$20 million of convertible Eco Soil stock and enduring a 12-month valuation period before definitively purchasing Turf Partners, Simplot has agreed to buy out the distribution channel this summer.

"The stock deal was scrapped because Simplot didn't want to focus on our technology," said Max Gelwix, president and chief operating officer of

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NEIGHBORING THE OLD COURSE WITH AN OLD COURSE HERO

Longtime St. Andrews Old Course head greenkeeper Walter Woods, right, served as a turfgrass consultant for course architect Kyle Phillips, left, on Kingsbarns Golf Links whose 1st green sits in the far background. Kingsbarns, a public course, will have a grand opening the weekend following the British Open in July.

SubAir & Soil Air do patent combat in court

By MARK LESLIE

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A battle about patents — spiced with added allegations of fraud, misappropriations and false advertising — will begin to be played out in U.S. District Court here in June between SubAir Inc. of Munnsville and Soil Air Technology of Middlefield, Conn.

The skirmish revolves around technology developed by Ferris Industries and

its subsidiary, SubAir Inc., starting in 1994 that uses subsurface piping to add air or remove water from the root zone of golf course greens to enhance root health; and a method developed by Soil Air Technology to measure pressure differentials and soil-gas concentrations to optimize soil growth.

But it gets much more personal than

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