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Design and Construction

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CALIFORNIA'S COYOTE MOON

Former professional golfer Brad Bell has opened his third course, Coyote Moon, on a one-time logging tract in the High Sierras. The course is a rarity in California, as it was built strictly for golf, not to sell housing lots. Builders rushed the construction through in six months to beat the snows of the high country. Pictured above is the par-3 13th hole that features an 88 foot drop. See story page 15.

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PERIODICAL

BASF readies specialty product unit

By A. OVERBECK

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Following the July 1 closing of its acquisition of American Cyanamid, BASF has completed the integration of product lines and management teams to form BASF Specialty Products Division (BASFspd). The new division will be responsible for the company's turf, ornamental and pest control business.

"In the past, BASF was more focused on the agricultural side," said Bill Baxter, business manager for turf, ornamental and pest control. "With the acquisition of American Cyanamid, which had a separate specialty products division that focused on turf and ornamental and pest control, it made sense

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Florida's Ocean Hammock, opening in December, will host a U.S. Open qualifying round in May.

On the beach: Jack's new Ocean Hammock seems destined for fame

By JAY FINEGAN

PALM COAST, Fla. — Florida's first true oceanfront golf course to be built in 70 years will make its highly anticipated debut on December 5, with designer Jack Nicklaus scheduled to hit the inaugural drive off the first tee.

Located between St. Augustine and Daytona Beach on Florida's northeast coast, with six holes playing right along the Atlantic, Ocean Hammock Golf Club is guaranteed to be something special. Indeed, the U.S. Golf Association has already named the course to host regional qualifying rounds next May for the 2001 U.S. Open.

"It's a magnificent piece of property," said superintendent Tray Maltby. "I feel very fortunate to be here. Sometimes I have to pinch myself."

The 7,200-yard, par-72 layout is being developed at a cost of \$12 million by Lowe Enterprises, of Los Angeles, which operates four other courses in the Palm Coast

area, including such standouts as Pine Lakes, Cypress Knoll and Palm Harbor. The new layout also features two driving ranges, practice greens and a teaching tee.

Ocean Hammock appears destined to take its place among Florida's elite resort courses. In fact, head professional Chuck Kandt predicts it will become one of the most highly regarded courses in the country. "It's going to provide a golfing experience like no other on the East Coast," he said. "We have a goal to draw big-name tournaments here, and I'm confident it will happen."

'A TOUCH OF PEBBLE BEACH'

Nicklaus has put his stamp all over this course. Strategy and scenery intersect at nearly every turn, with great care taken to ensure the terrain works in harmony with its surroundings.

"You might say it joins a little of the West and East coasts by combining a

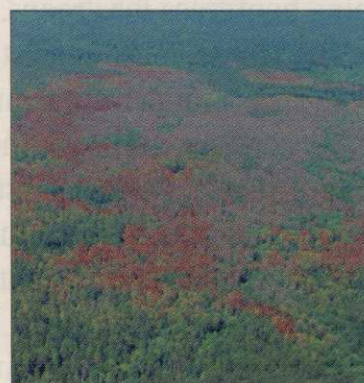
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Pine bark beetles wreaking broad devastation across the South

By JOEL JOYNER

TEMPLE TERRACE, Fla. — Already stressed by heat, drought and increased urban development, pine trees in the Southeast are falling victim to widespread devastation by pine bark beetles. Alabama, Florida and South Carolina have been especially hard hit by the lethal pests.

Pine bark beetles, also known as engraver beetles, are small cylindrical insects that attack and kill pine trees by feeding and laying eggs in the inner bark of the tree. Once a pine is colonized by



Evidence of a large infestation of southern pine beetles in eastern Texas

these beetles, it will soon die.

Alabama is experiencing its worst drought on record with the northwest region of the state being the most severely affected. So far this year, Alabama has lost a record 1.5 million pines to the insects, 51 counties were classified at "epidemic" levels for the southern pine beetle (SPB), according to the Alabama Forestry Commission.

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Injured golfer wins \$7.5 million settlement

By JAY FINEGAN

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Lansdowne Resort Golf Club in northern Virginia has settled out of court for \$7.5 million to compensate a player who was struck in the neck by a stray golf ball. The settlement agreement came in late September, two and a half years after James Tobin was hit on the practice putting green at Lansdowne, a public 18-hole course in Loudoun County.

At the time of the accident, Tobin was a sales manager for General Electric. He was 42 years old, and a 2-handicap player. A stroke has left him unbalanced and unable to walk

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Pine bark beetles devastating South

Continued from page one

They estimated the loss at about \$113 million in timber.

Here at the Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club, near Tampa, more than 60 trees have been killed by so-called "ips" beetles, causing \$25,000 in damage. The ips are second only to the SPBs in their devastation.

"Once a tree is infested, there's no saving it," said Doug Hughes, superintendent at the course. "The critical thing is to remove the tree as quickly as possible to keep the

infestation from spreading. That's where the cost is adding up."

Hughes is busy trying to save the other 100 or more pines left on his golf course while systematically removing the 60 dead trees at Temple Terrace. "We've been spraying the insecticide Lindane around the base of the pines and trying to cover at least 10 feet up the trunk," said Hughes. "But there's little we can do about the drought and water restrictions. At the moment, I'm only allowed to water my fairways once a week."

The South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) reports over a million dead or dying pines from the SPB and ips, with estimated summer losses exceeding \$24 million. The epidemic is described as the second worst on record in South Carolina, with Union County having identified almost 1,000 individual infestations.

According to SCFC entomologist Andy Boone, cool weather will temporarily slow the spread of the beetles for the winter, but the epidemic is expected to last at least through next summer. The SCFC said 13 counties now face serious losses from the insect.

WIDENING INFESTATION

According to Ron Billings, Ph.D., of the Texas Forest Service, beetle activity continues at record levels in eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina, southern Kentucky and – for the first time in 25 years – in southwestern Virginia. In a single year (1998-99), Tennessee experienced a 1,400-percent increase in the number of SPB infestations.

Suburban sprawl is contributing to the damage. Ed Barnard, Ph.D., forest pathologist for the Florida Division of Forestry, explains that "turfgrass and pines are not ideally compatible. Most any urban development in a pine tree surrounding is likely to weaken the trees over time, through root damage or drawing down nearby water levels. Pine bark beetles don't attack healthy pines, but they will destroy a stressed pine tree, and rapidly." The summer drought in central Florida has left thousands of trees victimized by the ips.

Initial symptoms of infestation will usually be pitch tubes in the bark crevices where the adult beetles bore in to the trunk of a pine. The best way to identify a pine bark beetle infestation is to remove sections of bark from pines with fading, yellow foliage and search for winding, "engraved" tunnels or galleries. ■

Piersol's column

Continued from page 8

turf equipment program started is to create student demand. School administrators will start programs that they know they can fill and that result in placements in a lucrative job market.

Many superintendents have never thought about recruiting in the high schools, yet that is where you'll find the raw material to be attracted into the golf industry. Why not recruit high school kids who have not yet made a career choice and who have no idea of the various outstanding careers in the field of golf?

'A CALL TO ARMS'

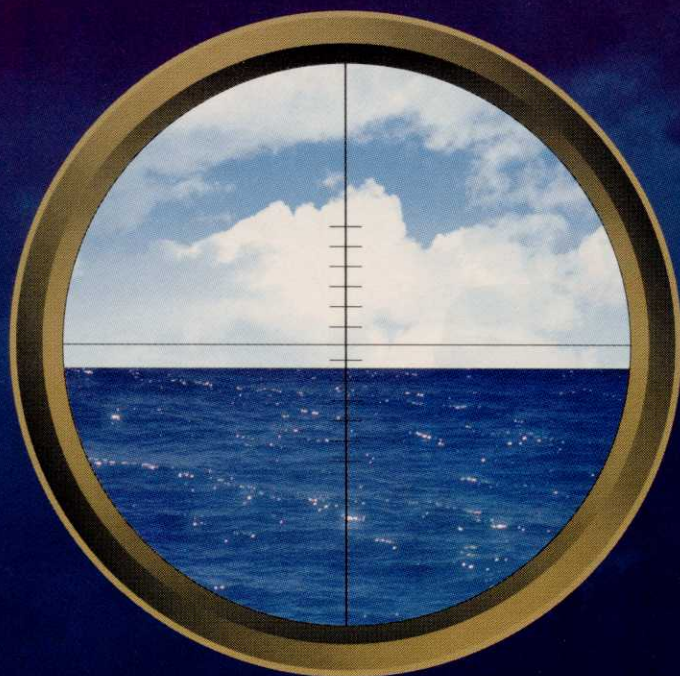
A high school recruiting effort will give the superintendent the chance to talk about the positive aspects of the industry, allow his company (golf course) to become better known, and could lead to the recruiting of part-time help or full-time employees. High schools are usually thrilled to have industry representatives talk to the students, and building a good relationship with a local high school can pay nice dividends.

The golf course superintendent already has a busy schedule, but getting into one local high school once a year is a realistic service project. I strongly believe this effort should be considered a "national call to arms" for superintendents. After all, they are the ones screaming for skilled equipment technicians.

If superintendents will help to create student demand, existing technician programs are ready to expand and new programs will emerge. Education wants to meet the need for properly trained golf course equipment technicians. Won't you help us help you? ■

John R. Piersol, M.S., chairs the Division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry at Lake City Community College, Lake City, Fla., where he has taught since 1974.

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