

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY 2002 • \$7.00
www.golfcoursenews.com

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VON HAGGE'S STAGE

Architect Robert von Hagge allowed his artistic sensibilities to dictate his design vision at Torreon Golf and Country Club here in Show Low, Ariz. The first hole is pictured above. See Q&A on page 17.

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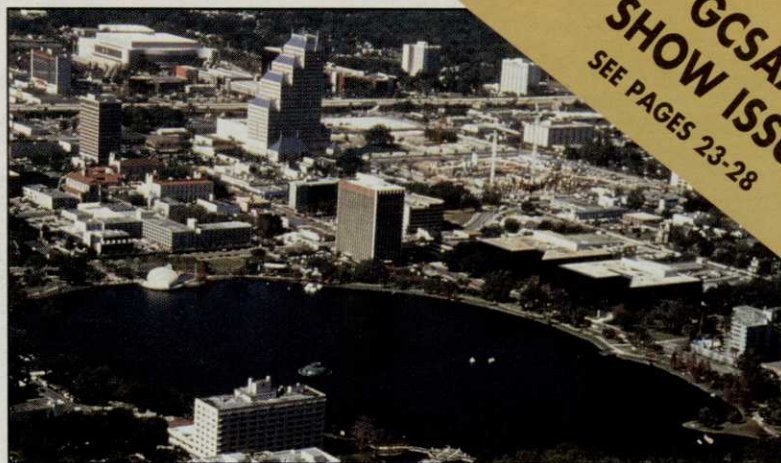
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PERIODICAL



GCSAA
SHOW ISSUE
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Compost tea slowly gaining golf converts

By ANDREW OVERBECK

With mounting environmental pressures and increasing chemical costs, some superintendents are turning toward sustainable agricultural techniques.

On the forefront of this trend is compost tea, a higher-tech version of a centuries' old technology that "brews" compost to create a concentrated liquid "tea" that delivers beneficial microbes and low levels of nutrients to turfgrass. The brewers, which have been commercially available since 1998, are used most heavily in agricultural settings. While there is no scientific evidence to directly support it, superintendents using compost tea report less disease pressure, less need for fertilization and irrigation and all-around healthier turf.



"Three years ago I was getting dollar spot that was unbelievable," said Charles Clarke, superintendent at Woodbury Country Club in Woodbury, N.J. "I was getting five days of control out of Bayleton and seven days out of Daconil. Two years ago I started spraying with compost tea every seven days and by the end of the summer I saw results. This year I was getting 15

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Golf's 'big three' weather slowdown

By ANDREW OVERBECK

It's no secret that 2001 was a tough year for the golf business. With the economy flagging, budgets tightened, new construction slipped and golf rounds were down. The events of Sept. 11 have simply exacerbated the situation.

While many companies are struggling to maintain the status quo, the big three turf equipment manufacturers definitely felt the contracting golf economy land on their bottom lines with a resounding thud.



Steve Keating



William Robson

Textron, which was still computing year-end numbers when *Golf Course News* went to press, posted a net loss of \$330 million in the third quarter alone. John Deere's net losses mounted to \$64 million on the year. Only Toro managed to post positive growth for 2001 with net income up 11.4 percent to \$50.4 million.

While these numbers represent entire corporations of which the golf and turf divisions make up a fraction of the total business, representatives from all

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Chenoff's Calusa Pines elevates golf in Naples

By A. OVERBECK

NAPLES, Fla. — In order to compete in the ever-expanding Naples golf market, developer Gary Chenoff knew that he had to create something radically different in order to elevate his new project above other area courses.

Chenoff, who was also involved in the development of the Rees Jones-designed Naples Grande Golf Club, has succeeded both literally and figuratively here with the No-

vember opening of Calusa Pines Golf Club.

Enlisting the services of Hurdzan, Fry Design, Course Doctors and superintendent Eric von Hofen, Chenoff transformed 550 acres of flat land into an undulating property that has 58 feet of elevation change and features the highest point of land in south Florida.



The eighth hole at Calusa Pines is framed by a 27-foot tall bunker.

In order to reach such heights, Course Doctors, working with local mass excavator LeeMar, blasted through tons of rock to dig 72 acres of 25-foot-deep lakes. Part of

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NGCOA, Club Car ink partnership deal

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The National Golf Course Owners Association has signed an exclusive agreement with Club Car, Inc., to form a "premier partnership."

In addition to providing pricing incentives for NGCOA members, Club Car will sponsor golf car fleet management programs and educational semi-

nars and work with the association to grow its membership. The agreement will run for a term of five years and has replaced the NGCOA's previous deal with Yamaha Golf Car Co.

Moving beyond a pricing deal was a key part of the agreement, according to Club Car's vice president of marketing Chris Plummer.

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