



BRIEFS

COLLAPSE DOESN'T SLOW RENOVATION

ST. LOUIS — A \$12.5 million restoration of the Forest Park Municipal Golf Course, which finally got underway last year after several years of stalls, is scheduled to open in October 2003. However, the opening of the clubhouse, which was supposed to take place this fall, has been delayed after high winds caused the roof to collapse in May. When the Hale Irwin Golf Services Inc. renovation is completed, the American Golf Corp.-managed course will be known as the Norman K. Probst Community Golf Courses and Youth Learning Center.

ASL BUILDS FOR WILLOWBEND

BURLINGTON, Vt. — ASL Golf Course Construction has broken ground on a nine-hole addition for Willowbend Golf Development in Mashpee, Mass. After a long wait, Willowbend will become a 27-hole golf club with the addition to the private club on Cape Cod.

MUSKOSA SANDS' TABOO TO OPEN

GRAVENHURST, Ontario, Canada — At press time, TABOO at Muskosa Sands was scheduled to open to the public on June 28. The 7,123-yard Ron Garl design is the latest component of the resort's \$500 million, seven-year development program. Canadian pro golfer Mike Weir has chosen TABOO as the home of the first Annual Globe and Mail Charity Classic to be played Aug. 7 to benefit local children's charities.

INNOVATIVE ARCHITECT MUIRHEAD DEAD AT 79

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Golf course architect Desmond Muirhead died May 2 at age 79. The innovative and often controversial designer worked in partnership with such greats as Gene Sarazen, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and pushed the limits of golf course architecture with his own designs. Muirhead started in golf course design doing master plans for golf communities and published a book on the subject for the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. Some of his most notable layouts include Muirfield Village GC in Ohio, Mission Hills G&CC and Desert Island CC in California and Aberdeen G&CC in Florida.

Editorial Focus: Renovations

Superintendents have many options for turf removal projects

By DEREK RICE

When it comes to renovation of greens, tees, fairways and roughs, there are a number of viable turf removal options out there. Which one courses decide to use depends on a number of factors, including what type of grass needs to be removed, whether disease is an issue and the size and scope of the renovation.

What follows are some examples of applications of the three most common turf-removal products: Roundup, Basamid and methyl bromide.

EASE OF USE

Perhaps the best known and most widely used product in the turf removal game is Monsanto Inc.'s Roundup. In recent renovations, superintendents Jeff Benedict of the University Club of Kentucky in Lexington and Michael Dieckhoff of Spring Creek Ranch in Collierville, Tenn., used Roundup to prepare for a turf

conversion.

In Benedict's case, he was looking to re-grass fairways as part of an overall renovation. Because of the scope of the project — spread over 26 acres — as well as a recommendation from the consultant on the project, he chose the Roundup solution.

"We were re-grassing all the fairways so we sprayed Roundup to kill it off so it would be easier

to till back under and strip," he said. "It was pretty easy, and it killed all the Poa annua and things, but we had enough Poa annua seeds in the ground that we've got Poa annua again now."

Dieckhoff said he looked at the other alternatives, but decided that the cons outweighed the pros in those cases.

"To get grass growing and take up Roundup and translocate it through the plant, we felt it would give us a total kill,"

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A grounds worker applies Basamid with a drop spreader for turf fumigation.

LandBank focuses on natural space

By DEREK RICE

ATLANTA — LandBank Development Corp. is hoping to make Deep Creek Golf Club and the accompanying housing development its first "conservation community" when the project breaks ground in early June, said Bob Johnson, LandBank vice president. The project is under consideration for recognition by the Nature Conservancy.

At the center of building a conservation community, Johnson said, is allowing the land to dictate the placement of roads and houses, rather than the inverse.

"It's more of the concept of a golf course, where you're cutting through trees and doing a sight line, then siting the greens," he said. "We're carrying over the concept from developing golf courses and trying to imitate that aesthetic value of golf and create that aesthetic value in home placement."

Working in conjunction with golf course architect Steve Smyers, LandBank hopes this is the first of many conservation communities co-developed with golf courses as their centerpieces. Johnson said the time is right for marrying these two concepts.

"The time has come to put the two pieces together," he said. "We've done it

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Editorial Focus: Renovations

Bunker lining, drainage companies look to renovation

By DEREK RICE

Renovation and remodeling work at golf courses is on the rise for a number of reasons. Land is hard to come by in some areas, nine-hole courses want to add another nine and older courses need updating to remain competitive. In nearly every case, bunkers are among the components slated for renovation.

Because of these factors, many of the bunker lining and drainage companies are increasingly targeting the renovation market for their products.

THE 'CURE' FOR WASHOUTS

Both Bunker Woll, which is manufactured by F.P. Woll and Co. and distributed by Gladstone, N.J.-based Bunker Net Inc., and Sandtrapper from Johnson City, N.Y.-based IVI-Golf, are primarily used on bunker faces to reduce silt contamination and washouts, but can also be used to aid in erosion control on other areas, such as steep banks, cart paths, creek banks and washed-out areas.

"Essentially, we recommend Bunker Woll wherever there is a problem with washouts, contamination or erosion," said Nadine Christ, Bunker Net president.

Because steeper faces require a more aggressive material, IVI has introduced Sandtrapper in two styles, one for gentler situations and the other for steeper and more severe slopes, according to Wayne Rozen, IVI president.

"Washouts and contamination have been problems for as long as there has been golf and rain," he said.

Renovation projects are becoming a larger part of the demand for Sandtrapper, Rozen said.

"We have equal call for Sandtrapper in both the renovation market, where it is used to 'cure' chronic bunker washout problems, and in new construction, where experience has told the architect, builder and superintendent that bunker washouts and sand contamination are continuing to cost golf clubs and courses big dollars in repairs," Rozen said.

Currently, Christ said, about 500 courses use Bunker Woll or Bunker Aid, a synthetic product Bunker Net introduced in response to the popularity of Bunker Woll.

"With the success of Bunker Woll, we felt it was important to offer a more durable product that is thicker than the other synthetics on the market and has the netting on the back to help keep the material intact," Christ said.

Of course, Christ said, Bunker Woll isn't a miracle product that can do it all on its own.

"For any product on the market to be most effective, you need to have the proper sand selection and

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The 11-year prep for 2003 Open

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill. — If not for a couple of "major" distractions, Mark Mungeam's renovation of Olympia Fields Country Club (OFCC) would have been completed earlier.

Course architects Cornish, Silva and Mungeam started work at the 36-hole facility in 1991, with the goal of refurbishing the club's North Course, a 1923 Willie Park Jr. design, before moving on to the South Course.

Eleven years, two remodels and one Senior Open later, the South Course is still awaiting its renovation. But there is good reason for that — the North Course is scheduled to host the U.S. Open next summer.

In 1994, three years into work at Olympia Fields, the USGA awarded the club the 1997 Senior Open. So Mungeam spent the next three years working with the USGA to fine-tune the North Course in anticipation of the senior golf event.

Because Mungeam's work was so well received during the championship, the USGA awarded Olympia Fields the 2003 U.S. Open, which will be the first Open the club has hosted in 75 years.

As a result, Mungeam was retained to complete another redesign of the course for the championship. What had been a



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Bunkers

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drainage," she said.

Since its introduction at the GCSAA show last year, Sandtrapper has been installed in more than 100 courses.

Because the product is synthetic and rugged in nature, it will not degrade and will be around for the long haul, Rozen

said, eliminating the need for replacement in just a few years.

DRAINAGE

In the drainage game, EzFlow, offered by Ring Industrial Group in St. Augustine, Fla., has taken the lead. Made from a polystyrene aggregate, Ezflow drainage products are designed to be used in a variety of applications, including sand traps, fairways, greens, wet areas, French

drains and landscaping drainage.

Ben Berteau, regulatory engineer for Ring Industrial, said the use of Ezflow is designed to eliminate the potential of damaging mowers on fairways and greens by surfacing gravel. He said the company has also experienced a surge in the renovation area, but that it isn't specifically targeting that area.

"We're not stopping there,"

Berteau said. "Certainly there is a market for our product in renovation and remodeling of golf courses, but the market is much broader than that. Golf courses are being built every day and we want to be available with our product, as well as offering support in drainage designs."

Ezflow is currently in use by more than 25 golf courses, Berteau said. ■

Pebble Beach

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was larger than anticipated, an 80-wheel self-leveling trailer had to be used.

Once the tree was loaded the next challenge was to drive it to the new location more than a mile away. The trailer was hauled and pushed by massive tractors across a plywood roadway that was created by Pebble Beach employees who continually shuffled sheets ahead of the tree. It took more than five hours to make the journey.

"I have moved bigger things but I have never done a job in such a pristine setting. I was really worried that we would tear up the grass, but the waiters, caddies, and course workers who pitched in made all the difference," said Guy Tunnell of Sheedy Crane and Rigging.

With the tree in the new location, getting it into the hole took some effort. Crews had created a 10 percent grade roadway in order to drive the trailer down into the ground so that the tree would sit at the proper elevation. The sandy soil was softer than anticipated and combination of trucks and tractors had to drag the trailer into place.

Throughout the commotion play continued. A foursome of players from Australia, who had made arrangements to play on this day a year ago, were enthralled by the activity.

"I never thought I would have to drive around a crane on one and putt out on 18 next to tractor trailer truck, but it didn't bother us in the slightest. To be honest we found this all very exciting" one player said.

After positioning the tree, the job of returning the golf course to optimum playing conditions fell into the hands of the Pebble Beach crew under the supervision of superintendent Tom Huesgen. Crews had stockpiled soil removed from the first hole location in order to backfill the tree with compatible soil. Crews had to repair surface damage on the first and 18th fairways and then compact and grade the areas around the tree to prep for resodding. The bunker between the tree and the 18th green will also be rebuilt. Support cables will be on the tree for the next two years to allow the roots to take hold. Huesgen figured to have the areas open to play within a week.

"To be honest, I expected more damage to the fairways from the moving of the tree. There were a few glitches along the way, but that always happens in construction projects. This was one of the most overwhelming projects we have done here at Pebble, and one of the most satisfying," Huesgen said. ■

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Turf removal

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Dieckhoff said. "Methyl bromide and Basamid sterilize everything and you get a good kill out of it but it is really cost- and time-prohibitive, in my opinion."

In the end, the cost as well as Roundup's ease of use led Dieckhoff to go with Roundup.

"You can just go out and spray it, and what dies dies, and if it doesn't, you go out and hit it

again and then you have everything," he said.

Because construction fell behind schedule, Benedict said, he ended up having to re-spray in some areas.

"We did have to re-spray a few times because we did our renovation during the summer months and you always have new weeds coming in," he said. "I tried to spray a week to 10 days out before they were seeding to keep it cleaned up."

GRANULAR FUMIGATION

Don Brown, superintendent of White Manor Country Club in Malvern, Pa., decided to go with Basamid, a granular fumigant from BASF, for his turf fumigation later this summer. Beginning in August, Brown will be fumigating all the fairways, fairway surrounds and green surrounds as part of an overall renovation that began earlier this year.

"We're going to use Basamid in order to end up with the purest stand of bentgrass and kill all the weeds from the Poa annua," he said. "Except for the routing, this isn't going to be the same golf course anymore. It's a complete blow-up and redo."

Brown said his decision to use Basamid was based on many factors, including input from other superintendents in the area.

"From the results that I've seen at local clubs, along with the university research, I really didn't see any other product out there that was even comparable," he said.

One of those local clubs is Philadelphia Country Club in Gladwyne, Pa. Superintendent Mike McNulty used Basamid to kill his perennial ryegrass fairways, which had become susceptible to grey leaf spot disease. The results, he said, "were beyond our expectations."

Brown hopes to see similar results with his Basamid appli-

cation, which he said should take about two weeks between application and seeding.

"I'm anticipating making the application, irrigating for about a week, and then within another



Don Brown's Basamid application, scheduled for later this summer, is part of an overall renovation project at White Manor GC in Malvern, Pa.

week, we should be seeding," he said. "It should be 10 to 14 days between application and seeding."

To be effective, Basamid requires constant watering for about a week. The water acts as a sealant and keeps the gas in the soil.

UNDER-COVER FUMIGATION

At Aronimink Golf Club in Newton, Pa., superintendent Rick Holanda considered using Basamid for his turf fumigation, but decided against it because of the need for water.

"The one problem you have with Basamid is that you have to have available water because you have to keep the surface wet for seven days consistently," he said. "You cannot let the soil dry out or it will not be effective."

Instead, Holanda went with methyl bromide for his greens and about 20 yards of fairway on the approach to the greens. For

the rest, he used Roundup.

"We had a lot of Poa on our greens, and we also had a lot of problems with a disease called bacteria wilt," he said. "So we decided instead of just killing the plant, we wanted to completely sterilize the soil to get rid of all the nematodes and weeds. We wanted to start from completely fresh, sterilized soil."

Holanda said the application involved stripping the area to be fumigated and covering it with a large, clear plastic tarp with piping spread throughout it. From there, the gas was injected into the soil for two to three days. After that, he had to allow two to three more days for aerification before the area was ready for re-seeding.

"You're looking at about six days from the beginning until you're ready to seed," he said. "And you get a much better result with the area covered because you retain all the gases."

One drawback to methyl bromide use is its danger to the Earth's ozone layer, which has been documented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Because of a number of factors, however, the USDA continues to allow for its use.

According to the USDA's Web site, "There is no known single alternative fumigant, chemical or other technology that can readily substitute for methyl bromide in efficacy, low cost, ease of use, wide availability, worker safety and environmental safety below the ozone layer." The USDA is currently conducting and encouraging research to develop an alternative to methyl bromide. ■

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Open site

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6,700-yard layout in 1991 played at 6,922 yards (par 70) during the 1997 Senior Open. For next year's U.S. Open, it will play more than 7,150 yards because Mungeam and the USGA lengthened 12 of 18 holes.

"The USGA, of course, has very specific desires when it comes to prepping a U.S. Open layout: creating enough pin placements, orienting fairway bunkers to place a premium on accuracy and things of that nature," Mungeam said. "My job has been to marry those desires with the goals of our original restoration effort. Having done that, maybe now we can finally get to work on the South Course."

Plans are currently being developed to rework the entire third hole and the tees at the fourth and 11th on the South Course. A serious remodeling of the 1916 Tom Bendelow design will not begin in earnest until after next year's U.S. Open. ■