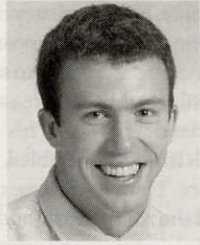


Labor Day has come and gone but hard work still remains

Most superintendents look forward to Labor Day because it signals the unofficial end of the summer season. As throngs of golfers begin to thin out and hot weather moderates, the pressure on superintendents usually begins to ease. All that's left to do is concentrate on fall clean-up work.



Andrew Overbeck, editor

However, due to the drought conditions that plagued much of the United States this summer, many superintendents are facing the arduous task this fall of preparing already stressed turfgrass for winter. For courses in drought-affected areas that stay open year-round, it will be even tougher to maintain playable conditions.

In this month's issue, Kathy Antaya, an agronomist with the United States Golf Association's Green Section, walks us through the difficulties of repairing turf damage while still obeying water restrictions (see page 7). Her message is clear: courses will have to use alternative cultivation strategies to minimize damage and maximize recovery. Superintendents will have to aerate more delicately, seed more vigorously and apply fertilizer more regularly. More aggressive turf renovation practices will

likely have to wait until spring.

This means golfers will have to learn to live with damaged areas and less-than-perfect playing conditions and superintendents will, as usual, bear the brunt of

their complaints.

Frustration levels are already running high as helpless superintendents realize their untenable situation. "If I could have done something to solve the problem, I would have done it by now," an exasperated superintendent said to me about his inability to minimize the impact drought was having on his course.

Since these conditions do not lead to high job retention rates, it is now more critical than ever to explain specific drought-related difficulties to course officials and golfers.

Superintendents need to take the time to communicate and let golfers know what impact the drought is having on the course,

why certain areas are damaged and what steps are being taken to bring the course back to more playable conditions. In the meantime, though, golfers will have to accept the damage and move on.

This will require superintendents to be more proactive and course management to be more under-

dated design. While the sections and monthly features remain the same, we have changed our typefaces and improved the layout to make news and information more visible, readable and accessible.

The last six months here at GCN have been busy as we have added to and readjusted our editorial content



standing. As Antaya puts it in her article, "compromise will be key."

...

As you may have already noticed, *Golf Course News* has an up-

to better reflect the evolution of the industry. We encourage reader feedback as we work to further solidify our position as the business newspaper for the golf course industry.

POINT

Single-year renovation plans provide more advantages

By JEFFREY D. BRAUER

Your parents and grandparents probably gave you much advice, such as warning you about the problems of excessive debt. Remembering the depression, they were financially conservative. However, they also told you, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right the first time," and "Better to do it today than tomorrow."

In golf course renovation, this advice often collides. Historically, master plans for phased renovation were nearly universal because they kept courses open and avoided large expenses and debt. Since this approach also has pitfalls, I usually recommend to owners who have the ability to borrow money to accomplish as much as they can immediately.

You can avoid many problems by adopting a single-year renovation program as opposed to a multi-year program. Architecturally, a multi-year plan often results in inconsistencies in:

- Design. An architect's style changes – assuming the club utilizes the same architect over the long haul.
 - Construction. Different contractors have different shaping and construction techniques.
 - Play. Older USGA greens play differently than newer ones and suppliers go out of business, so you may not get the same material for greens mix or bunker sand.
 - Maintenance. All of the problems above may necessitate separate maintenance regimens for every hole. Avoiding these problems will save money in the long term.
- Image wise, short-term programs avoid or minimize problems of:
- Resentment. Golfers won't get mad because of continuing course



Jeffrey D. Brauer

Continued on next page

COUNTERPOINT

Multi-year renovation plans maximize financial resources

By BOB LOHMANN

When enacting a renovation plan, should courses bite the bullet and suffer the slings and arrows of revenue streams gone completely dry? Or should they spread the work over a few years, thereby testing the patience and loyalty of golfers who are obliged to play temporary greens in the company of bulldozers and sod-cutters?

These are the questions facing course owners who live and die by how, and how well, these questions are answered. It is the job of the architect to help them make the best-informed, most practical decision possible.

At Lohmann Golf Designs, we've done dozens of renovation jobs where the course was closed down completely, remodeled and reopened the next playing season. We've executed dozens more on the installment plan. And while the architect himself is often better served by shutting a course down and completing renovations in one fell swoop, oftentimes the client is best served by spreading out renovation/restoration work over the course of several playing seasons.

Why? The answer is simple and predictable: money. It's difficult to come up with the \$2 million to \$5 million needed to overhaul an entire 18-hole golf course these days. For a majority of operators, that kind of money isn't always available – not all at once. It is the architect's responsibility to maximize a client's available cash, which often means creatively planning, staging and executing renovations over two or three years, sometimes longer.

My firm just broke ground on the renovation of Randall Oaks Golf Course, a municipal facility in Dundee, Ill. We've been working with the course doing small bits of our master plan, since 1986. Last year,



Bob Lohmann

Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE BUSINESS NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY
www.golfcoursenews.com

Publisher

Jonathan Whitney

Editor

Andrew Overbeck

Managing Editor

Derek Rice

Contributing Writers

Kevin Ross, CGCS

Doug Saunders

John Torsiello

Production Director

Joline Gilman

Editorial Advisory Board

Raymond Davies, CGCS

CourseCo

Kevin Downing, CGCS

Willoughby Golf Club

Tim Hiers, CGCS

The Old Collier Golf Club

Ted Horton, CGCS

Ted Horton Consulting

Dr. Michael Hurdzan

Hurdzan, Fry Golf Course Design

Mary P. Knaggs

Bass Rocks Golf Club

James McLoughlin

The McLoughlin Group

Kevin Ross, CGCS

Country Club of the Rockies

Editorial Office

Golf Course News

106 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997

Yarmouth, ME 04096

207-846-0600; Fax: 207-846-0657

aoverbeck@golfcoursenews.com

drice@golfcoursenews.com

ADVERTISING OFFICES

Golf Course News

106 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997

Yarmouth, ME 04096

207-846-0600; Fax: 207-846-0657

Midwest, Western U.S. Sales:

Jonathan Whitney

207-846-0600, ext. 263

jwhitney@golfcoursenews.com

Eastern U.S. Sales:

Michael Pajak

207-846-0600, ext. 223

mpajak@golfcoursenews.com

Marketplace and Classifieds

Anne Washburn

207-846-0600, ext. 230

awashburn@golfcoursenews.com

Subscription Information

Golf Course News, P.O. Box 3047

Langhorne, PA 19047

215-788-7112

.....

For reprint information on orders of

500 copies or more, please call PARS

International at (212) 221-9595, or

e-mail jeclipse@parsintl.com.

.....

United Publications Inc.

Publishers of specialized business magazines.

Chairman: Theodore E. Gordon

President: J.G. Taliaferro Jr.



Copyright ©2002 by United Publications Inc. All rights reserved and reproduction, in whole or in part, without written permission from the publisher is expressly prohibited.