

Industry news

GCSAA releases survey results

Lawrence, Kan. – Golf course superintendents offered their opinions about how to speed up play in the 2004 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Leadership Survey. The computer-based survey questioned more than 900 superintendents about trends in golf and golf course management.



Respondents cited shortening of rough (38 percent), slowing of greens (26 percent) and widening of fairways (14 percent) as the most effective ways to speed up play. When asked the same question in 1999, 14 percent said slowing green speed would speed up play.

Superintendents were asked what golf course management practice has had the most positive impact on the environment. Fifty-five percent said an increase of environmental awareness and knowledge was the biggest contributor. Improved irrigation techniques and technologies was second at 18 percent. When asked the same question four years ago, 1 percent said irrigation techniques had the biggest impact.

Superintendents have produced improved playing surfaces partly because researchers have developed turfgrass varieties that withstand weather, traffic and disease better, and require less water and labor and fewer plant protectants. These include seeded Bermudagrass, new bentgrass and seashore paspalum. Sixty-three percent of respondents said they've used a variety of new turfgrasses. Thirty-three percent said they've used them in limited areas, while a quarter said they've used them in several locations, including greens. Five percent said they've used them everywhere on their course.

While half of those surveyed believe the advances in technology are somewhat bad or very bad for the game, 28 percent said the maintenance of their course has changed to compensate for the increased distance. When asked the same question in 1999, 18 percent said they changed their course to compensate.

10 ways to fight spring dead spot

Florence, S.C. and Raleigh, N.C. –

Preventing and controlling spring dead spot disease can be one of the biggest challenges for golf course superintendents in the transition zone. Research about this disease that causes brown patches to appear during spring led to new recommendations to help prevent and control it. Turf researchers Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson University and Dr. Lane Tredway of North Carolina State have compiled a list of the top 10 ways to fight spring dead spot disease. They are:

1. Reduce nitrogen levels in the fall
2. Provide ample potassium
3. Relieve soil compaction
4. Maintain proper soil pH
5. Control thatch
6. Cultivate in spring to encourage recovery
7. Avoid dinitroaniline herbicides in affected areas
8. Improve soil drainage
9. Apply preventive fungicides
10. Relieve other stress factors.

Ryegrass varieties perform well

Mississippi State, Miss. – In the 2003-2004 Bermudagrass fairway overseeding trials at Mississippi State University, Vixen perennial ryegrass and Par 5 perennial ryegrass blend were top performers in turf quality and color ratings.

Vixen perennial ryegrass was No. 1 in overall turf quality in the trials of new and experimental cultivars. From November through May, Vixen had the top score of 5.9 in turf quality. Par 5 Blend, which includes Vixen and Icon perennial ryegrass from Burlingham Seeds, rated a 5.7 in turf quality for the same period. With a least significant difference of 0.2, Par 5 ranked in the top statistical group also.

In color ratings, Vixen ranked fourth, and Par 5 Blend ranked seventh in dark color, again rating in the top group with a high score of 6.9 and a least significant difference of 0.4. For a copy of the study, call 800-221-7333.

Engineer gives tips to build courses

Las Vegas – Frank Protiva, vice president of Shephard-Wesnitzer, a Northern Arizona civil engineering and surveying firm, presented "Golf Course Design and Engineering for Affordable Golf" to the Urban Land Institute during the national conference in Las Vegas this summer.

Protiva's presentation for the Developing Golf Courses and Communities Conference focused on creating affordability via golf course design. Presenting with Protiva were Todd Jester of Jester Design and Dan Devere of Flagstaff Ranch Golf Club.

Protiva stressed key ways to create an affordable golf course community, including working with existing conditions as much as possible and minimizing areas of irrigated turf. Protiva says having a team consisting of a golf designer, land planner, engineer and superintendent is important for creating an affordable golf course design successfully.

Construction tips include minimizing earthwork techniques, keeping higher elevation on the outside of a dogleg and putting lakes in lower elevations. He also recommends avoiding bridges and bulkheads when designing courses.

Premier Golf to buy courses

Santa Monica, Calif. – NGP Realty Sub, American Golf Corp. and Premier Golf Management made an agreement in which Premier Golf will purchase all of National Golf's and American Golf's golf properties in Texas. The transaction is expected to close before year's end.

The Texas portfolio comprises 21 properties in Texas: the Great Southwest Golf Club, Thorntree Country Club, The Trails of Frisco Golf Club, Mesquite Golf Course, Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course, Riverchase Golf Club, The Tribute at the Colony and Twin Wells Golf Course in Dallas; the Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club, Sweetwater Country Club, Walden on Lake Houston, Willow Fork Country Club, Bear Creek Golf World, Longwood Golf Club, Southwyck Golf Club, World Houston Golf Course in Houston; The Club at Sonterra and the Pecan Valley Golf Club in San Antonio; and the Berry Creek Country Club and the Riverside Golf Course in Austin.

Golf Industry Show to add another organization

Lawrence, Kan. – The Club Managers Association of America will join the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the National Golf Course Owners Association in presenting the Golf Industry Show.



The inaugural Golf Industry Show, which combines the GCSAA and NGCOA trade shows, will be held Feb. 10-12, 2005 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. The CMAA will become associated with the event in 2007 in Anaheim, Calif.

"We have spent years of cooperative dialogue with our allied associations, and we are delighted to move forward with this initiative, says CMAA c.e.o. Jim Singerling. "By collaborating with the GCSAA and the NGCOA, we embrace a new experience for our respective members, industry partners and vendors."

While the trade shows of the three organizations will be combined to form a new event, each will retain autonomous education conferences that will run concurrently with the Golf Industry Show. The objective is to present a trade show that represents significant aspects of a golf operation – ownership, feasibility and design, construction and operations.

Superintendents win trip to show

Lawrence, Kan. – Bayer Environmental Science and The Environmental Institute for Golf are sending five golf course superintendents to the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Feb. 7-12. The purpose of the Bayer Superintendent Grant Program is to assist superintendents with their professional development through participation in the events at the annual conference and trade show. Winners receive airfare, hotel accommodations for six nights, conference registration, two educational seminars, two tickets to the President's Celebration and a \$200 expense stipend.

Winners are: Chuck Gay of Gainesville, Fla.; Edward M. Goodhouse of the Torrington (Conn.) Country Club; Ward Pepperman of the Faldo Golf Institute by Marriott in Orlando, Fla.; Dan W. O'Brien of the Newburg Village Golf Club in Cherry Valley, Ill.; and Matthew H. Roos of Hickory Sticks in Ann Arbor, Mich.

PSU's turf program courts applications

University Park, Pa. – Applications are being accepted for Penn State's two-year golf course turfgrass management pro-

gram for the class beginning in September 2005. There's a fee of \$35, and the deadline is March 1. Applications can be obtained by calling 814/863-0129.

Association news

Issues discussed at GCBAA meeting

Milwaukee – Several topics were discussed at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual summer meeting. They were: how builders can improve the process of getting paid on time; how builders can protect their workers and prevent being fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; an update about the United States Golf Association's research of greens that included subsurface drip irrigation and alternative materials for drainage layers; advances in equipment technology that explain why golfers are hitting the ball farther; the PGA's program, Play Golf America, that encourages more people to play golf; how to create a wetlands area on golf courses to solve storm water problems; and ideas about how to reduce the cost of building a golf course.

Members suggested they remain diligent and timely in keeping track of and submitting invoices, perform due diligence on owners and not sue owners when not getting paid on time.

As for building less expensive golf courses, architects suggested choosing sites that don't need a lot of earth moved and to look at all line items to see where money can be saved.

Audubon program adds golf courses

Selkirk, N.Y. – The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program added more facilities, bringing the number to 2,287. Also, 490 golf courses have been certified as Audubon



Cooperative Sanctuaries. The program is working with 118 active members representing 50,000 acres in 33 states, as well as in Canada, China, Portugal, Puerto Rico and South Africa. The number of Certified Audubon Signature Sanctuaries is 49.

Two facilities have been designated as Certified Signature Sanctuaries: the ACE Club in Lafayette Hill, Pa., where John Canavan is superintendent; and

The Kaluhyat Course at Turning Stone Casino Resort Golf Courses in Verona, N.Y., where Joe Baidy is director of golf courses and grounds.

RISE adds members

Washington – Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment recruited 16 new members at the annual meeting of PrimeraTurf, a purchasing cooperative for independently owned companies engaged in the distribution and resale of professional turf, horticulture and landscape products. Representatives from RISE were invited to the Cleveland meeting to educate and recruit new members for the association, which represents the specialty pesticide and fertilizer industries.

To date this year, RISE has recruited 25 new members who receive industry reports and updates and can participate on committees and attend educational workshops, and the annual meeting.

Students awarded golf scholarships

Lawrence, Kan. – Twenty-five college students were awarded scholarships from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and The Environmental Institute for Golf. The EIFG awards scholarships annually to students planning careers as golf course superintendents. The awards are based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement, leadership and employment. Judging also includes evaluations from the student's superintendent and faculty adviser and a three-part essay.

The Mendenhall Award of \$6,000 is given in memory of Chet Mendenhall, a charter member of the GCSAA. He was a director of GCSAA from 1940-46 and president in 1948. John Kauffman of The University of Arkansas is this year's Mendenhall recipient.

The MacCurrach Award of \$5,000 is funded by the PGA Tour and honors Allan MacCurrach, the PGA Tour's first agronomist, who, in 1974, helped establish the standard of excellence for course conditioning at PGA Tour events. Kevin Carroll of SUNY Cobleskill is the MacCurrach recipient.

Legacy Awards announced

Lawrence, Kan. – Twenty high school and college students, all sons, daugh-

ters or grandchildren of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America members, have been named 2004 Legacy Award winners.

The awards, funded by Syngenta Professional Products and administered by The Environmental Institute for Golf, are available to GCSAA members' children and grandchildren who are enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or who've been accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.

Since the inception of the Legacy Award Program in 1991, 170 winners have been recognized with awards totaling more than \$250,000. A committee of six educators and/or college administrators selected the 2004 winners based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement, leadership, outside employment and an original essay. This year, 131 applications (74 college and 57 high school) were received, an increase of 27 percent compared with last year. Eight \$1,500 scholarships went to graduating high school seniors, and 12 went to students currently enrolled in college.

Course news

Berkshire Valley designed by RBA

Jefferson, N.J. – The 18-hole, par-71 Berkshire Valley Golf Course opened in May. The 6,800-yard course was built on 600 acres of land. The maintenance building opened in June, and the clubhouse and restaurant are expected to open this



Berkshire Valley Golf Course opened this spring in New Jersey.

month. Berkshire Valley is the largest public golf course in Morris County and the first to open in the county since 1985. Mark Jaretsky is the superintendent.

More than 10 years ago, Morris County Department of Parks and Recreation started to investigate the site as a location for a new golf course. It hired The RBA Group, and RBA prepared a comprehensive development package from site fea-

sibility to construction inspection for an 18-hole championship golf and practice facility on 400 acres. Before designing the course, RBA evaluated all of the environmental constraints, including wetlands, buffers, floodplains, soils, vegetation, endangered species, water quality, groundwater, zoning and utilities.

Somerby opens in Minnesota

Byron Minn. – The private Somerby Golf Club opened recently. Designed by John Fought and Tom Lehman and built by Golden Tee Development, the 7,209-yard course features pockets of grassy wetlands,



The private Somerby Golf Club recently opened in Byron, Minn.

lakes and ponds that are integrated into the bentgrass fairways and approaches. The par-72 course has five sets of tees, and from the gold tees, it has a slope of 147 and a 75.0 rating. The course also features a 37,00-square-foot, English-manor-style clubhouse. Casey Colin is the course superintendent, and Brian Jones is the director of operations.

Somerby is a new residential community and golf course that sits on 450 acres of rolling hills with thick stands of trees and 26 acres of natural wetlands.

Permit approved for golf project

Olympia Wash. – The state Department of Ecology approved the water-quality permit for The Links at Half Moon Bay, a proposed golf course and resort in Westport. The 401 permit is a water-quality certification named after a section in the federal Clean Water Act. The certification assures the project will protect water quality to meet the state's standards.

Conditions in the certification require the project to manage its use of herbicides, storm water and waste water in a manner that protects wetlands, the shoreline and the ocean environment. The conditions require monitoring and reporting to ensure that the site stays in

compliance with the state's water quality standards. They also require wetlands be restored and preserved.

Several clubs get certified by Audubon

Oneida Nation Homelands, N.Y. – Audubon International selected the Kaluhyat Golf Club at Turning Stone Resort and Casino, which was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., as a Certified Signature Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, the Shenendoah Golf Club and Sandstone Hollow, both created by Rick Smith, have been officially recertified. Turning Stone is among 44 golf operations in the country and one of two in New York State to receive the status.

The three courses were designed, constructed and are maintained incorporating the existing ecosystems of the sites, ensuring that wetlands, native plant life and wildlife habitats remain undisturbed. A diverse population of wildlife, including deer, foxes and almost 100 species of birds, reside in natural buffer zones separating their dwellings from fairways and greens.

Turning Stone recently opened a championship-level golf course designed by Tom Fazio.

N.Y. course is first to open in years

Newcastle, N.Y. – The Mark Mungeam-designed Hudson Hills Golf Course opened this summer, which is the first time



Hudson Hills Golf Course recently opened in Newcastle, N.Y.

a public course debuted in Westchester County since the 1930s. The club closed down in 1982, when IBM purchased the property with plans to build a corporate research laboratory there. Those plans never materialized. The county stepped in, bought the land back and retained Mungeam to design a new golf course.

Developed by the Westchester County

Department of Public Works and operated by Billy Casper Golf Management, the course features significant elevation changes that Mungeam used to create a 6,935-yard, par-71 course with long views and dramatic shot values.

Rochelle Ranch opens in Wyoming

Tucson, Ariz. – In August, golf course architect Ken Kavanaugh was on hand for the grand opening of his latest de-

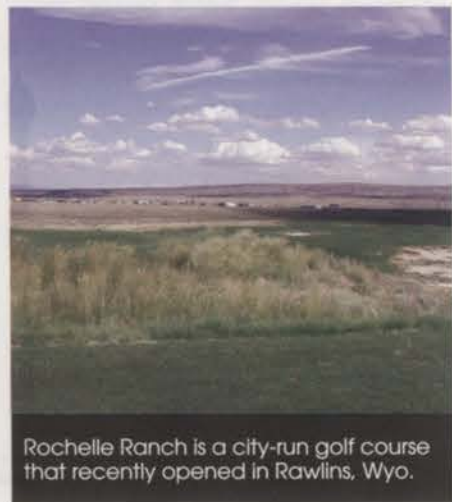


Photo: Rochelle Ranch

Rochelle Ranch is a city-run golf course that recently opened in Rawlins, Wyo.

sign, Rochelle Ranch, located in Rawlins, Wyo. Rochelle Ranch is a municipal golf course run by the City of Rawlins. The facility is a gift from local ranchers and investors Curt and Marian Rochelle, who wanted to give something back to their community.

Built by Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., the course measures 7,925 yards from the championship tees and 5,763 yards from the front markers. To accommodate a variety of players on a site that often features strong prairie breezes, Kavanaugh designed extra-wide, strategically bunkered fairways. The layout sports a rugged, rough-hewn look, with weathered, wind-blown bunkers and expansive sand dunes.

First Tee course opens in Minnesota

Blaine, Minn. – The National Youth Golf Center, home of The First Tee of Blaine, Minn., opened a new, 18-hole events course, which is the second phase of the comprehensive golf project developed by the National Sports Center. The first phase, completed four years ago, included an 18-hole putting course with bentgrass greens. PGA Tour Design Services designed and built both courses.

The goal of the new course is to field players from beginners to professionals

of all ages. The course measures 7,100 yards and is a par 71 with five par-3 holes. It also has a practice facility with target greens, a large turf tee and hitting pads.

When it's complete, the complex will consist of the putting course, the 18-hole competitive course and a nine-hole course. Currently, phase one and two are complete. The nine-hole course will start development in a couple years.

Developers and designers dealt with flight patterns related to geese and fowl, winds and wetlands. There's no open water on the course because it's a habitat for geese. There was minimal disruption to wetlands, but if wetlands were impacted, they were replaced on and off site at 2-to-1 ratio.

The events course is a blend of wild flowers, prairie grasses, bluegrass and fescue. Bunkers are built with minimal slope for easy maintenance. Greens are large to support various pin locations, and all greens are U.S. Golf Association standard. The grasses chosen for the course were dwarf bluegrass, mainly in the fairway because of their hardness to golf traffic. The roughs are mostly bluegrass with minimal fescue because of cart traffic. Greens are bentgrass. There are native areas outside of the roughs to give it the feel of a links style golf course.

The superintendent of the course is Jeff Reich.

Quinnatisset opens nine new holes

Thompson, Conn. – Quinnatisset Country Club, a private, member-owned golf club, opened nine new holes this summer. Designed and constructed by The Roger Rulewich Group, the new holes were built on the site of the original nine-hole golf course that opened in 1903. This original nine was 2,634 yards and crammed onto 33 acres. Club members purchased a contiguous 42 acre land parcel in 2001 for this expansion. None of the old holes or routing were used in the design. The Rulewich Group started construction in July 2003, and the course opened in June 2004.

The new nine measures 3,247 yards and will play, at least for this year, as the back nine. The front nine, designed by Geoffrey Cornish, opened in 1968 and measures 3,254 yards, bringing the new total yardage to 6,503. The Rulewich Group rebuilt the 10th green on the Cornish nine and added a new practice tee as well.

National Resort to lead growth of Florida resort

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. – National Resort Management Group now will manage the PGA National Resort & Spa. Patrick A. Corso, managing partner of Pinehurst, N.C.-based National Resort Management Group, heads a team charged with leading PGA National through a new phase of growth and renovation. National Resort Management Group replaces Dolce International.



Corso

Initial plans include improvements designed to have a significant impact on the quality of the guest experience.

"We will introduce caddies to the golf program, something we know golfers will welcome," Corso says. "We will develop a group of attractive, exclusive packages to attract golf groups in addition to our meeting customers. And we intend to install a guest feedback system that will tell us what else we need to be doing to improve our performance."

Jamaican course to get makeover

Montego Bay, Jamaica – Half Moon will invest more than \$1 million to upgrade its par-72, Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed golf course – the first phase of what's slated to be a two-year process.

Golf course architect Roger Rulewich will renovate the course's back nine holes, creating better site lines, wider fairways, reshaped fairway bunkers, reoriented tees for better angles and expanded greens.

Phase two, which is being planned for mid-2005, will focus on improvements to the course's front nine holes, moving the 19th Hole Bar located on the course and expanding the practice facilities of the David Leadbetter Golf Academy.

Nicklaus to design N. Carolina course

Southport, N.C. – St. James Properties retained Nicklaus Design to create the newest course in the Coastal Carolinas – The Reserve Club at St. James Plantation.

Plans are to develop an 18-hole course in the community's newest neighbor-

hood, The Reserve. The Reserve Club will bring the number of golf holes available to the members and guests of St. James Plantation to 81.

The design team will be led by Michael Nicklaus. The team said the par-72 layout will play more than 7,100 yards from the back tees, but will offer enough tees to accommodate players of all skill levels. The site is a good one from a designer's perspective because the terrain is rolling and consists of sandy soil, which is ideal for building golf courses, according to Nicklaus. The team complimented the native vegetation and the variety of wooded wetlands.

Courses in Egypt in different stages of development

Taba Heights and Makadi Bay, Egypt – Construction resumed on an 18-hole John Sanford-designed layout that's the

centerpiece of the Taba Heights Golf Resort, located under the table mountain of Taba Heights at the northern point of the Gulf of Aqaba near the border of Egypt and Israel. Course construction started in 2000. Much of the heavy earth work and rough grading were completed before construction was halted because of political unrest and economic difficulties in the area. Landmasters Construction, an Egyptian firm, is building the course for the Taba Heights Resort Co. The championship layout will play 7,050 yards from the back tees and feature smooth-rolling, salt-tolerant paspalum turfgrasses throughout.

South of Cairo is the 18-hole Sanford-designed Makadi Bay Golf Resort near Hurghada. It will be part of a five-hotel resort in Makadi Bay. Three new hotels and 200 villas are planned around the course, which will include a golf academy featuring a 20-acre practice range, nine-hole pitch-and-putt, and three practice holes.

The championship course will have six

sets of tees and reach almost 7,500 yards from the tips. The layout works its way through existing sand dunes, with elevation changes of 170 feet affording views of the hotels, Red Sea and mountains.

The golf academy is scheduled to open in a year and the full course in two years. The sandy topography will require minimal earth moving. Water will come from a deep well located in the mountains and be delivered to an irrigation pond located on the seventh and eighth holes. The course will be planted with paspalum grasses, which should thrive even with irrigation water containing 4,000 parts per million of salt.

Travco, an Egyptian travel agency and hotel operator, is the developer/owner.

Missouri club transforms driving range

St. Charles, Mo. – Whitmoor Country

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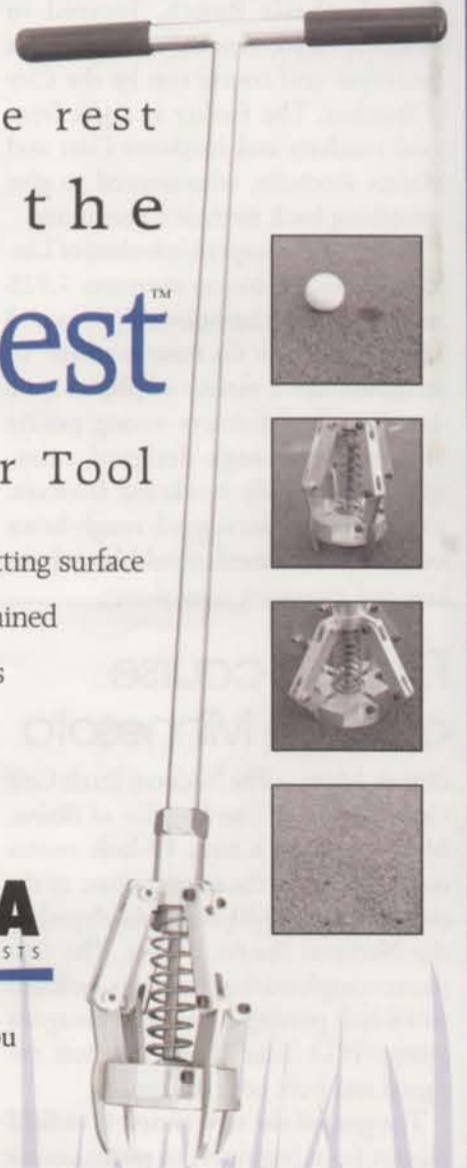
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Club transformed its driving range into a complete practice center. The new 40,000-square-foot range includes five target greens, four bunkers, and various visual and topographical changes, allowing members to work on every aspect of their game. The new facility is part of about \$20 million of capital improvements at the club. The ownership strives to ensure the club stays competitive in the coming decades and members are offered the most amenities and the highest level of service in the area. The private club offers 36 holes of championship golf.

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 - Accommodations, breakfast and dinner daily.

Package offered at Pinehurst Resort until May 2005

Pinehurst, N.C. – Pinehurst Resort will offer its championship package until May 28, 2005, two weeks before the U.S. Open Championship returns. The three-day/two-night Pinehurst Cham-

Supplier news

Advanced Aeration Systems, a company that provides subsurface aeration systems to golf courses throughout the country, established distribution agreements with Rain Bird and Toro golf course irrigation system distributors in: Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and Nevada. Additionally, the company completed installations at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio; Tucson (Ariz.) Country Club; Desert Mountain and Terravita Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz.; Preston Trail Golf Club in Dallas; The Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif.; The Traditions Club in Bryant, Texas; and Wade Hampton Golf Club in Cashiers, N.C.

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Bayer Environmental Science received supplemental registration from the Environmental Protection Agency for the addition of Curvularia to the 26GT fungicide label. The label states the product may be applied as a preventive treatment every 14 days at rates of 4 fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet. Curvularia is a leaf-spot fungus that causes spotting on grasses. 26GT fungicide is a broad-spectrum product registered for control of brown patch, dollar spot and a variety of other destructive turfgrass diseases.

Bayer Environmental Science sales representatives participated in Take Your Daughter to the Course Week in July. Sponsored partially by the National Golf Course Owners Association, the program is geared toward introducing golf to girls. Participating golf courses offered reduced green fees to junior golfers from select USGA Foundation-supported junior golf programs.

New Berlin (Wis.) Hills Golf Course hired Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik & Associates, an engineering consulting firm, to prevent erosion by stabilizing 3,300 feet of the Root River, which flows through the course. The \$225,000 project consisted of a geomorphic assessment of each reach and usage of native growing plants on regraded slopes with permanent turf reinforcement matting and in-stream treatment structures. Other project elements included a topographic survey, wetland delineation, hydraulic analysis and the submittal for and acquisition of grant funds for construction.

Nitamin fertilizers from Georgia-Pacific Resins are demonstrating improved turf performance in studies conducted by the company and its distributors in North Carolina, Georgia and Ohio. Also, turf studies using Nitamin fertilizer are under way at several universities with nationally recognized turfgrass science departments.

GPS Industries, a provider of global positioning and Wi-Fi wireless to golf courses, acquired international GPS patents in 13 countries: Great Britain, Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Japan and Australia.

Jacobsen is offering a promotion – No Pay 'til May – to its customers. It features zero down and zero payments for qualified customers until May 2005 for all golf and turf care equipment. The program started Aug. 2 and runs through Dec. 31.

Koch Cellulose now manufactures and markets BlueYellow, the turf establishment system that combines seed and fertilizer in a lightweight, biodegradable roll. Koch Cellulose acquired BlueYellow as part of a purchase deal struck with Georgia-Pacific.

LESCO released second quarter results

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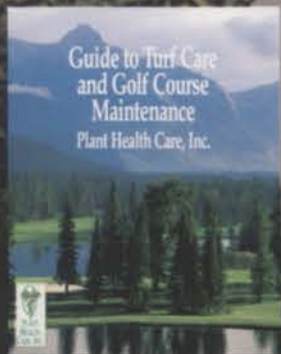
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Be assured that PHC mycorrhizal products are not made from non-spore propagules, reformulated or heat processed.

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For additional product information, distributor locations or to request a copy of *PHC's Guide to Turf Care and Golf Course Maintenance* Call **1-800-421-9051** or go online to www.planthealthcare.com

for the period ending June 30, 2004. Net sales during the quarter increased 6 percent to \$182.2 million from \$172.6 million last year. Golf gross sales grew almost 1 percent to \$42.0 million from \$41.7 million last year. Service center sales increased 7 percent to \$126.7 million from \$118.0 million for the same period a year ago. Same-store service center sales increased 1 percent. The company also donated \$30,000 to Project EverGreen.

Little Beaver, a manufacturer of earth drills and augers, launched its new Web site, www.littlebeaver.com. The improved Web site features user-friendly navigation tools in a newly designed page format. Seven product videos are available.

PBI/Gordon Corp. added a Spanish version of the SpeedZone Southern label and material safety data sheets to the corporate Web site, www.pbigordon.com.

Players Turf International installed a synthetic turf project in the Fossum Practice Facility at the Rearick Golf Complex at Michigan State University. The project included the installation of a 1,100-square-foot practice putting green and 442 square feet of PerfectTee tee line at the indoor facility. The company also installed 2,760 square feet of synthetic tee line turf at Covered Bridge Golf Club in Sellersburg, Ind.

Redexim Charterhouse welcomed Autrusa and Lewis Equipment Co. to its Antonio Carraro dealer network. Autrusa is in Perkiomenville, Penn., and Lewis Equipment is in Winter Haven, Fla.

SePro Corp., an agrichemical company, negotiated to purchase the former Zeneca research facility in Whitakers, N.C. It has been renamed the SePro Research and Technology Campus and includes a six-building aquatic research and technology complex with laboratories and 11 acres of specialized aquatic research ponds and mesocosms.

Vermeer launched an interactive Web site, www.vermeer.com, which is the first phase of a multifaceted campaign to open communication channels with its customers.

West Coast Turf adopted the United

States Standard Bushel of 1.244 cubic feet as its unit of measure for selling turfgrass sprigs. Sod companies historically have used a factored or turf bushel based on the amount of sprigs harvested from one square yard of sod.

Personnel news

Stallion Management, a Scottsdale, Ariz.-based golf course and real-estate management company, appointment **Kevin Jamros** director of instruction for the Desert Mirage Golf Academy in Glendale, Ariz.

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program hired **Dr. Jeff Krans**, retired professor of turfgrass science at Mississippi State University, on a part-time basis. Krans conducts site visits at university trial sites on behalf of NTEP.

Kevin Buntrock and **Don Ward**, owners of the Golf Club at Red Rock in Rapid City, S.D., celebrated one year of having 18 holes open for play by having their second charity event for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and South Dakota junior golf program.

Thomas R. Armitage is the vice president of the western region of the country for North Palm Beach, Fla.-based Advanced Aeration systems, and **Michael E. Gogel** is the director of field operations for the company.

BlueYellow added three employees: **John Martin**, an agronomist and former superintendent; **Jacqueline Wurtz**, a retail marketing and sales manager; and **Cindy Peeples**, a customer care manager.

Georgia-Pacific Resins appointed **James Wargo** technical service agronomist for Nitamin nitrogen fertilizer. Wargo coordinates the development of scientific communications detailing the benefits of Nitamin fertilizers.

Golf Ventures, a Lake-land, Fla.-based sup-

plier to the golf course maintenance industry, hired **Bill Schmidt** as equipment territory manager for the Fort Myers, Fla., area and **Randy Luther** as equipment territory manager for Northern Florida.



Wargo

GreenJacket Impermeable Turf Covers hired three outside sales representatives: **Pete Malcolm**, who will be responsible for New York, Connecticut and northern New Jersey; **Joe Lazaro** of Lazaro's Golf Course Supplies who will be responsible for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and southern Maine and New Hampshire; and **Tom Lovell** of Lovells Tribe who will be responsible for Montana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. The company also hired **Paul Jones** and **Tom Kientzle** of TeeShot, which will be responsible for sales and factory communications for Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Northwest Wisconsin.

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source added **Matt Armbrister** as associate brand manager to its marketing team.



Armbrister

Peoria, Ill.-based **Players Turf** hired two project designer/installers, **Jeff Gross** and **Donnie Bailey**, who recently joined the company to increase its operational capability.

Igor Archipov joined **Rain Bird** as a senior manufacturing engineer for the golf division.

Geo Gatev is the new golf area manager for Japan and Korea for **Rain Bird International**.

Seed Research of Oregon presented **Frank Lopes** of **ProSource One** in Watkinville, Ga., its 2003 marketing excellence award, which is given for outstanding efforts to promote and establish the **Seed Research** brand, its products and services.

Scott Boutilier was promoted to vice president of **Wellmark International's** Zoëcon and Starbar Groups. Boutilier also has been named a member of **Wellmark's** executive committee. GCN



Martin



Wurtz



Peeples