

Industry news



Experts say water conservation awareness needs to increase.

Photo: Rob Thomas

Panel examines conservation

Pasadena, Calif. – Environmental and water conservation experts examined landscape irrigation conservation initiatives and strategies at the second annual Intelligent Use of Water Summit, which was hosted by Rain Bird Corp. The symposium panel focused on the relationship among water conservation and landscape water use, water conservation policies and legislation, and potential programs and initiatives to increase awareness of the need to conserve water.

Taking place after a recent release of a United Nations report predicting an eminent and devastating global water shortage by the year 2025, the summit provided a venue for panelists to encourage civic and business leaders to promote water conservation. Panelists urged leaders to abide by current water-conservation policies and impose more strict water-regulation policies on their organizations.

The panelists included:

- Eric Klotz, water conservation and education section chief, Utah Division of Water Resources;
- Stuart Styles, director, Irrigation Training and Research Center;
- Robert Glennon, professor, University of Arizona, Rogers College of Law
- David Minner, professor, Iowa State University;
- John Neylan, manager, AGCSA Tech, Australian Golf Course Superintendent Association;
- Mark Welterlen, publisher, Grounds Maintenance; and
- Tim Blair, program manager, Water Use Efficiency, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Panelists' written submissions can be downloaded at www.rainbird.com.



PACE launches Super Journal

San Diego – Unpublished technical data generated by golf course superintendents, turf managers and researchers, and interns have a home in Super Journal, an online turf research journal published by the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute and accessible for free at www.paceturf.org.

Super Journal's submission require-

ments aren't as rigorous as an academic journal's, but PACE requires the basic principles of experimental design and data recording and summary be followed. A research guide has been provided on the Web site.

Super Journal includes reports by researchers such as Mary W. Olsen, Ph.D. and Michele J. Kohout, Ph.D., University of Arizona plant pathologists. Olsen and Kohout discovered Bermudagrass is a reservoir for the inoculum of the cool-season turfgrass disease, rapid blight.

Other articles are about insect management, reclaimed water management, conducting research projects and photographing turf diseases.

Super Journal seeks to provide a venue for:

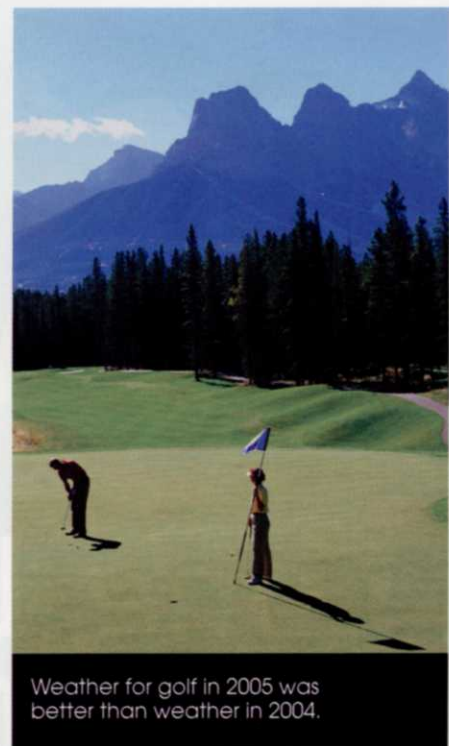
- Superintendents to publish the results of their turf research projects and to share their conclusions with fellow turf managers;
- Turf researchers to rapidly publish and disseminate their experimental results; and
- Superintendents who want help designing, carrying out, interpreting and/or summarizing turf research experiments.

Golf weather improves in 2005

Buffalo Grove, Ill. – 2005 closed with net favorable weather at the national level compared with 2004, according to Pellucid Corp. Golf playable hours in December was 4.6 percent higher than December 2004, which ensured the full-year weather comparison to remain positive – GPHs increased 1.6 percent in 2005.

National rounds in November outperformed weather for the first time in 2005 with a 10.4-percent increase, creating a weather-adjusted rounds index of 204 for the month.

"With half the country shut down for the winter, the weather information is now heavily influenced by the Sunbelt states where we saw double-digit gains in GPH across all three of the California reporting regions," says Pellucid president Jim Koppenhaver. "Florida and Texas also had positive Decembers, which added to their year-to-date increases. Positive results for 2005 were widespread with the breadth indicator showing 12 regions finishing with higher GPHs versus 2004 against six decliners producing a breadth



Weather for golf in 2005 was better than weather in 2004.

Photo: Rob Thomas

ratio of exactly 2:1."

For key state geographies where direct comparisons between GPH and rounds changes can be made, rounds generally have followed weather, but there's no linear correlation between the weather and rounds results.

"For every negative influence, there's generally an unheralded corresponding positive influence somewhere reducing the volatility of the weather variable across annual periods," Koppenhaver says. "By studying both local and macro results, we can paint a more accurate picture for serious business people regarding which direction and to what extent variances in weather helped or hurt them throughout the year."

Winners selected for environment

Lawrence, Kan. – Recognizing their commitment to environmental stewardship, Los Lagos Golf Course in San Jose, Calif., and its certified golf course superintendent, Alan R. Andreasen, were named the overall winners of the 2005 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

Syngenta Professional Products and Rain Bird Corp., Golf Division are the presenting partners of the award.

Judges selected winners in three national categories (public, private and resort courses), and an international winner, with an overall winner being selected from the group. The other national win-

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ners are (facility and chapter):

- National Private: David J. Faucher, CGCS, TPC at River's Bend, Maineville, Ohio; Greater Cincinnati GCSA.
- National Resort (tie): Troy E. Russell, Bandon (Ore.) Dunes Golf Resort; Oregon GCSA; and Anthony L. Williams, CGCS, Renaissance PineIsle Resort & Golf Club, Sugar Hill, Ga.; Georgia GCSA.
- International: Ben J. Marshall, Club Pelican Golf Course, Golden Beach, Queensland, Australia; Australian GCSA.

The winners were recognized Feb. 10, during the Golf Industry Show. Additionally, program sponsors will make donations to The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, in the names of all national and chapter winners.

The Environmental Leaders in Golf Award recognizes golf course superintendents and their courses for overall course management excellence in the areas of resource conservation, water quality management, integrated pest management, wildlife/habitat management and education/outreach. Additionally, these categories are judged on sustainability, criticality, originality and technology implementation/use.

Timeline extended for handicap index

Far Hills, N.J. – The U.S. Golf Association extended a grace period for golf clubs using the USGA Handicap System to be licensed to continue to provide a USGA Handicap Index until July 1. The original deadline was Jan. 1.

Licensing requires clubs to provide information demonstrating their compliance with the USGA Handicap System. Approvals can be issued directly from the USGA or from an authorized state or regional golf association. All clubs must contact an authorized golf association to initiate the licensing process, even if they're not member clubs of such an association. Visit the USGA Web site at www.usga.org for more information.



Survey reveals PGA perceptions

Palm Beach Gardens – A survey

commissioned by The PGA of America shows America's perceptions aren't reality and being a local PGA professional means more than just teaching.

Survey results show almost 90 percent of respondents think local PGA professionals spend as much as half their day giving golf lessons. Additionally, more than half of all respondents think local PGA professionals play more than four 18-hole rounds of golf in a typical week.

The PGA professional position has evolved, becoming more challenging and demanding. Results from PGA professionals show they rarely spend more than a quarter of their day giving golf lessons. Almost a third don't play an 18-hole round of golf in a typical week. PGA pros spend more time daily dealing with business matters in the clubhouse compared with giving lessons and working on their own game.



Additional results:

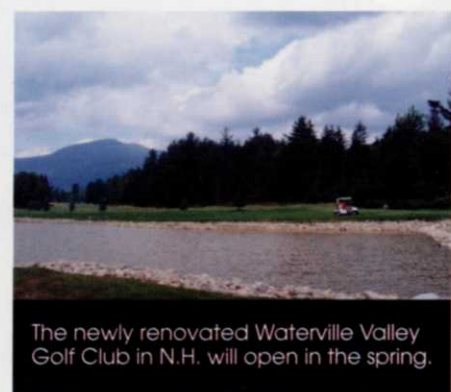
- 75 percent of PGA professionals surveyed work more than 50 hours a week.
- 15 percent spend more than a quarter of their day giving lessons, and 21 percent don't give lessons at all.
- Almost 60 percent of those who give lessons work with four or fewer students on an average day.
- Almost 90 percent of PGA professionals have played golf for more than 15 years.
- 68 percent took three or more years to become a PGA professional.
- 54 percent have a bachelor's degree.

Course news

Renovated course to open in spring

Waterville Valley, N.H. – A half-million dollar renovation of the nine-hole Waterville Valley Golf Club has been completed. The course, which will open in the spring of 2006, includes three new holes, the redesign of three existing holes, an irrigation system, new pro shop and a new half-acre pond. The course has four par-4 holes.

While improving the 108-year-old course, designers worked hard to retain the character and tradition of the club. The columns at the entry to the club's new pro shop are local timbers harvested



The newly renovated Waterville Valley Golf Club in N.H. will open in the spring.

on site, hand-peeled and resting on rocks taken from a stonewall that was removed during the renovation. The pro shop features a 24-foot-by-24-foot screened porch with views of nearby Mounts Tecumseh and Osceola, overlooking the new ninth green, which is nestled in the curve of a half-acre pond, which acts as a hazard, irrigation pond and safety feature.

The impetus for renovating the course, which generates about 16,000 rounds a year, came with a new residential development of adjacent land.

Monarch Dunes debut out West

Nipomo, Calif. – Monarch Dunes Golf Club, the first 18-hole golf course constructed within The Woodlands – a master-planned community in California's central coast – opened for public play Jan. 1. The par-71 championship design introduces links-style golf to central California's wine country. Monarch Dunes is the handiwork of El Dorado Hills-based architect Damian V. Pascuzzo of Graves & Pascuzzo. PGA Tour professional Steve



Monarch Dunes Golf Club is a links-style course in central California.

Pate also contributed to the project as a design consultant.

Long term, the development will comprise 45 golf holes – two premier 18-hole designs complemented by a nine-hole executive course – in addition to a clubhouse and driving range, 1,320 homes, a shopping center, business park and full-service resort.

During the first two months of operation, the course will accommodate 80 rounds per day.

Engh designs Blackstone course

Peoria, Ariz. – Sheer rock faces, undulating fairways and cavernous bunkers are among the natural features that define the golf course at Blackstone Country Club, which opened in November 2005. Architect James J. Engh created the private, 18-hole championship course.

The Engh team explored the valleys, arroyos and ridges of Blackstone and used Mother Nature's dramatic features to achieve a course that's playable yet challenging. Each hole offers its own distinctive attributes, such as lakes, serpentine bunkers, nearly hidden greens and rock walls.

Tucked between the ninth and 10th holes will be the Hacienda, a 30,000-square-foot clubhouse. Construction is under way and will be complete in later this year. Until then, a temporary clubhouse will be operated.

Equity social memberships and a limited number of golf memberships will be available.

Blackstone at Vistancia is a joint venture between Sunbelt Holdings and Shea Homes, both headquartered in Scottsdale.

Weed completes renovation jobs

Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. – Weed Golf Course Design recently finished renovation projects at the Pine Tree Golf Club and Brooksville Country Club. Pine Tree reopened to members in November 2005 following a select renovation to the 1962 Dick Wilson design. Bobby Weed and associate Scot Sherman molded the layout back to the flavor of the original course.

At Pine Tree, an upgrade to the irrigation system took place while all tees, fairways, greens and green surrounds were

fumigated and regrassed. All bunkers were rebuilt to the original design.

Additionally, a two-year, phased renovation was initiated during the summer at Brooksville. The renovation began with the construction of three new holes around an abandoned quarry. Future revisions are in the planning stages.

Beverly to host senior amateur

Far Hills, N.J. – The Beverly Country Club in Chicago was selected by the U.S. Golf Association as the site of the 2008 USGA Senior Amateur Championship Sept. 20 through 25. The 2008

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USGA Senior Amateur coincides with Beverly's 100-year anniversary.

The Beverly Country Club will be hosting its second USGA championship. Previously, the club hosted the 1931 U.S. Amateur. Beverly was founded in 1908 and features tree-lined fairways and the bunkering characteris-

tics of its architect, Donald Ross. Ron Prichard recently completed a revision of the course.

Beverly has hosted four Western Open Championships, three Women's Western Open Championships and the 1943 Chicago Victory National Open Championship.

Prior to 2008, the USGA Senior Amateur will be played at Victoria National Golf Club in Newburgh, Ind., Sept. 16 through 21, 2006, and at Flint Hills National Golf Club in Andover, Kan., Sept. 1 through 6, 2007.

Southern Hills to host amateur

Far Hills, N.J. – Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla., was selected as the site of the 2010 U.S. Amateur Championship Aug. 23 through 29. Southern Hills has hosted eight previous USGA championships, including three U.S. Opens. Designed by Perry Maxwell, Southern Hills opened in 1936.

Prior to 2010, the U.S. Amateur will be played at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Aug. 21 through 27, 2006; The Olympic Club in San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 20 through 26, 2007; Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort and Country Club Aug. 18 through 24, 2008; and Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., Aug. 24 through 30, 2009.

KemperSports manages Newport

Mustang Island, Texas – Developers of an 1,800-acre resort community on Texas' Mustang Island selected KemperSports to oversee development and operations management of Newport Golf Club. The resort's first 18-hole layout, an Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course, is part of the first phase of construction within the coastal community of Newport Beach and Golf.

When completed, the planned upscale community will include residential villages, multiple hotels, a marina, tennis and beach clubs and two golf courses. Newport Golf Club is scheduled to open in the summer of 2008.

People

Michael A. Stachowski and **Patrick Blum** were selected to receive the 2006 Excellence in Government Relations Awards for their commitment to government relations in the areas of advocacy and compliance. Both are members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and received the awards Feb. 10 during the general ses-

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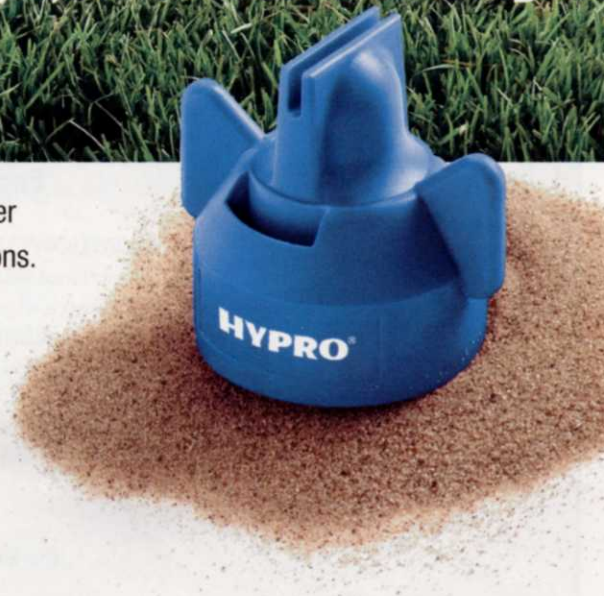
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sion of the Golf Industry Show. Colleton River Plantation Club in Bluffton, S.C., hired **Wesley Trawick** as assistant golf course superintendent for the club's Pete Dye course.

St. Joe Co. appointed **Stephen Hilliard** managing director of resorts and clubs – Walton County, Fla.



Hilliard

The Golf Course Builders Association of America appointed **Paul J. Foley** its executive director.



Foley

Members of the Erosion Control Technology Council re-elected their board of directors. The board members will fulfill one-year terms. The 2006 ECTC board includes: chairman **Tim Lancaster**, North American Green; vice chairman **Deron Austin**, SI Geosolutions; treasurer **Mark Myrowich**, ErosionControlBlanket.com; **Mark Theisen**, at large, Profile Products LLC; and **Tony Johnson**, at large, American Excelsior Co.

Ed Abrain of Sherman, N.Y., was honored as the 15th recipient of the Ernie Sabayrac Award for Lifetime Contributions to the golf industry. His 35 years of service were recognized last month at The PGA of America Awards Program in Orlando, Fla.

Sean Taylor was named director of golf at Wintergreen (Va.) Resort Golf Club.

Peter Burke, head professional at Camp Creek Golf Club on Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, received Class A-1 membership in the Professional Golfers Association of America.

Mickie Gallagher III, a member of the PGA of America, was selected head golf professional at Trump National Golf Club, Bedminster (N.J.).

Ed Hodnett joined Agronomic Systems Design as executive vice president of North American sales and marketing.

Sean Casey was promoted to vice president, sales, turf and ornamental of

Nufarm Americas' turf and specialty group.

Michael Harmelink was named chief financial officer for PeakVision Sports.



Casey

Supplier news

A joint venture between **Agronomic Systems Design** and **Biologically Integrated Organics** led to bioPore – a combination of oxygen and microbes needed for a healthy root zone.

Every winter the population in Naples, Florida doubles which results in added play on the golf course. At Olde Florida Golf Club, the stress from the added traffic is compounded as there are no cart paths and our water quality is poor. The result is reduced water and oxygen penetration in the soil. To counter these effects, and reduce soil compaction, we rely heavily on our Verti-Drain 7416. It provides maximum results with minimal disruption!

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Agrotain International LLC, a supplier of stabilized nitrogen products, commissioned the second painting in the "Artistry of Golf" collection of paintings that pay tribute to the work and dedication of golf course superintendents. The painting, "The Gathering Tradition," showcases the 18th hole at The Tradition Golf Club at La Quinta, Calif. Superintendents who visited the company's booth during the Golf Industry Show and took the "Stabilized Nitrogen Challenge" received a commemorative poster featuring the artwork. Participants also registered to win the grand prize - the original framed oil painting.

An agreement between **Aquatrols Corporation of America** and the **Performance Products Division** resulted in a patent application that was published. Stanley J. Kostka, Ph.D., director of technology and innovation for Aquatrols, and Gregor Scheurmann,

Ph.D., with the company's technology development partner are named as inventors on the patent. The patent application covers the process of improving a root-zone growing environment and enhancing plant productivity through the application of methyl-capped, block copolymer surfactants - alone or mixed with other soil targeted materials. The patent also covers the preparation of these surfactants.

Bayer Environmental Science received registration from the EPA for use of Allectus insecticide on fertilizer. Formulators may now sell blended products containing fertilizer impregnated with Allectus.

Mancozeb, the active ingredient in **Dow AgroSciences'** Dithane and Fore fungicides, completed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reregistration process required for all crop protection chemicals sold in the United States. Under U.S. law,

all pesticides registered before 1984 must undergo reregistration, an evolving health and safety review process in which regulators seek new scientific data to address existing and hypothetical concerns.

Evergro Canada and The Pickseed Companies Group formed a distribution partnership for western Canadian professional turf seed. Evergro will take over the blending, marketing and distribution for all of Pickseed's Pro Turf varieties in B.C.

ProLink Solutions LLC, a provider of GPS services to golf courses, completed a transaction with Amalgamated Technologies. Members of ProLink exchanged their interests in ProLink for capital stock of Amalgamated Technologies. ProLink became a subsidiary of Amalgamated, will pursue a change in Amalgamated's name to ProLink Solutions and will apply for a new ticker symbol. GCN

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