



A CLOUDY SUNBURST AT THE END OF NO. 9 RED FAIRWAY. RON FALASCETTI – CLUB MANAGER – BRIAR RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB, SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA. THANKS! RON

## E-15 UPDATE

Last month, The U.S. EPA announced it now will allow up to 15 percent ethanol to be blended with gasoline in motor fuel – but only for use in cars and trucks built since 2007.

The current allowable limit is 10 percent, and remains so for older vehicles, all motorcycles, heavy-duty vehicles and non-road engines – everything from leaf blowers to mowers.

However, this sets up potential confusion at the gas pump. Buyers could have to choose not only among octane ratings but also between E-10 and E-15. And while E-10 now is fairly common, stations are not required to offer it or the

new E-15 – and some already say they are going to sit out E-15 for now.

Even though the E-15 blend is intended for cars and trucks – indeed, it's technically illegal to use it in other engines – the small-engine lobby figures it'll nevertheless wind up in the hundreds of millions of chainsaws, leaf blowers, lawn mowing equipment, boats, all-terrain vehicles and the like.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) recommends the following measures to protect your equipment and avoid voiding warranties:

**1.** Read and follow the owner's manual. The owner's manual will

clearly explain what fuels can be used to ensure a properly functioning product.

**2.** Do not put any fuel containing more than 10 percent (E-10) in small engine products, unless otherwise stated.

**3.** Be aware of gas pumps at local gas stations that offer both E-10 and E-15 or any other mid-level ethanol fuels dispensed by blender pumps for "flex-fuel" automobiles. Higher ethanol fuel (E-15) may be less expensive than regular (E-10) fuel. However, putting E-15 into an E-10 approved product could cause product failure and void its warranty.



## ROLL CALL

**Frank Dobie**, superintendent and general manager at the Sharon Golf Club, Sharon Center, Ohio, has been selected to receive the 2011 GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

**Paul Backman**, the former executive director of the Western Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Northwest Turfgrass Association, was posthumously awarded the 2010 Distinguished Service Award by the Northwest Golf Media Association.

SAGE Golf Group Worldwide appointed **Chris Freeman** the new general manager at Raveneaux Country Club in Spring, Texas.

Aspiring golf course superintendent **Victor Manuel de la Cruz** won a \$9,500 scholarship to Michigan State University from Valderrama Golf Club in Sotogrande, Spain.

Clemson University turfgrass pathology professor **Bruce Martin** receives distinguished service award this month from the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

**Chris Vernon** joined Jacobsen as vice president of marketing and product management.

The South Carolina Golf Course Owners Association selected **Legend Oaks Golf Club in Summerville** as the 2010 South Carolina Golf Course of the Year, and **Brian Ouse** of Daniel Island Club the Tommy Cuthbert Employee of the Year.

Nutrients PLUS has appointed **Jeff Thrasher** to head the company's national distribution and business development.

STEC Equipment hired **David Smith** as sales representative and promoted **Jason Sentell** to director of sales and marketing.

Yamaha Golf-Car Co. has placed **Kevin Norcross** in charge of its direct nationwide sales team.

## Architect Robert Von Hagge passes

Global golf course architect **Robert von Hagge** died Oct. 16 at the age of 83.

Von Hagge's professional life stretched from his early teen years as a caddy to international fame as a master golf course designer and architect. During his career, Von Hagge vaulted to the top ranks of golf course design and architecture, became a dominant force in the European and Mexican golf world and moved into golf design throughout the world. Many consider him one of the most influential course designers in the history of golf.

During his six-plus decades as a master golf course designer, von Hagge created some of the world's most outstanding and award-winning courses, and has been responsible for the design, re-design or partial design of more than 250 courses in the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean and 16 foreign countries.

Les Bordes, set in the middle of the Loire Valley in France and ranked as the No. 1 golf course in Europe, is considered von Hagge's piece de resistance.

## HUNGER PAINS

Is your crew taking its lunch break? According to a recent study conducted by Monster.com, 60 percent of workers responded that they're not taking their full lunch break, 7 percent of who are risking their health by not eating lunch at all.

"Taking a lunch break is very important to keep healthy and refreshed," says Monster rep Jeffrey Quinn. "Our bodies and brains need fuel to operate... if people feel they're too busy, they should take stock of their workload and try to plan (lunch) into their day."

The data also indicates that US workers, when compared to their international brethren, are most likely to eat while they work. However, 58% of French workers say they take their full lunch break.

