

Foliar Program Checklist

- Proven performance? ✓
- Consistent results? ✓
- Great color? ✓
- Controlled growth? ✓
- Seaplant extract? ✓
- Cytokinins ✓
- Anti-oxidants ✓
- Fulvic acid? ✓
- Amino acids? ✓
- Customized to my needs? ✓
- Tank-mix compatible? ✓
- Easy to use? ✓
- Independent research? ✓
- Reliable manufacturer? ✓
- Local support? ✓

Emerald Isle True Foliar® from Milliken

Your Milliken Emerald Isle sales representative can tailor a True Foliar® Nutrition Program that meets your needs and the demands of those ever-so-picky golfers. With Revolutionary Turf Nutrition™ and Tank Mix Easy™ programs, we've got your checklist covered.

Now is the time to make Milliken your nutrition partner.

Ask for your copy of Keeping it Green VI— new for 2008.



SEED

BY MARGARET HEPP

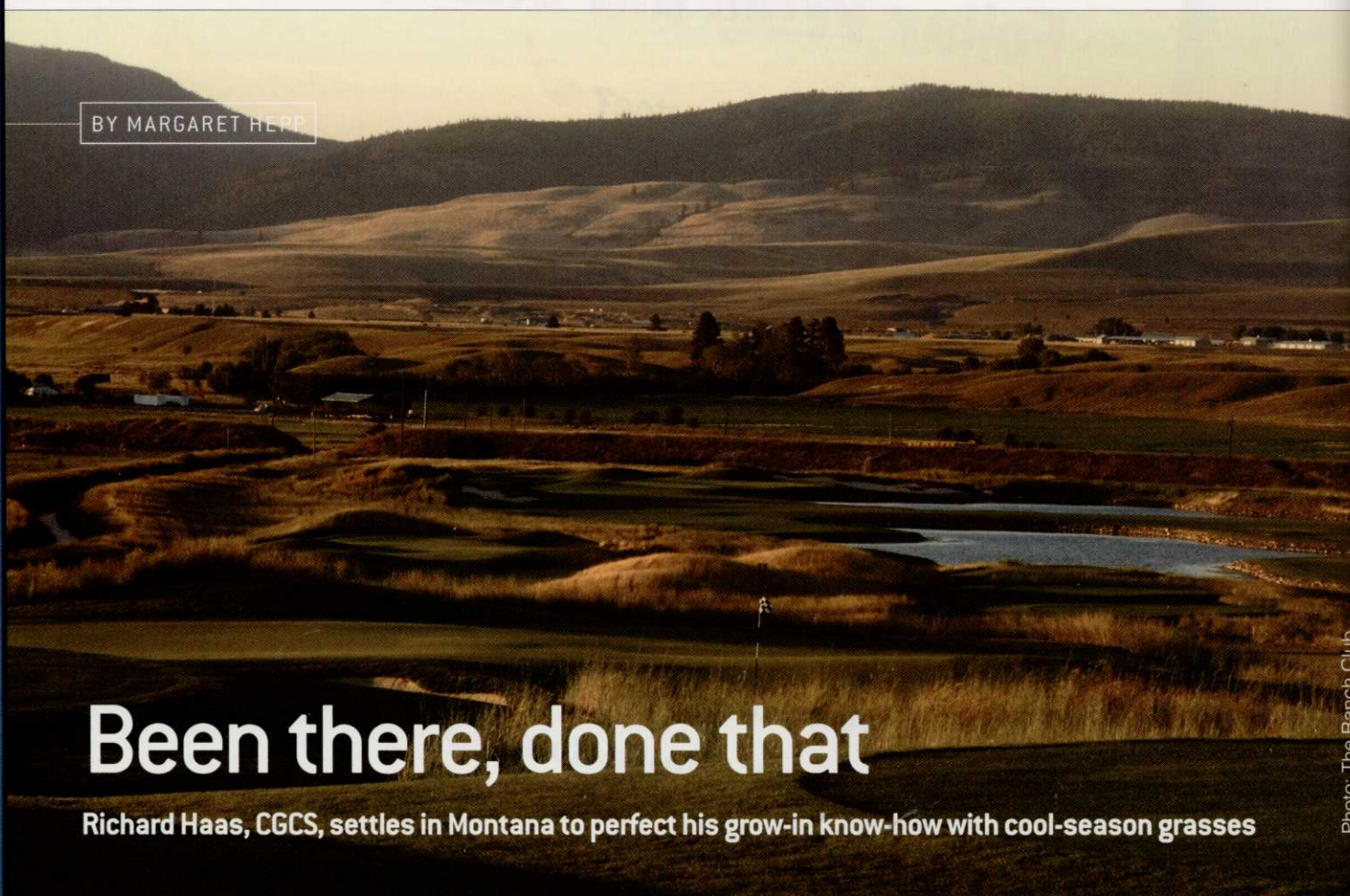


Photo: The Ranch Club

Been there, done that

Richard Haas, CGCS, settles in Montana to perfect his grow-in know-how with cool-season grasses

Few aspects of agronomy will surprise you after you've worked at multiple golf courses for multiple decades. Richard Haas, CGCS, thought he'd seen it all in 2002. That's when he took 20 years of experience as a superintendent and international project manager to Missoula, Mont., where more than 100,000 rounds of golf are played annually, to build and open The Ranch Club.

Haas moved to Montana from Northern California, where he maintained bentgrass greens with ryegrass and bluegrass fairways. Before that, he was in Southeast Asia, where he relied heavily on Bermudagrass cultivars in the Philippines, Taiwan, China and Japan as a project manager/superintendent with the Robert Trent Jones II group. When Haas arrived in Missoula, he learned that the tried-and-true Montana turfgrass on golf courses is bluegrass, with bentgrass greens.

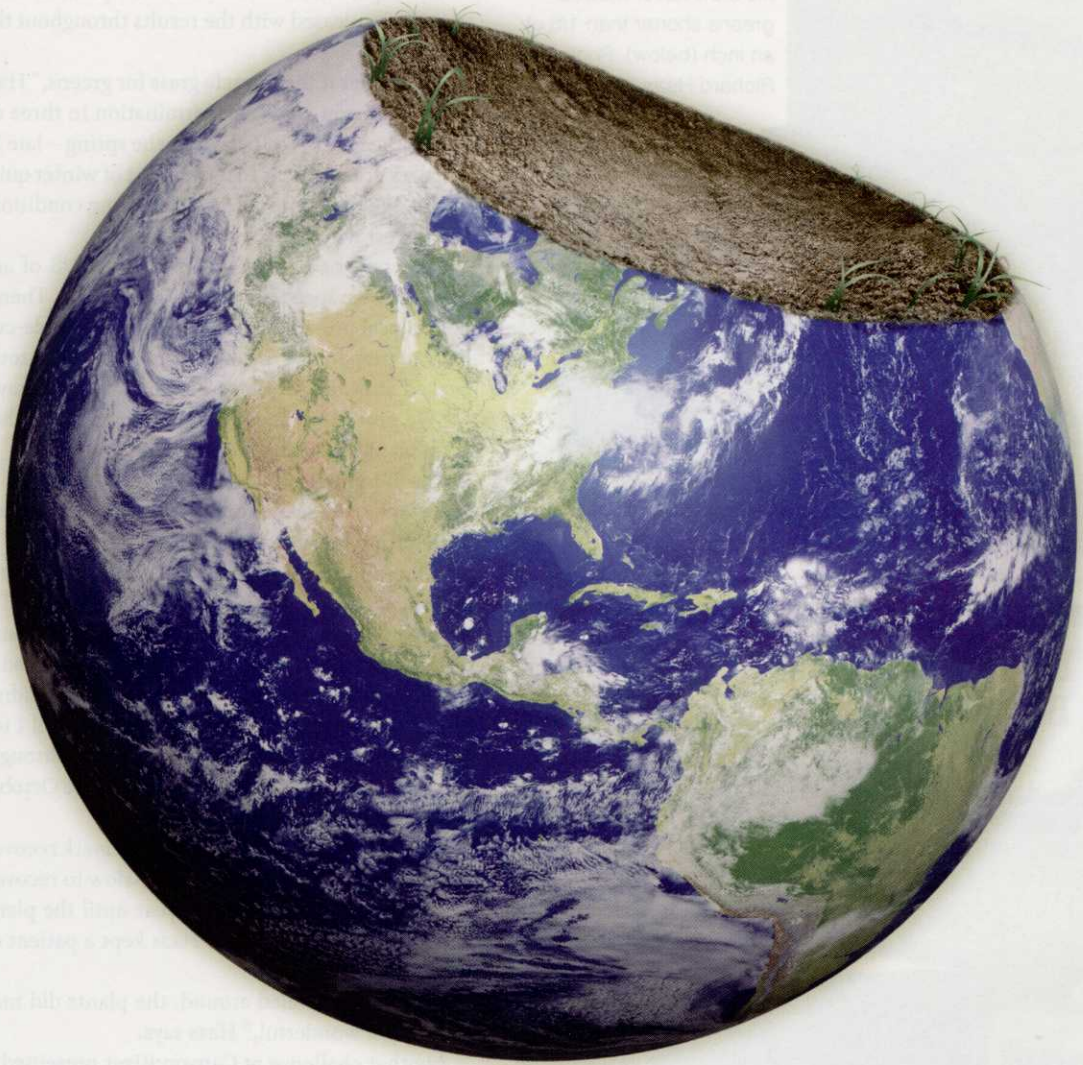
When the time came for Haas to choose the playing surface for a new golf course, he didn't reinvent the wheel, but he did make a few modifications based on his own research and experience. He elected to grow in his greens with L-93 creeping bentgrass, seed three varieties of Kentucky bluegrass on the fairways and tees, and plant four types of fine fescue in the rough. All turf, aside from the L-93, was hydroseeded. The grow-in process was smooth and successful, despite the challenging tight clay soil.

As the greens grew in, Haas became locked in a battle with the L-93, fighting desperately (and unsuccessfully) to maintain a tight-knit stand. The grass also was reluctant to emerge from the harsh Montana winter.

"We didn't get our L-93 to what I would consider even acceptable standards until July 4," Haas says. "The color was off, and it didn't grow well. It still putted well for us, but golfers don't want dingy-looking greens. They want dark greens."

Realizing L-93 performs best in warmer climates, Haas decided to take another shot at grow-in perfection in Missoula. In August 2004, once the turf at The Ranch Club had grown in completely, he headed up the road to Missoula's daily-fee Canyon River Golf Club. Construction at Canyon River had been halted three years earlier, post-Sept. 11. The owners brought Haas in to see the course to completion, and, armed with pages of notes about his successes and failures at The Ranch Club, he was ready with a plan of action. Pleased with his Jacklin products at The Ranch Club, Haas worked with the company to determine the best grass varieties for Canyon River. Douglas Brede, Ph.D., research director and operating officer of Jacklin, showed Haas the latest research about their latest bentgrass cultivar, T-1, and highly recommended it for the new course.

PLEASE REPAIR YOUR DIVOT



Soon, a fungus free course won't have to hurt the planet

Coming this Fall – a truly new fungicide choice that's virtually non-toxic[†] and just as effective as the leading competitors. Good for you. Good for the environment.

www.agreencourse.com

[†]Based on the results of the health and safety tests: OECD 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 203 and 301B.



Richard Haas stands on two-week-old T-1 bentgrass at Canyon River. He and his crew never mowed greens shorter than 1/8 of an inch (below). Photos: Richard Haas



“Once I saw pictures of T-1 on a golf course, I said, ‘I can’t not try it,’” Haas says.

The superintendent and his crew planted the T-1 on the greens and were quite pleased with the results throughout the grow-in process, and afterwards.

“I consider it the miracle grass for greens,” Haas says. “With a magnifying glass, you could see germination in three days. We were mowing within the first 14 to 16 days. In the spring – late March, early April – we had dark green greens that came out of winter quickly. It putted phenomenally. We had some of the best putting conditions you could find in the Northwest when the course opened.”

Haas never cut his T-1 shorter than 1/8 of an inch and was able to achieve green speeds between 10.5 and 11.5. Then, in 2007, Canyon River held a local pro-am. Haas and his crew double-cut and rolled the greens daily to prepare for the event, and during the tournament, green speeds peaked at 14. Players were blown away, Haas says.

“We proved we could get the greens fast without sacrificing the turf-grass plant by cutting too low,” he says.

The T-1 grass is fine-textured yet dense, with strong upright growth, Haas says, so he made sure to stick to a strict schedule of topdressing and verticutting every two weeks.

“The canopy is tight, so to get the sand in, we had to lay it down first and verticut it in,” Haas says. “That was a trick I used for Bermudagrass because the canopies were tight, and I didn’t want that sand to sit on top of the canopy and wash in. After we topdressed and verticut, we never had complaints because the putting surface didn’t change.”

The golf season at Canyon River runs April 1 to Nov. 1, so Haas began verticutting in early March and continued through to April. He put down final topdressing applications in mid to late October to protect the crowns through the winter.

Haas also was pleased with the ballmark recovery of the T-1. In its first season, the greens were somewhat slow to recover from wear, but Brede advised Haas to wait another year until the plant matured completely. Although he was skeptical, Haas kept a patient eye on the greens until the following season.

“When 2007 rolled around, the plants did mature, and ballmark recovery was wonderful,” Haas says.

Another challenge at Canyon River presented itself as the fine fescue secondary rough grew in. These areas weren’t irrigated, and in Montana, where most of the rain falls in April and May amid low temperatures, the daytime summer temperatures resulted in weed problems.

“If I had to do it again, I’d have at least temporary irrigation during grow in,” Haas says.

The fescue also grew in a bit thicker than Haas planned. He seeded the fairway at 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

“I should have cut the seed quantity down to 1.5 or 2 pounds per 1,000,” he says. “We also seeded a little ryegrass in with the bluegrass, but I wouldn’t do that again. Ryegrass is clumpy, and it can produce thicker stems that don’t cut well.”

Perfectionists are never satisfied because there’s always room for improvement. Haas left Canyon River in February to pursue a new project later this year in the Middle East, Eastern Europe or possibly Asia.

“Once you do construction, it’s hard to get it out of your blood,” Haas says. “It’s different every single day.” **GCI**

It’s Not Slow Release, It’s Better

AGROTAIN
INTERNATIONAL, LLC

You want consistency when it comes to your nitrogen. With **Stabilized Nitrogen™ Technology (SNT)**, more available nitrogen stays in the soil for results that last for weeks. Insist on SNT for:

- Better color & quality
- Increased nitrogen efficiency
- Extended nitrogen availability
- Environmentally sound
- Granular and soluble programs

UMAXX UFLEXX HYDREXX

Stabilized Nitrogen Technology

Insist on it.

888-547-4140 • www.stabilizednitrogen.com
Stabilized Nitrogen is a trademark of AGROTAIN International, LLC.

www.golfcourseindustry.com/readerservice - #60

BY MARGARET HEPP

A-OK

In his first superintendent job, an Oregon native seeds a course close to home and reaps the rewards

Some say hindsight is 20-20, but David Phipps, superintendent at Stone Creek Golf Course, says hindsight is A-1.

As construction project manager and golf course superintendent from the beginning at the course in Oregon City, Ore., Phipps was in the driver's seat for all turf decisions. He chose to seed Tee-2-Green's creeping bentgrass cultivar PennLinks on his greens during the 2001 grow-in.

Once the greens were established with PennLinks, Phipps realized the benefits of other grasses he'd considered that were more tightly knit. He needed a bentgrass variety that would be more effective at fighting annual bluegrass. So, he went back to Tee-2-Green for advice. The company strongly recommended Penn A-1, a creeping bentgrass Phipps eventually purchased and interseeded in conjunction with each aerification. The A-1 has been part of the Stone Creek greens for four years. Phipps continues to spread 1/4 to 1/3 of a pound of bentgrass

seed per 1,000 square feet after aerifying and verticutting. Each application, consisting of two pails, 25 pounds per nine holes, costs about \$200. To apply the seed, Phipps starts by aerifying, cleaning and topdressing the greens, then goes over the greens in a crisscross pattern with a spreader set at a low speed.

"In retrospect, it would have been great to use A-1 from the start," Phipps says. "It's necessary to keep throwing seed in the ground. *Poa annua* freely seeds year round and builds its own seed bank, so why shouldn't we build a seed bank with bentgrass as well? As of now, my greens are probably 95 percent clean."

Since the A-1 has grown in, Phipps has seen a significant change in the texture of the greens, and he's pleased with his new, tightly knit bentgrass. To keep the greens exactly as he likes, Phipps changed his fertilizer applications. He's using more now than in years past, but he's improving quality.



Above: New Penn A-1 roots in the soil profile at Stone Creek Golf Course. Right: Mike Turley, assistant superintendent at Stone Creek, will seed the greens in a crisscross pattern with the spreader set at a low speed. Photos: David Phipps



Phipps and Turley spread 1/4 to 1/3 of a pound of bentgrass seed per 1,000 square feet after aerifying and verticutting. Photo: David Phipps

**A DRAG MAT THAT'S
NOT A DRAG,
MATT.**

Coco Fiber Drag Mat | \$425⁰⁰ each

With a 6½ ft. width, 60 lb. weight, 9' chain and 1¼" fibers bonded to a solid vinyl backing, you can deposit top dressing with a softer touch. Coco Fiber: Sounds like cereal. Works like magic.

1-866 SG EXPRESS | standardgolf.com

**STANDARD
GOLF COMPANY**

www.golfcourseindustry.com/readerservice - #61

"I originally started out using about 3 pounds of fertilizer a year," he says. "At 60,000 rounds a year, the greens take a beating. I had to bump the nitrogen level up, and once I did, I saw significant improvement."

The greens are primarily on a sulfate diet, including ammonium sulfate, potassium sulfate, ferrous sulfate, zinc sulfate and other nutrients Phipps mixes together and sprays on the turf.

"I'm probably applying about 5.5 to 6 pounds of fertilizer annually on the greens," he says. "That's what I've found they require with play, and I can keep the green speeds between nine and 10."

Fungicide applications on the greens range in frequency from two to four times a year, usually to combat summer stress with a Chipco Signature (fosetyl) and Daconil Ultrex (chlorothalonil) mix. It helps keep the greens strong through a heavy wet period.

Elements of weather and frequency at Stone Creek are two of Phipps' biggest maintenance difficulties. He tries to aerate the greens between two and six times a year, optimally opening up the greens every 45 days, but his plans aren't always executed according to schedule.

"I'm always playing a game with Mother Nature," he says. "It's difficult to find the opportunity to verticut, aerate and topdress regularly. Our crew arrives at 4:30 a.m., and they try to seed, brush and mow before play hits us at 5:30 a.m."

Hubbard, Ore., where Tee-2-Green is headquartered, is 15 miles from Oregon City, and Phipps says location alone gives A-1 an advantage over other varieties in his book. Still, while Phipps is content with his A-1 for now, he's always looking for ways to improve. He seeded a nursery with Jacklin's Alpha creeping bentgrass to compare it firsthand to Penn A-1.

"There are some great varieties out there," Phipps says. "I've played some Alpha greens that are phenomenal. I'm not opposed to trying other grasses, but if I grew in another golf course, I'd want to do some further research. Alpha and A-1 are very close."

Phipps has no intention of reseeding his greens in the near future. And though golfers at Stone Creek haven't commented on any difference in the greens since Phipps interseeded with A-1, he considers that a positive.

"The lack of complaints is always a good thing," he says. **GCI**

There's a Better Way to Decide...

We've taken the guesswork out for you. LebanonTurf offers a variety of products to make decisions easier for the Golf Course Superintendent. Whether you experience the power of purple with Expo 20-0-25, the brilliant color of MESA, or two of the top rated bentgrass varieties on the market, you'll have one less decision to make this spring.



- ◆ Lebanon Pro 21-0-21 70% SCU SGN 145
- ◆ ProScape 20-0-25 Expo - SGN 145
- ◆ ProScape 25-0-12 MESA/EXPO SGN 195 SOP
- ◆ ProScape 6-1-11 with Biosolid organic and Iron
- ◆ Declaration and Independence creeping bentgrass

Don't leave it up to chance! Learn more about these products by contacting your local LebanonTurf distributor, calling 1-800-233-0628, or visiting LebanonTurf.com. Click on promotions and enter coupon code SG2008 for your FREE Agronomy Manual.

LebanonTurf

Improving the Way Professionals Care for Turf



14th Hole

The \$2.9-million overhaul of the South Course at Olympia Fields hasn't erased the course's classic style. Above: The 14th hole in 1923. Right: The renovated 14th hole. Photos: Olympia Fields



POLISHING AN OLD GEM

By MARK LESLIE

A RESTORATION AT OLYMPIA FIELDS REFINES THE SOUTH COURSE

History is embedded in the walls of the clubhouse and locker room at Olympia Fields Country Club in Illinois. But, with the unveiling of the South Course restoration, a new chapter begins.

Even before Walter Hagen defeated Bill Mehlhorn, 6 and 5, in the 1925 PGA Championship, Olympia Fields was making news. The darling of Chicago, featuring 18 holes designed by Willie Park Jr., 36 by Tom Bendelow and 18 by Willie Watson, Olympia Fields became a venue of choice soon after it opened in 1916. Western Open officials chose it for their tournament in 1920, and the Western Junior event followed two years later.

But Hagen and the PGA made it prime time in 1925, and thereafter, championships piled upon championships:

- The 1928 U.S. Open when Bobby Jones lost a 36-hole playoff by a stroke to Johnny Farrell.
- The Chicago Open won by Sam Snead in 1938.
- Another PGA Championship in 1961 when Jerry Barber defeated Don January in a playoff.
- The U.S. Senior Open in 1997 won by Graham Marsh.
- Another U.S. Open in 2003 won by Jim Furyk.
- A couple of NCAA Championships along the way.
- A half dozen more Western Opens, including Jack Nicklaus' victory in 1968 and Bruce Crampton's in 1971.
- Four Women's Western Amateurs.

The famed Chick Evans once said, "For good golf – and lots of it – no more delightful place can be found than Olympia Fields Country Club."

Searching For A Cost-Effective Solution To Control Dollar Spot?



Phoenix
ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

Problem: Dollar Spot

Dö'lar Spöt *n.* - The fungus *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* ("Dollar Spot") commonly attacks low-cut creeping bentgrass. It thrives in damp clippings or moist, cool soil.

Symptoms:

Fast-spreading Dollar Spot begins as small discolorations. Grass blades bleach, forming dead patches on turfgrass surfaces. Spreading infection causes ugly, tan-colored spots 2-3" wide (silver dollar size).

1. Many small, round dead patches
2. Hourglass-shaped lesions
3. Cobwebby white mold
4. Damaged putting greens

Solution: Kestrel®MEX

Kestrel®MEX is a broad spectrum fungicide ideally suited for control of Dollar Spot and more than 20 other troublesome turf diseases. Based on a unique, value-added formulation of the proven ingredient propiconazole, Kestrel MEX is one of Phoenix's new NexGen products, a line of enhanced, post-patent pesticides that comprises the highest-quality, top-performing formulations. Kestrel MEX can be tank mixed with a variety of other fungicides and insecticides and is also available in a BATPak®, Phoenix's convenient, returnable packaging concept.



Phoenix Environmental Care gives you superior industry support and top performance by offering high-quality, post-patent chemistry in a wide choice of products. For more information, call 888-240-8856, or visit www.PhoenixEnvCare.com.



Phoenix
ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

The Science of Nature

©2008 Phoenix Environmental Care, LLC. Kestrel, BATPak and the Phoenix logo are registered trademarks of Phoenix Environmental Care, LLC. Always read and follow label directions.

Most of this hullabaloo took place on the Park-designed North Course. But Bendelow's South Course – often called the hidden gem of the south suburbs, with its yawning, tree-lined fairways and twisting, challenging greens – has now undergone a considerable makeover

by Steve Smyers and lead architect Patrick Andrews.

Smyers, a lover of classic design and the first golf course architect on the U.S. Golf Association's executive board in 70 years, has restored the South Course to the degree that some club members fear it will equal or even surpass its more famous brother on the north end of the property.

"I can't say it will rival the North Course, but it will make the South Course competitive for the next four decades," Smyers says.

Leading up to the opening, anticipation is high, says club manager Russell Ruscigno.

"More of our members have walked the course, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive," Ruscigno says. "Steve and Patrick have vision that's pretty incredible."

director of grounds, overhauled and modernized the South Course. It was an extensive project that cost \$2.9 million. Olympia Fields officials, including South Course restoration committee chairman Jeff Goldman, faced many much-needed improvements:

- An antiquated irrigation system.
- Inadequate tee space.
- Putting surfaces that had shrunk by 20 to 30 percent throughout the years.
- Bunkers with little character or contour.

"There was no one thing more important than the other," says MacKenzie, a 1983 Michigan State graduate who joined the Olympia Fields staff in March 2006 after 11 years as superintendent at Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis. "When you have a 90-year-old house, you need to change the carpet and put in a new heating system. That's kind of what we did here. It was long overdue."

A bold step was needed, and Smyers thought

AT A GLANCE Olympia Fields Country Club

Location: Olympia Fields, Ill.

Web site: www.ofcc.info

Project type: Restoration

Cost: \$2.9 million

Architects: Steve Smyers and Patrick Andrews

Builder: Wadsworth Golf Construction

Director of grounds: Sam MacKenzie, CGCS

Project started: July 2007

Project completed: October 2007

A BOLD STEP

Smyers, Andrews and Sam MacKenzie, CGCS,



GET THE FACTS ON GREENS ROLLING...

Years of research gives you proven facts about greens rolling and explains the benefits of regular rolling practices.

University Research Proves True-Surface Rollers Will:

VIBRATE 45% MORE TOPDRESSING INTO THE CANOPY

*The True-Surface® Vibe V has a patented, adjustable vibratory action that will vibrate 45% more topdressing into the turfgrass canopy than just brooming alone. By incorporating more topdressing sand into the canopy, you have **LESS ORGANIC MATTER** build-up in the putting surface. Less organic matter also results in **GREATER GREEN SPEED**.*

Rolling 3x per week will INCREASE TURFGRASS HEALTH and provide greater root density, which produces better greens and more satisfied golfers.

Rolling 3x per week will INCREASE GREEN SPEED without damaging your greens... Raise your height of cut, improve turfgrass health, and increase golfers' satisfaction.

Rolling 3x per week will IMPROVE TURFGRASS HEALTH by decreasing dollar spot and localized dry spot. Healthy greens... more satisfied golfers.



True-Surface by Turflite, Inc.

800-443-8506

www.true-surface.com