

News

PUBLIC COURSES

Proposed university course approved

The construction of an 18-hole golf course at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore., was merely a dream 10 years ago, but that dream may become a reality as a result of recent developments concerning the proposed facility. Recent action taken includes:

- Two retired OSU professors, conducting a market study of the area, have endorsed the feasibility of a university-owned course.

- The OSU Foundation, a private, non-profit organization which raises funds for the university, is currently negotiating the sale of a \$250,000 parcel of land which would help finance construction of the proposed facility.

- The Oregon State Board of Higher Education has voted 7-3 to lease 175 acres of land to the Foundation to begin the project.

Before construction can begin the Foundation must also be awarded a conditional use permit by the Linn County Commission. The permit would enable the course to be built on agricultural-zoned land near the university.

Although many favor construction of a university-owned course there has been some opposition to the proposed facility. Jerry Claussen, owner of The Golf Club of Oregon in nearby North Albany, said he is "unconditionally opposed to the philosophy" of a state institution competing against a privately owned golf course. Further, Claussen said the area would not support another golf course.

Joe Much, Pacific Northwest region director for the National Golf Foundation, disagrees. "As far as I'm concerned the market is not saturated," he said. "The market will certainly support one more course and possibly two."

There are currently three 18-hole courses (one public and two private) and three 9-hole facilities serving a two-county area with a population of about 150,000.

Milosh Popovich, a member of the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees, added that the Foundation would pay taxes on the land just like any golf course. "No

state monies will be used in the operation of the course," he said.

Claussen, who is also president of the Oregon Golf Course Owners Association, said he plans to continue fighting construction of the proposed facility. "Chances of it being done are eight out of ten, but it easily could be 1980 before any ground is moved," he said.

SEED

Cold winter may increase production

The quality and quantity of Oregon-grown grass seed should increase as a result of the long stretch of freezing temperatures in that state this year.

Cold temperatures not only help control insect activity in turf, but also play an important role in the reduction of turf diseases, particularly rust, according to Dr. William Meyer of Oregon's Turf-Seed, Inc.

In recent years large outbreaks of rust throughout Oregon have caused a reduction in the state's seed production, but this year's cold weather should help alleviate that problem. Freezing temperatures kill rust spores and reduce the incidence of rust in crops.

However, cold weather can also be detrimental to seed production. New seed crops are often destroyed when a rapid rise in temperature, after a prolonged freeze, causes the plants to heave out of the ground. Even with the damage caused by "plant heave" it appears that the advantages of a cold winter outweigh the disadvantages for Oregon seed producers, Meyer said.

HERBICIDES

Court upholds ban of Silvex, 2,4,5-T

A temporary ban on the use of the herbicides Silvex and 2,4,5-T was recently upheld by a federal court in Flint, Mich., and that could spell trouble for golf course superintendents, according to a spokesman for the Chevron Chemical Co., San Francisco. Silvex, which is used in more than 275 turf care products, is manufactured by Chevron.

Dr. Joseph A. Crozier, national technical service specialist for



BIG NAMES IN GOLF BUSINESS: Meeting at the annual convention of the American Society of Golf Course Architects were (L to R) Jerry Hurley, executive director of the National Club Association; John Laupheimer, deputy executive director, United States Golf Association; ASGCA Past President Rees Jones; Donald Ross award winner Joe Dey; Charles Tadge, president, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Dave Canavan, past president, Golf Course Builders of America; and Don Rossi, executive director, National Golf Foundation.

Garden and Home Products for Chevron, said the ban will have an affect on the superintendent's ability to control broadleaf and brush-type weeds. "People on golf courses will have difficulty finding another chemical to control these weeds as well as Silvex does," he said. "However, it should be less difficult for them to find replacement chemicals for the easier-to-control weeds."

A spokesman for Dow Chemical Co., manufacturer of 2,4,5-T, said the ban on its herbicide should not have much of an affect on the golf industry since 2,4,5-T is not used extensively in that market. It is used primarily on U.S. forests, pastureland, power line right-of-ways, and rice fields.

The Environmental Protection Agency ordered an emergency suspension of most uses of the products after an EPA study indicated that a "significantly higher" rate of miscarriages occurred in Alsea, Ore., soon after the national forests there had been sprayed with 2,4,5-T. Both Silvex and 2,4,5-T contain minute amounts of tetra-dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals in the world.

In April, Dow, Chevron, and nine other plaintiffs requested an injunction to prevent the EPA from enforcing its ban, but the request was denied.

The ban was to remain in effect until at least late April when the EPA was to conduct hearings on the chemicals. Three EPA judges were to hear testimony from more than 30 industry representatives as they tried to defend the use of 2,4,5-T

and Silvex. A decision is required by July, with an additional 10 days for EPA Administrator Douglas Costle to review the decision before it becomes effective.

ASSOCIATIONS

Fla. superintendents to activate state group

The Florida State Golf Course Superintendent's Association, inactive since 1973, may re-establish itself as early as August, according to Tim Hiers, leader of a group of local superintendent's organizations eager to develop a "working" state association.

In March, representatives from six of the state's eight superintendent's groups met in Tampa to discuss the possible re-establishment of a statewide organization. Hiers, superintendent of Suntree Country Club in Melbourne, said, "We're trying to unify the superintendents across the state to increase their participation in the individual associations and in the national organizations."

Reorganization of the state association began in October 1978 when four presidents of the original Florida State GCSA met in Orlando and elected Hiers president. Since that time the group has formed a committee to develop a set of by-laws and re-filed with the state to become an active corporation. The

original state association became inactive in 1973 when it failed to file a report with the state.

Hiers, 24, said, "In essence the purpose of the Florida GCSA is to improve communications among the local associations and to form a strong unified group of associations that have common goals in mind. We are not here to dominate any local association."

Hiers added that Florida's golf industry, one of the largest in the United States, has suffered because it lacks representation in the GCSAA. "When it comes to representation within the GCSAA, the Sunshine State hovers near the bottom of the totem pole," he said.

"Only one president of the GCSAA in the past 51 years has been from Florida and the board of directors representation fits in the same category," he added. "As a result of this poor representation a great majority of research funds and national programs have not been directed toward problems concerning Florida's golf courses and their respective superintendents."

"The state of Florida is not out to gain control of the GCSAA," Hiers said, "but merely to obtain equal representation and recognition. Through representation and unification we hope to become a representative force in the GCSAA."

The first general state association meeting is scheduled for August 26, the day before the Third Annual Crowfoot Open at Suntree Country Club in Melbourne. At that time the association hopes to approve its by-laws according to Hiers.

Course owners may form group in Maine

Even though there are no solid plans to establish a Maine golf course owner's association, there is a "good possibility" of one being formed in the future, according to Vaughn H. Holyoke, editor of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association Newsletter.

Holyoke said about 15 golf course owners recently discussed the possibility of forming a statewide group, but no "definite plans" were enumerated. "The only agreement out of the meeting was that they felt they do have enough common problems to make it worthwhile to form a statewide owner's association," he said.

Ernie Hawkes, superintendent and part owner of Gorham (Maine)

Country Club, said an owner's association is needed because owners encounter unique management problems which superintendent associations and other groups often do not address.

Further, owners suffer from a lack of communication with one another. "Right now we have no connection with each other, but if we had an organization we could trade information," he said. "For example, it would be helpful if we swapped lists of deadbeats who don't pay us and then move on to other golf courses."

REGIONAL

Sale prices offered for Southern needs

Turfgrass seed, fertilizer, and fungicide products used in winter overseeding programs on Southern golf courses will be offered by O. M. Scott & Sons at a 10 percent savings through August 31, according to Scotts ProTurf Product Line Manager George Horn.

Two types of Winter Turf seed are offered at the sale price. Winter Turf I, Horn said, is a mixture of three improved perennial ryegrasses — Loretta, Manhattan, and Pennfine — with Victa Kentucky bluegrass. Winter Turf III is a blend of four perennial ryegrasses: Caravelle, Derby, Linn, and Manhattan. There is no Winter Turf II on the market at this time.

Deliveries of the products will be scheduled between September 1 and November 30, Horn said, with billing delayed until February 1980.

CONSTRUCTION

PGA conducts groundbreaking

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the PGA National, the new permanent home of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, were conducted in March by Frank Cardi, PGA president, and E. Lloyd Ecclestone, Jr., president of the Florida Realty Building Co., developers of the \$500 million facility in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

The 2,340-acre complex will contain the PGA Hall of Fame, museum, and library; the PGA National Golf Club; PGA University;

and the association's administrative offices.

A 625-acre resort community, complete with a 63,500-square-foot clubhouse overlooking three championship golf courses, is also planned. The resort complex will contain a 300-room hotel, convention center, and about 6,900 single and multi-family dwellings.

The developers have also set aside land for a shopping center, office park, and light industrial area to serve as a research and development facility for golf-related products. Further, more than 356 acres have been allocated for a permanent wilderness area, much of which will be restored to its natural condition.

The recent groundbreaking ceremonies climaxed a process that took more than two years and \$2 million to complete. Before construction could begin the project had to be approved by 32 government agencies and environmental groups.

Golf course architects George and Tom Fazio said the first 18-hole golf course has already been cleared. The championship course, which will be the site of all PGA National events, and a third course are expected to be ready by November 1980. The entire project is scheduled to be completed within the next 15 years.

SEED

Tests indicate Shasta resists stripe rust

Recent field tests indicate that Shasta, a new variety of Kentucky bluegrass, is highly resistant to stripe rust.

Dr. William Meyer, breeder of the bluegrass, said test plots of Shasta, now 3 years old, have been virtually rust-free throughout the test period.

Further, he added that Shasta production fields were almost rust-free throughout the summer and fall months even though fields surrounding the plots were heavily infested with rust.

Shasta, starting its second year of production, is the product of selective breeding, using a careful selection of rust-resistant spores to develop a new variety. Shasta is marketed by Turf-Seed, Inc., of Hubbard, Ore. Bill Rose, president of the company, said the seed would be available this fall.



Renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones has been selected by Seabrook Island Co. to design the Island's second golf course. Completion is expected by summer 1980. Jones was expected to follow his maxim of golf course design at Seabrook: "Every hole should be a hard par and an easy bogey."

MANUFACTURERS

Ford expands tractor plant

A multi-million-dollar expansion program has been launched at the Ford Motor Company Tractor Equipment Plant in Romeo, Mich. Two plant additions totalling 120,000 square feet will be completed during 1979, according to Mervyn H. Manning, Ford vice-president and Ford Tractor general manager.

The additions include a "final acceptance inspection" area which will provide increased testing facilities for Ford's entire line of tractors and two additional spray booths for final finish. Also included in the expansion program is a storage building for tractor tires.

Correction

In the March issue of GOLF BUSINESS ("Six superintendents discuss the golf business," pp. 14-20), Tom Rogers stated that John Jackman, superintendent at Medinah Country Club, "wouldn't even go out on the green to collect a plaque" after a tournament at his course. Rogers has told GOLF BUSINESS, however, that his remarks were based on second-hand information which was not correct — and that Jackman was indeed present to receive his plaque at the award ceremonies in question.