

Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

Business briefs

Arnold, Clint, others buy Pebble

Arnold Palmer, Clint Eastwood, Peter Ueberroth and Richard Ferris head a group of investors who purchased the Pebble Beach Co. from Taiheiyo Club Inc. for a reported \$820 million. The acquisition was to be completed by July 31, and Bank of America will provide financing to the investor group.

Taiheiyo Club, a Japanese golf resort company, acquired Pebble Beach in March 1992. Taiheiyo Club will maintain a close relationship with Pebble Beach Co. and its new ownership, according to Pebble Beach.

Pebble Beach Co. is comprised of four golf courses: The Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill GC, The Links at Spanish Bay and Del Monte GC. It also includes two hotels, the famed 17-Mile Drive, and the soon-to-be completed 24-room Casa Palmero Inn and The Spa at Pebble Beach.

DuPont will cut 800 jobs

Wilmington, Del.-based DuPont will restructure its \$2 billion Crop Protection business "to address intensely competitive market conditions and position the business for future growth." About 800 jobs will be lost.

Deere income down

Moline, Ill.-based Deere & Co. reported net income of \$150.1 million for the second quarter — down about 56 percent from \$365.2 million in 1998's second quarter. Net income for the first six months of 1999 was \$199.8 million compared with \$568.5 million last

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Pesticide Purge?

ANTI-PESTICIDE GROUPS TARGET
MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES,
WORK TO BUILD CLOUT

On April 21, the day before Earth Day, more than 100 environmentalists, cancer activists, politicians and organic landscapers gathered at the Timber Point CC in Great River, Long Island, N.Y., with an "Organic Golf" luncheon and golf outing.

The group was celebrating because Suffolk County officials in New York had agreed on a policy to dramatically cut pesticides by implementing an organic program at Timber Point's golf course. Future plans call for similar approaches at three other public courses and five yet-to-be-built

county courses on the drawing board. Reaction from superintendents has been mixed.

"I am happy to see the county experiment with low or no pesticide programs," says Mike Rewinski, superintendent at Westhampton CC in Westhampton Beach, N.Y. "Let the municipal courses be the guinea pigs."

Suffolk County is not alone. Since Huntington, N.Y., became the first municipality in the country to completely ban chemicals on its two public golf courses in 1997, pressure by environmental activists on city and county officials to slash pesticide use on public property has increased nationwide. The result is no pesticide or reduced pesticide programs from Canada to California.

On June 7, Toronto announced a pesticide reduction program in which chemical

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Butt Ugly

We've seen some horrendous golf apparel but . . . oh, the humanity!

Jim Smith's trousers were so bad that they were good enough to win the top prize at the third annual Bad Pants Open at the Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Ill., on May 31. Smith, of Ottawa, Ill., won the honor for his circa 1970s bell-bottom slacks that featured an outlandish and nightmarish psychedelic and geometric pattern of gold, orange and black colors. Other golfers said Smith's pants "hurt their eyes to look at."

More than 140 golfers from Illinois, Indiana and Missouri rummaged through the bowels of their closets and searched thrift shops to find an appalling pair of pants to wear in the tourney.



ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDY

Business briefs

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year. Farm equipment demand continued to decline during the quarter as a result of depressed agricultural commodity prices, which reduced farm income, Deere reported.

In other company news, Deere announced it filed a federal lawsuit to stop Howard Price Turf Equipment of Chesterfield, Mo., from allegedly copying Deere's design for the Gator utility vehicle. Deere filed suit against Kubota Corp. of Japan in April.

Toro reports increase

Bloomington, Minn.-based the Toro Company reported net income of \$24.9 million for the second quarter — up about 20 percent from \$20.1 million for the same period last year. Net income for the first half was \$24.9 million, an increase of 31 percent over the \$19 million in 1998.

In other company news, Toro announced that Exmark Manufacturing Co., a subsidiary based in Beatrice, Neb., obtained a "favorable settlement" of a patent lawsuit against F.D. Kees Co., and Yazoo/Kees Power Equipment, a Nebraska-based manufacturer of lawn mowing equipment.

SRO acquires Advanta Seeds

Corvallis, Ore.-based Seed Research of Oregon acquired the North American turfgrass marketing program of Advanta Seeds, Inc. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Both firms will also participate in a cooperative research program to develop new and improved turfgrass varieties through conventional breeding and biotechnology.

Rohm and Haas acquires Morton

Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Co. has completed its acquisition of Chicago-based Morton International Inc. in a cash and stock transaction worth \$4.6 billion. The merger creates a global specialty chemical company with annual revenues of \$6.5 billion.

Terra completes sale

Sioux City, Iowa-based Terra Industries Inc. has completed the sale of its distribution business to St. Paul, Minn.-based Cenex/Land O'Lakes Agronomy Co. for a reported \$390 million.

Shotgun Heard 'Round the World

Mark your calendars and ready your divot repair mix for June 24, 2000.

Organizers believe World Shotgun 2000 will be the biggest event in golfing history. On that Saturday, the goal is to have as many golfers as possible around the world strike a shot at the same time, with play coordinated by shotgun starts at the Royal & Ancient GC in St. Andrews, Scotland. Why?

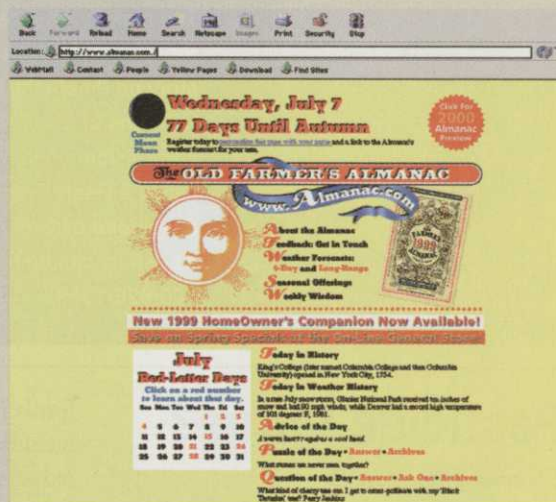
It's an opportunity to celebrate six centuries of golf and the time-honored traditions of the game, says co-patron Sir Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal & Ancient GC, in promotional materials sent to Golfdom.

"By uniting golfers across the globe on one day, the World Shotgun 2000 will help promote the heritage, integrity and values of the game into the new millennium," adds Arnold Palmer, co-patron of the event. For more information, check out the Web site www.worldshotgun2000.com or e-mail enquiries@worldshotgun2000.com.

Scanning the Web

Whether you're nuts about weather or you're simply interested in interesting online weather resources, here is a dozen to choose from:

- ▶ **www.almanac.com** — The Old Farmer's Almanac online has everything from long-range forecasts and weather trivia to words of wisdom.
- ▶ **www.earthwatch.com** — Earth-Watch Weather on Demand features 3D weather information, forecasts, current conditions, radar and more.
- ▶ **www.iwin.nws.noaa.gov** — The National Weather Service site averages 1 million hits a day, noting it has "served 1 billion" since 1997.
- ▶ **www.weather24.com** — Short-term forecasts free direct to your e-mail inbox.
- ▶ **www.usatoday.com/weather/wfront** — USA Today newspaper's online weather page with colorful graphics, radar, forecasts and headlines.
- ▶ **http://cirrus.spri.umich.edu/wxnet** — This University of Michigan site features thousands of forecasts, as well as many satellite images and links.
- ▶ **www.landings.com** — Up-to-date conditions and satellite images help pilots navigate. The site boasts virtually "every weather link known."
- ▶ **www.nssi.noaa.gov** — Severe weather preparedness guides from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with sophisticated radar, climate archives and more.
- ▶ **www.accuweather.com** — AccuWeather Inc. offers free and premium services, with five-day forecasts, Doppler radar and dozens of other features.
- ▶ **www.intellicast.com** — Check out Golfcast, a special feature that alerts golfers to the best and worst places to play based on weather conditions.
- ▶ **http://weather.yahoo.com** — Enter a ZIP code for local forecasts or peruse the storm center, ski and travel information, records, averages and maps.
- ▶ **http://grads.iges.org/cola** — The Weather & Climate site features options from the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmospheric Studies (COLA) and the Institute for Global Environment and Society (IGES).



Scanning the Web is compiled by Mike Perrault.

Wanted: Tomorrow's Leaders

Golfdom is looking for superintendents, assistants and other management professionals, ages 25 to 35, to spotlight in a special awards program that's focused on the next generation of industry leaders.

Golfdom's Young Leaders program will identify and profile those who will be the mentors, innovators and influencers of the next decade.

"We want to select the individuals who will be the trailblazers and teachers of tomorrow," said Pat Jones, publisher. "This is a chance to recognize the best and the brightest."

Any Golfdom reader can nominate himself or herself or a colleague for the program. Nominations should include name, contact information and a brief description of the person's outstanding leadership characteristics. Send nominations to: Golfdom, 7500 Old Oak Blvd, Cleveland, 44130 or submit by e-mail to patrickjones@advanstar.com.



CLARIFICATION

The maker of the ballmark repair tool featured in our story on Pinehurst #2 ("Greens of Envy," May/June) was misidentified. The tool, called a Gash-B-Gone, was developed by Golf Agronomics, which can be reached at 800-626-1359.

Quotable

"If you have a disease, you should spray a fungicide. If you don't have a disease, you should spray a fungicide. Any questions?"

— Designer Brian Silva joking about his simple but effective philosophy of disease management.

"I don't know whether Donald Ross was just having a bad day or what, but he sure had some fun when he built these."

— Jerry Pate, designer and former U.S. Open champ, on the "inverted spoon" green construction at Pinehurst No. 2.

"During Open week, I guarantee there wasn't a single green out there that didn't get mowed 28 times."

— Paul Jett, CGCS at Pinehurst No. 2, on hosting the U.S. Open.

Pesticide Purge?

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control methods — including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides — may be used on golf courses and other city property only as a last resort after all other strategies have failed. The city's proposed integrated plant health care program requires new tech-

"It might be acceptable for several years, but eventually the crabgrass and dandelions will take over unless you have the labor to weed by hand." — MIKE REWINSKI

niques and alternative maintenance practices to be implemented city-wide to reduce reliance on pesticides, said Claire Tucker-Reid, general manager of Toronto's Parks and Recreation Division.

Groups such as the Pesticide Action Network of North America have asked the Cali-

fornia EPA for dozens of preventive actions, including banning "the worst pesticides" and reducing use of the rest. They're asking the federal EPA to require pesticide manufacturers to conduct long-term studies to prove that pesticides don't have adverse affects and to prohibit use of pesticides in some areas.

San Francisco passed a new code to restrict use of pesticides on city property as part of its City Integrated Pest Management Policy. It bans certain categories of pesticides and requires notice of other pesticide use.

What does all this mean for superintendents? The obvious answer is that more superintendents may have to maintain turf using less pesticides — or without pesticides. But that's easier said than done.

Researchers are busy looking at no-pesticide options. Scientists such as Jack Bailey, Ndaona Chokani and Charles E. Hall Jr., all Ph.D.s at North Carolina State University, are working on a USGA-supported project to reduce the use of pesticides on

greens. They're focusing on disease management based on modifications of microclimates on individual greens.

In Alameda and Contra Costa counties in California, the East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland instituted an IPM program that is researching pest management alternatives and includes an innovative customized mapping and record-keeping system for all major pests for its 50 parks covering 78,000 acres.

Superintendents like Rewinski are trying to reduce chemical usage anyway and say they remain open-minded about the possibility of one day managing turf without chemicals.

"It might be acceptable for several years, but eventually the crabgrass and dandelions will take over unless you have the labor to weed by hand," Rewinski says. "Maybe they can find a way to make it work. I don't like using pesticides. I wouldn't mind seeing the game of golf take a step back from the perfect conditioning required now."

— Mike Perrault