

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

EPA rules on pesticides

The U.S. EPA has implemented a ban and a reduction strategy for two organophosphates used mostly in agriculture. EPA is eliminating the use of methyl parathion on several fruits and vegetables; and reducing application rates of azinphos methyl on apples, pears and peaches. The laws take effect Jan. 1.

By the end of the year, EPA said it will complete its reassessment of the organophosphates and several other commonly used pesticides, and meet the Food Quality Protection Act's food-safety goals.

Pesticide-using industries have complained that EPA isn't using sound science in its FQPA decisions, but the National Resources Defense Fund threatened a lawsuit against EPA for not moving quickly enough to remove pesticides from the marketplace.

Southern Hills vandalized

The championship course at Southern Hills CC was closed for reseeding after vandals damaged eight greens by spraying them with damaging chemicals. Tulsa, Okla.-based Southern Hills is site of the 2001 U.S. Open. Four other greens on another 9-hole course were also damaged.

Eco Soil pays in lawsuit

Rancho Bernardo, Calif.-based Eco Soil Systems will pay termination charges and attorney's fees totaling \$200,000 to settle a lawsuit with Halifax Fund LP, Palladin Group LP, Granite Financial Group and Midori Capital Corp.

In other company news, Eco Soil will acquire the Agricultural Biological Division, a specialized research group of Agrium Inc. based in Calgary, Canada.

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Jurassic Links

Dinosaurs once enjoyed unhindered play on land that has become the greens, bunkers and fairways of the new Heritage at Westmoor GC in Westminster, Colo., a Denver suburb.

Bones belonging to four triceratops — a prehistoric beast resembling a heavily armored rhinoceros — were discovered during construction of the Michael Hurdzan-designed 18-hole municipal course. The most complete specimen was unearthed while digging a bunker. The Denver Museum of Natural History will get most of the remains, while various other pieces and parts will be ensconced at the course, which opened Sept. 9.

"We're going to put up a little display

case at the clubhouse," says Bill Walenczak, Westminster's director of parks, recreation and libraries. He oversaw construction of the \$8.7 million project, which includes an office/light industrial park along with the high-end, full-service clubhouse and course.

"It's tremendously exciting to hold something in your hand that's 62 million years old," Walenczak says.

Prior to the rise of the Rocky Mountains millions of years ago, the course's layout was part of a beach of a large inland sea that drained and left behind a setting similar to the Louisiana Bayous, according to geographic historians. The lush swampland was home to palms, giant gingers and other plants that attracted monsters such as the

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The dark sections at the top of this rock formation are bone fragments from a triceratops.

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Textron reports increase

Providence, R.I.-based Textron Inc. reported second-quarter diluted earnings per share from continuing operations of \$1.05, up from \$0.70 last year, marking the company's 39th consecutive quarter of year-to-year income improvement.

Lesco announces record sales

Cleveland-based Lesco Inc. announced record sales and earnings for the second quarter and first half of 1999.

Second-quarter sales of \$150.7 million were an increase of 12.1 percent over sales of \$134.4 million in last year's quarter.

Deere breaks ground on plant

John Deere has broken ground for its new Vehicle Group plant in the western end of James City County, Virginia.

The \$30 million project, which was announced in April, will occupy about 300,000 square feet on 75 acres.

The plant, to open next summer, will manufacture

John Deere's line of Gator utility vehicles.

Olympus invests more in Palmer

Olympus Real Estate Corp., a Dallas-based private real estate investment firm, gave an additional \$50 million to San Francisco-based Arnold Palmer Golf Management LLC to expand its partnership to consolidate the golf course industry in a branded chain format.

Toro, ClubCorp extend agreement

Bloomington, Minn.-based The Toro Co. and Dallas-based ClubCorp entered into a six-year extended agreement to make Toro the supplier of turf and landscape equipment, irrigation, and precision turf management technology to all ClubCorp properties.

Correction

An item in the Business Briefs in the May/June issue of *Golfdom* incorrectly spelled the last name of Drew Kinder, co-president and director of retail for AgriBioTech.



One of Our Favorite Ads

▲ When Lincolnshire, Ill.-based Hewitt Associates LLC had an advertising campaign designed to show it believes that people are a company's No. 1 asset, it envisioned what golf greens might look like without superintendents, assistants and crew members. This graphically manipulated photograph, used in one of the global-management consulting firm's advertisements, cleverly conceptualizes a not-so-manicured green.

Quotable

"It's a great alternative to network television. Nobody gets shot, nobody gets stabbed, nobody gets raped and there aren't any drugs involved."

— *Broadcaster Denny Schreiner talking about The Golf Channel.*

"It's one of the few things in life that is better than advertised. The Super Bowl is two weeks of hype and three hours of tripe. The Ryder Cup is three days of blast furnace. How tense is it? One year Corey Pavin was so nervous he couldn't get the tee in the ground — and nobody had hit a shot yet."

— *Rick Reilly, Sports Illustrated columnist, writing on the pressure-packed Ryder Cup.*

"People are sick of issues like this in the sports world. When you can't just show up and play for your country, I don't know. If that's not reward enough, then my heart bleeds for the game of golf."

— *Ben Crenshaw, as told to ESPN, on unnamed PGA players (could it be David Duval, Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara?) who have said they should be paid for playing in the prestigious Ryder Cup.*