

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

ProShot, American Golf team up

San Juan Capistrano, Calif.-based ProShot Golf, provider of Global Positioning System information and communication services, has teamed with Santa Monica, Calif.-based American Golf to provide the management company with GPS services. American Golf manages more than 300 properties.

Textron, St. Andrews extend pact

Racine, Wis.-based Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products extended its agreement with St. Andrews Links Trust to remain the exclusive turf maintenance equipment supplier for St. Andrews Links in Fife, Scotland. St. Andrews' famous "Old Course" is hosting the British Open in July. According to the agreement, St. Andrews, the recognized birthplace of golf, will only use turf maintenance equipment and light utility vehicles manufactured by TTCSP.

FTGA, U. of Florida unite

The Florida Turfgrass Association and the University of Florida have joined in a new funding initiative for environmental research. The university will continually update the association on its activities and findings.

Twice a year, the FTGA will send reports to its member clubs informing them how the university is spending their money. The university is committed to adding new professors to its staff and increasing their dedicated testing facilities from 15 acres to 80 acres in an advance effort to prepare for this new research.

Companies form trade alliance

The biopesticide industry has formed a new coalition called the Biopesticide Industry Al-

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Crying Fowl

COOT KILLINGS ON CALIFORNIA COURSE SPARK WAR OF WORDS

By James E. Guyette

The La Cumbre Golf and CC in Santa Barbara, Calif., is in a major flap over the killing of course-fouling water fowl known as coots, migratory birds that feed on tender grass sprouts, seeds and assorted aquatic animals.

The controversy received considerable coverage by local newspapers, radio and television last year, with readers of the *Santa Barbara News-Press* rating it among the top stories of 1999.

The squawking continues this year. Neighbors and superintendents throughout California are still angry over La Cumbre's coot control strategies late last year. There were accounts of course staffers allegedly stuffing trapped birds into plastic bags, and then breaking their wings and legs before asphyxiating the birds in a shed on course property. The course does have a state wildlife permit to kill coots, but neighbors' feathers remain ruffled over the way in which the coots were controlled.

"The behavior of the golf course has been so appalling that it has sparked a lot of attention," says local resident Jon Hanlon. "People don't want to know that someone down the block is doing these things."

A La Cumbre representative criticized those who question the course's coot control strategies.

"There has been an inordinate amount of opposition to the managing of coots at La Cumbre," says Antonio R. Romasanta, a member of the course and chairman of La Cumbre's coot committee. In a letter to Golf-dom, Romasanta, a lawyer, observes that this kind of protest "is not unusual for this area" because of the liberal views of its population.

"There is no logic, rhyme or reason for the positions taken by some of these advocates," Romasanta says.

Romasanta declined to be interviewed, saying that "we have concluded that any publicity seems to stir (the protesters') passions. We believe that at the current time a low profile is the wiser course to follow," he said.

LaCumbre's staff has stopped killing coots, but Hanlon says he's still concerned about the matter. Hanlon contends that concerned callers to the club have been left scratching their heads in puzzlement as staffers there have criticized them for not doing more to ban human abortions. "They're not addressing the issue," Hanlon says.

The coot, *Fulcina americana*, resembles a cross between a duck and a chicken. It's also known as a mudhen or swamphen. Between its appetite for turf, and its notorious droppings, a course invaded by coots can disgust even the most dedicated golfers.

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liance, whose mission is to improve the global market perception of their products as effective and to streamline registration with EPA.

Biopesticides are products derived from natural materials such as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals, and are regulated by the EPA's Biopesticide and Pollution Prevention Division.

e-Greenbiz, Hortiopia team up

Boulder, Colo.-based e-Greenbiz.com formed a strategic partnership with Hortiopia, a provider of electronic plant data. The agreement allows users of the site to quickly locate specific cultivar information.

Bush Hog sold

CC Industries, an affiliate of Henry Crown and Co. of Chicago, has purchased Bush Hog. The company will operate as Bush Hog LLC. Bush Hog's management will remain.

Maxwell, NGF in project

Smyrna, Tenn.-based Maxwell Golf Group's design division is working with the National Golf Foundation to design a golf course project that will meet the guidelines of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act. If funding is approved, the proposed nine-hole course will be an addition to the City of Smyrna's existing 18-hole Smyrna Municipal GC.

Kemper achieves Audubon status

The Kemper Lakes GC in Long Grove, Ill., achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Goofs

We should have pointed it out then, but we're pointing it out now. Results of the PDI poll conducted by Sam Hocutt III reported in the April *Golfdom* are unscientific.

Also, in our April "Quotable" section, we refer to Gerry Sweda, president of Sweda Training & Development, as George Sweda. Sorry, Gerry.

Park It!

COURSE PUTS FOOT DOWN AND CANS GOLF CARS FOR A DAY

By James E. Guyette

At least Mark Twain got to hoof it on the links when he took his famous "good walk spoiled." These days, many golf courses prohibit players from walking and mandate the use of golf cars. So much for an afternoon stroll.

It's all a bunch of baloney, insists Chris Briscoe, director of golf at Homestead GC in Midway, Utah. Briscoe will tell you that golf is game of walking, and that's why he formally proclaimed June 5 as "Walking Day" at Homestead. Cars will be canned and greens fees reduced to an old-fashioned \$10. "It disgusts me when I see courses where you're not allowed to walk," Briscoe says.

He recalls with disdain when a round at Pebble Beach Golf Links was "ruined" because course officials insisted he take a cart rather than explore the scenery on foot.

"I would love to see more people walking, and there are a lot of people involved with golf who don't realize that walking is OK," Briscoe says, adding that a round at Homestead sans cart takes the same amount of time (about 4 1/2 hours) as a mobile trip around the links.

Too many players have the impression that if there are no cars then there's no golf, Briscoe laments. He believes Walking Day may get people in step with the benefits — both health- and game-related — of golf car-free play.

"The time it takes to walk from one shot to the next is very important time," Briscoe observes. "It's a time to prepare yourself for the next shot. It's a time to plan strategy for your next shot, it's a time to talk to your playing partner. It's a time to take in your surroundings and be thankful you play a game set in a beautiful setting."

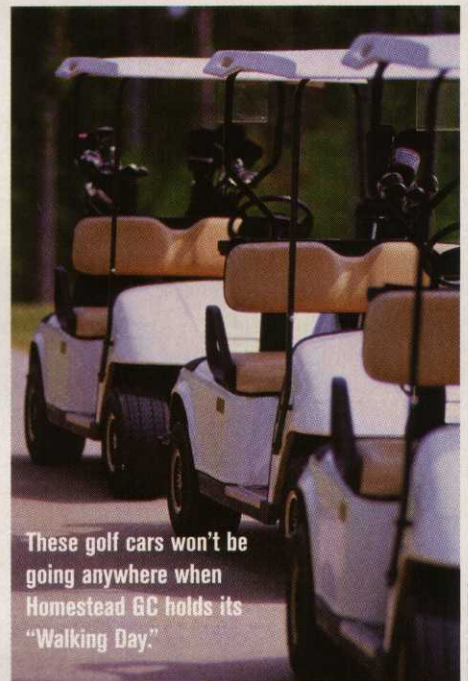
Walking Day was actually the idea of the Homestead Resort's owner, Kevin Shannon, an English native, who never rode in a "buggy" until he came to the United States.

"You go to Scotland and you see people walking — and they are tougher courses to walk than ours," Briscoe says.

Reaction from Homestead's clientele was mixed, Briscoe reports.

"We've gotten a lot of raised eyebrows," he says, mainly from younger golfers. "Youngsters and juniors don't realize that golf is a walking game."

They should watch their golfing elders, Briscoe adds. "You see people in their 80s who are walking, and they're in good shape."



These golf cars won't be going anywhere when Homestead GC holds its "Walking Day."

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