

Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

Business briefs

Syngenta phasing out diazinon

After analyzing its financial performance, Greensboro, N.C.-based Syngenta Crop Protection USA announced a four-year phase out of its diazinon insecticide business. Syngenta coordinated the plan with EPA to ensure the phase-out is in accordance with margins of safety required by the Food Quality Protection Act.

"Declining profit margins are the reason for our market withdrawal decision," said Eileen Watson, spokeswoman for Syngenta. "Although diazinon sales have remained strong, the margins on this product have continued to erode due to a very competitive market place. The investment to keep diazinon on the market can no longer be justified."

Dow offers new label for Dursban

While Indianapolis-based Dow AgroSciences, the makers of chlorpyrifos (Dursban), and the EPA agreed last summer to limit most outdoor residential and non-residential uses of the insecticide, Dursban Pro is still available for golf course use. But on Dec. 1, product with labels reflecting a reduced application rate entered the market.

The new label reduces application rates from four pounds of active ingredient per acre to one pound or two quarts per acre — enough to effectively control more than 25 turf pests. The new rate is not a maximum that can be applied per season. Rather, it is the maximum that can be used during any single application.

But superintendents with supplies of Dursban Pro should read and follow label instructions on their existing stock, a Dow AgroSciences spokesman noted.

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Stayin' Alive

BOOK TELLS HOW TO FIGHT
OFF GATORS AND DEAL WITH
OTHER DIRE EMERGENCIES

By Mark Luce

Don't think for a second that the alligator living in the pond on No. 13 won't hurt you. He will. But thanks to a new book, *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* (Chronicle Books, \$14.95), hackers can learn not only how to fend off unwelcome gator attacks, but also how to get out of quicksand, survive an avalanche or perform a tracheotomy.

Let's start with an alligator attack. According to authors Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht, there are two keys to get out of this precarious situation: First, first cover the alligator's eyes to make it "more sedate;" second, bop the beast on its nose to make it open its jaws to free your other arm.

As the authors say, you never know when you'll have to break down a door, hotwire a car, take or deliver a punch or deliver a baby in the back-seat of cab. They supply easy, step-by-step instructions on how to get out of these and other binds. Paramount, of course, to any dicey plight is to remain calm, even if, as the authors explain in the book, you're being shot at.

There's something creepy about

subjects such as how to survive if your parachute fails or how to land a plane (when the pilot is incapacitated or dead), but reading the straightforward instructions make all the scenarios possible to survive (well, maybe not the unopened parachute). Some instructions, though, are common sense, such as how to escape from a swarm of killer bees — run!

Most of us will probably never jump from a building into a dumpster or find ourselves in a sword fight. But chapter five, "Adventure Survival," has plenty of useful tips for more likely situations — adrift at sea, lost in the desert or mountains, stuck inside during an earthquake or the ever-popular how to make a fire without matches.

You get the sense the authors spent too much time watching bad action movies, but the book is a fun read, informative and could save your life. It also fits in your back pocket, which will come in handy if you find yourself close to the gators in the drink.

MIKE KLEMM



Whoosh . . . Gore!

Although there are many election jokes circulating e-mail lists, we particularly enjoyed this one:

"A golf rule revision is being sought in South Florida. The rule change involves the replacement of a golfer's traditional call of "fore!" following a shot that might not be headed in the desired direction and which could endanger another player.

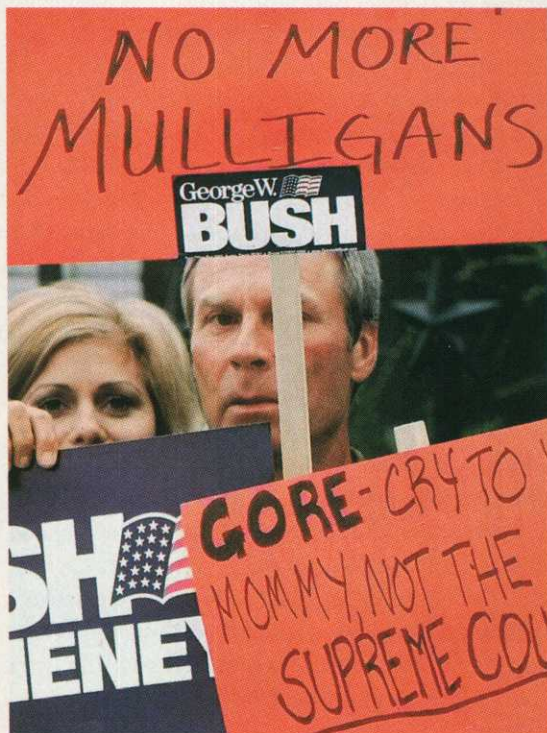
"Under the new rule, when a player hits an errant shot, he or she will be allowed to yell "Gore!" while the ball is still in flight. Doing so will enable the player to then replace the ball in the same spot and hit it again.

"The player may do this repeatedly until he or she is satisfied that his or her ball has come to rest in the location in which he or she intended."

We wish it was that easy.

Ben for Bush

Golfer and golf course architect Ben Crenshaw and his wife, Julie, carried a sign and joined supporters outside the governor's mansion in Austin, Texas, to show support for their friend, George W. Bush, the nation's new president. Crenshaw appeared at the mansion in November in the midst of the drawn-out election process and infamous Florida recount.



Quotable

"I agree that someone should lose their job over this fiasco in Florida. More than likely, it will be a superintendent, since we get blamed for everything else."

— Ohio superintendent Bruce A. Wierzbicki with his thoughts on the election debacle in the Sunshine State.

"Second sucks."

— Earl Woods quoting his son Tiger, at age 10, on why he refused to claim the second-place prize they won in a father/son tournament. (WMJI radio, Cleveland)

"Maybe Gore likes golf more than I thought. After all, he did take a mulligan in Florida."

— Golfdom's Pat Jones in a speech at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium.

"The USGA, while appreciating Arnold Palmer's vast contributions to the game including his many years as a chairman of our Members Program, is puzzled by his endorsement of the manufacturer's decision."

— The folks in Far Hills, N.J., responding to the King's endorsement of Callaway's new humongous, non-conforming driver.

"Guys like Notah (Begay), as wonderful as he is, have no chance ever to be No. 1 in the world as long as Tiger's around."

— Golfer and golf commentator Curtis Strange on the state of the game.

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New guidelines for herbicide

Monsanto announced that EPA has approved new application guidelines for Manage turf herbicide. Applicators can now apply up to four times per season at the maximum labeled rate for control of nutsedge in turf-grass, according to the St. Louis-based company.

Toro acquires Goossen

Bloomington, Minn.-based The Toro Co. announced it has entered into an agreement to purchase certain assets of Goossen Industries, a turf equipment manufacturer in Beatrice, Neb., for an undisclosed sum.

Kendrick B. Melrose, chairman and CEO of Toro, said Toro will gain valuable engineering and production expertise from Goossen to help it expand the debris management product segment.

ClubCorp buys Paris International

Dallas-based ClubCorp acquired Paris International GC in Baillet en France. Financial terms were not disclosed. The private club, which opened in 1991, features a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course.

Horizon GPS created

Omaha, Neb.-based Golf LLC, a builder and manager of golf courses, announced that its GPS/GIS division is now known as Horizon GPS.

The newly named division specializes in GPS and GIS technologies for the golf industry.

Scotts establishes Worldwide group

Marysville, Ohio-based The Scotts Co. has established a Global Professional Business Group, consisting of its professional business in North America and Europe.

"This global approach to the professional business follows the path that we have chosen for technology and R&D, capitalizing on our overall strengths as a global company, not one split by geographical areas," said James Hagedorn, president and chief operating officer.

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Go Fish

COURSE'S SETTING PROVIDES A DIFFERENT HOOK FOR GOLFERS

By James E. Guyette

There's something fishy at Sycamore Creek GC in Osage Beach, Mo. — specifically the fishery around which the 18-hole course was built. Sycamore Creek GC is the creation of Jim Kahrs, whose family owns Osage Catfishery, a 250-acre fishery. Kahrs added an 18-hole golf course to the family business because he wasn't sure the fishery would be enough to support his family. In fact, Kahrs often envisioned a golf course on the property as he mowed around the fish ponds.

Kahrs had the first nine holes built in 1994. Unfortunately, he wasn't satisfied with the work of the original contractor. When he decided to build the



SYCAMORE CREEK GC

second nine, he kept the project in the family. Kahrs and his sons routed the course and built it themselves.

"The boys learned golf course construction quickly, as well as how to operate heavy machinery," says Danna Kahrs, Jim's wife. "The entire family, along with superintendent Matt Davis and his crew, invested 2.5 years in designing, building, grooming and detailing the back nine."

The Kahrs have farmed fish in the resort region anchored by the Lake of the Ozarks for about 45 years. The course features zoysiagrass tee boxes, bermudagrass fairways and Crenshaw bentgrass greens. Farm-related water hazards highlight three holes, while the rest of the course preserves native dogwood groves. With the mature native trees, rolling hills and ever-present hazards, Sycamore Creek provides golfers with the opportunity to play all of their clubs, Danna says.

Davis says there are challenges to working on a course that doubles as a working fishery, which produces 21 species sold around the world. Davis must consider the needs of both operations when deciding on what chemicals to use. For example, chemicals that are acceptable for the hatchery could damage turf, and certain turf products could be toxic to fish.

The Kahrs' unusual version of surf and turf reveals that environmentally sensitive operations can co-exist, Danna says. "We haven't had anyone hit a catfish on the head with a golf ball," she jokes.

Don't get too excited about bringing along your pole or net when visiting the course. Duffers hoping to snag unauthorized fish along the links will be disappointed because the fish aren't raised for human food. Although caviar is produced from the stock, most of the fishery's output is used for ornamental or pond-care purposes, such as algae control.

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Program helps low-budget courses

GCSAA and its 101 chapters have implemented a limited-budget outreach program to provide advice and assistance to golf facilities with limited resources. Facilities targeted by this initiative are those with extremely low budgets, which may or may not employ a full-time superintendent. The goal is to help 500 limited-budget courses by June 30. For more information, contact GCSAA's Janet Satterlee at 800-472-7878, ext. 603.

Redexim acquires Pro Seed

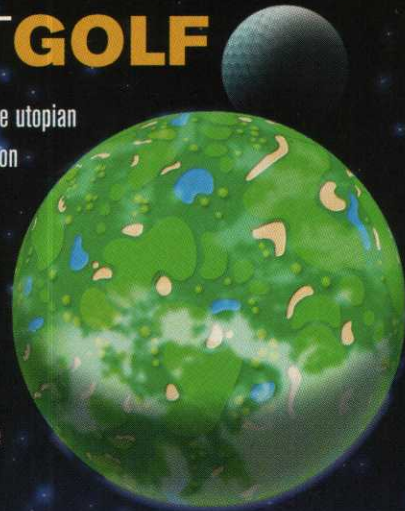
Redexim BV, headquartered in Zeist, Holland, acquired UK-based Pro Seed Equipment Ltd. According to Redexim Charterhouse, the company's North American organization, the acquisition is part of the group's strategy to grow by expanding its focus in niche markets.

Golden Bear drops management

Golden Bear Club Services, formed to manage Jack Nicklaus-designed properties, is getting out of management, according to Crittenden Marketing. GBCS will keep its ties with Muirfield Village GC in Dublin, Ohio, and the Bear's Club in Jupiter, Fla.

PLANET GOLF

In the relentless pursuit of the utopian planet, golf course construction struggles to overcome the barriers of oceans, shopping malls, dwellings and hospitals. Despite these obstacles, progress is being made as evidenced by these openings and additions in the first 10 months of 2000:



New facilities ¹	9-hole	18-hole	Total
Daily Fee	76	163	239
Municipal	5	8	13
Private	1	34	35
Total	82	205	287
Additions ²	9-hole	18-hole	Total
Daily Fee	121	16	137
Municipal	10	1	11
Private	12	5	17
Total	143	22	165
Grand Total	225	227	452

¹Excludes two 9-hole and two 18-hole reconstruction
²Addition to existing facility

SOURCE: NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION
ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDY

Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews sites that teach leadership

The curmudgeonly New York journalist Walter Lippman once wrote that "the final test of a leader is that he leaves behind in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." If you want to become the kind of leader that inspires employees that way, here are a few sites that might help (all sites start with <http://> unless otherwise noted):

***** – Bookmark it and return frequently;
* – Look at only if absolutely necessary

*****www.wibleadership.com – The Na-

tional Leadership Institute for Workforce Excellence's Web site contains an extensive blueprint about how to be a good leader. It has a list of leadership characteristics and provides a step-by-step strategy on how to create those qualities in yourself. It addresses topics such as strategic thinking, strategic planning and ways to measure effective leadership. There's a reading list of the most recent books on the subject and a discussion forum for leaders. A must-see site.

****www.leadership-development.com –

The Hagbert Consulting Group created this site to be a repository of information on leadership, and it succeeds at its goal. It doesn't stop at giving you advice about yourself, however. This site also provides information about how to create a successful

structure that encourages employees to follow your lead.

*www.orbina.com/sandiego.html – This site defines the phrase "out there." It seeks to apply the principles of Sahaja Yoga to the world of business. There are apparently seven stages to becoming an effective leader, and there's a yoga stage for each of them. No matter how hard this page tries, however, its pie-in-the-sky New Age approach stubbornly refuses to account for the realities of everyday life – like broken sprinkler heads and overbearing green chairmen.

Scanning the Web is compiled by Frank H. Andorka Jr., Golfdom's associate editor, whose leadership skills are often tested by his children. You can reach him at fan-dorka@advanstar.com.