

## Business briefs

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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

**T**here'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.