

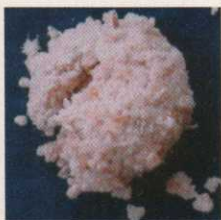
Off The Fringe

Hit It in the Drink ... and Feed the Fish

If a golfer uses the new ball from Eco Golf, he'll never technically lose another golf ball if he hits it in the drink. He will, however, dissolve a ball.

That's right. Eco Golf, manufacturer of the Eco Golf Tee, has developed a golf ball that will dissipate safely in water.

Eco Golf says its new ball looks, feels and flies like a real golf ball, but it's made from 100 percent natural materials. The ball degrades in three to five days, leaving no synthetic or toxic residue behind. The Eco ball is a one-piece, compression-molded ball. It flies about 75 percent the distance of a regular golf ball.



The Eco Golf Ball after being submerged in water for 96 hours.

The company claims that driving golf balls into the ocean was a favorite pastime of many cruise-line passengers (who often double as golfers), but the "sport" is prohibited. With Eco Golf's dissolving balls, driving ranges can return to cruise ships.

"Hitting golf balls into the ocean is an adrenaline rush similar to skipping stones into a lake," says Todd Baker, managing director for Eco Golf. "There is something special about watching the splash down of your ball plunging deep into the ocean and then turning to your friends and giving them all high fives."

Well, we don't get *that* excited about it.

Quotable

"Shirley Temples!"

— Bill Tryon, announcing how he and his son, Ty, would celebrate after Ty, 17, became the youngest player in history to earn a PGA Tour card. (Associated Press)

"The job superintendents have done is the biggest improvement in golf today. The demands have caused it, yes, but also the education that superintendents have now in agronomy and such (is critical)."

— Byron Nelson, Hall of Fame professional golfer (GCSAA)

"I don't recall that slow play was a problem in recreational golf until the average golfer had the bad example of the PGA Tour on television."

— Frank Hannigan, former USGA executive director. (Doug Ferguson, Associated Press)



Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews puttingzone.com/gk.html

(All sites are preceded by <http://> unless otherwise noted)

You could call this site the "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Putting Greens and Weren't Afraid to Ask" site. Although the overall site is dedicated to the fine art of putting, you could easily spend hours perusing the "greenkeepers" section.

Its subjects are too extensive to list completely here, but the site discusses everything from green construction to irrigation practices and beyond. The most impressive part of the site is the navigation bar on the right-hand side, which lists journal and magazine articles about the

subject you choose from the main menu.

The list of article authors is equally impressive. It includes the USGA's Jim Snow, Penn State University's Al Turgeon and noted architect Mike Hurdzan, just to name a few. If I had to quibble, the links should take you directly to the articles rather than abstracts.

Armed with the extensive abstract information, however, you should be able to find actual copies of the articles on your own. It's such a good site, in fact, that I'm going to add it to our list of links at www.golfdom.com.

Speaking of our Web site, *Golfdom* has completely redesigned it to make it more user-friendly and current. We've included a new search engine and a navigation bar that will help you find the articles you need quickly. We're still tweaking it a bit, so if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact me at fandorka@advanstar.com. Thanks for giving us another shot.

Golfdom's managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr. compiles *Scanning the Web* and is thrilled about the upgrades to *Golfdom's* site, www.golfdom.com. You can reach him at fandorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.