

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

FWS's proposed regulation addresses geese problem

Superintendents with geese problems on their golf courses will be glad to hear the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed new regulations to give state wildlife agencies permission to reduce flocks of Canada geese that nest year-round. That means superintendents could, by year's end, eliminate geese on their courses. In making the proposal, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided the Canadian geese problem can be best addressed at the state level. "We're committed to providing state wildlife management agencies with as much flexibility as possible to address the issue," a spokesman said.

Bayer must divest Fipronil

While the European Union has given conditional approval to Bayer AG's acquisition of Aventis CropScience AG, the new company must divest itself of Aventis' best-selling insecticide, Fipronil. The new company, called Bayer CropScience, may license the product back for regions outside of Europe and the United States, however.

Guerra leaves AGC

In the wake of its merger with National Golf Properties, American Golf Corp. no longer has two CEOs. Co-CEO Joe Guerra has left the company to pursue other interests, according to AGC. Guerra was with AGC for 15 years. AGC's other co-CEO, David Pillsbury, is now president of the company.

National Golf also announced that James M. Stanich resigned as president, but will remain as a member of the board of directors.

New CEO plots LESCO's future

Less than a week after being named CEO of *Briefs continue on page 16*

Book 'Em, Dougo

SLEUTHING DISTRIBUTOR HELPS
BUST GOLF COURSE VANDAL

By Larry Aylward, Editor

Doug Hill is general manager of Turfgrass South, an independent distributor in Florence, Ky. But Hill also possesses the sleuthing savvy of Lieutenant "Whadya Pay for Those Shoes?" Columbo.

In April, Hill helped bust a man who vandalized the Fort Mitchell (Ky.) CC, near Florence and about 10 minutes from Cincinnati. On March 22, the 25-year-old numbskull drove his Ford Explorer onto one of the course's bentgrass fairways and did an estimated \$1,300 in damage. The man also wrecked his vehicle, which came back to haunt him. Its fender and fog light were left behind amid the golf course damage.

On March 31, Hill, a member of the Fort Mitchell CC and also its past president, was leaving a restaurant with his son after having brunch. On the way out, they bumped into another member of the course, who tipped them off about a vehicle parked nearby with a missing fender and fog light. Hill and his son drove past the car. Even after nine days, there was still bentgrass sod hanging from the vehicle's axle. Hill's teenage son knew the man who owned the vehicle.



Doug Hill says he recognized the chunks of turf hanging from the damaged vehicle were bentgrass.

Hill called the club's president and told him about the vehicle. He picked up the president, and they drove back to where the vehicle was parked and took digital photos of its front end. Then they e-mailed the photos to Fort Mitchell's chief of police.

Two days later, the police busted the vandal, who admitted his stupid stunt. "It was *so* satisfying to catch him," Hill says.

So satisfying because Hill knows how much superintendents despise vandals.

"Superintendents are my customers," Hill says. "You can see the stress on their faces when you talk about vandalism. Superintendents will be happy to learn that one of these guys got caught. You never read about these guys getting caught."

Here's to Doug "Sherlock" Hill for helping to do the catching.