

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Florida GCSA helps broker deal for Nematicur

The Florida GCSA helped broker a deal between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Bayer Environmental Science that will allow for a five-year phase-out period for Nematicur nematicide, which Florida superintendents have relied on to control nematodes.

In March, Bayer requested that EPA cancel all uses of fenamiphos, the active ingredient in its nematicide Nematicur, effective May 31, 2005. The company said the action was due to the "escalating costs of defending fenamiphos relative to its limited use." The product was used for turf mostly on golf courses in Florida and a few other southern states.

The revised agreement between Bayer and the EPA allows for the use and formulation for use of Nematicur through May 31, 2007. However, pursuant to the original agreement, use on hydrologic soil group A — soil groups that are excessively drained and have predominately sand or loamy sand with water tables less than 50 feet deep — will be canceled effective May 31, 2005.

"This is a great success for Bayer and our customers who rely on Nematicur," said Mike Daly, Bayer's turf and ornamental brand manager. "The extended phase out allows superintendents to use the trusted nematode control product while we work to develop better alternatives. And we could not have accomplished this without the help of these dedicated superintendents."

Sale approved of National Golf, AGC

Santa Monica, Calif.-based National Golf announced that its board of directors and its

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Going Buggy

PLAGUE OF THE NORTHEAST INVADES MID-ATLANTIC STATES

By Frank H. Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

A full-scale invasion may be imminent next year. No, we're not talking about President Bush's plans for Iraq. We're talking about an invasion of the annual bluegrass weevil into Mid-Atlantic states. The forward troops started moving in this year.

Traditionally an insect pest of the Northeast, the weevil entered the Mid-Atlantic region in earnest this year, reaching as far south as Maryland. What makes it doubly alarming is that the weevils have moved on from attacking *Poa annua*, its traditional target, to bentgrass. A few golf courses have lost significant turf to the pest, says Stan Zontek, director of the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic offices.

"It's always been a minor insect pest from Pittsburgh to the Poconos on *Poa*," Zontek says. "This year, however, it moved farther south and attacked bentgrass. That caught us by surprise."

The insect's attack begins when it lays its eggs in the sheath of the turf's leaves. When the eggs hatch, the larvae sever the leaves from the rest of the plant. To kill them, superintendents must first identify the weevils accurately, according to Zontek.



USGA

The annual bluegrass weevil, a traditional pest in the Northeast, invaded the mid-Atlantic region in earnest this year.

Annual bluegrass weevils usually live in the top quarter inch of thatch, says Dave Oatis, director of the Green Section's Northeast offices. Superintendents who want to determine whether weevils have infected their turf should cut a small slice out of their turf with a pocketknife. They'll see the larvae crawling around, he says.

The insects produce three generations per year, which allows their numbers to increase rapidly, Oatis says. Since they can't be controlled when they're pupating, superintendents have to identify them quickly after they've hatched. The problem, however, is that the damage often mirrors some diseases.

"The visible effects on the surface can be mistaken for anthracnose," Oatis says. "Check your clipping baskets before you treat for the disease."

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independent committee have approved the sale of the company to an investor group comprised of Goldman Sachs' GS Capital Partners, Goldman Sachs' Whitehall Street Real Estate Fund 2001 and Starwood Capital Group's SOF VI U.S. Holdings LLC. In conjunction with the transaction, they will also purchase the outstanding equity interests of American Golf Corp. The combined transaction is valued at \$1.1 billion and includes full repayment of all existing National Golf and American Golf indebtedness. The transaction is expected to close in early 2003.

The companies will continue to own, lease or manage over 250 municipal, daily fee, resort and private golf courses and clubs.

David Price, founder of both American Golf and National Golf.

Robert Dedman, founder of ClubCorp, dead at 76

Robert H. Dedman, founder of ClubCorp and once called "the Henry Ford of the management business," died Aug. 20 at 76 after an undisclosed long illness.

Dedman was chairman of the board of directors of ClubCorp at the time of his death. He began ClubCorp in 1957 with the purchase of 400 acres in Dallas and subsequent development of Brookhaven CC.

ClubCorp eventually grew to hold \$1.6 billion in assets and internationally owns or operates more than 200 golf courses, country clubs, private business and sports clubs, and resorts. ClubCorp properties include Pinehurst Resort and CC in Pinehurst, N.C.; Firestone CC in Akron, Ohio; and Mission Hills CC in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Dedman purchased Pinehurst in 1984 after the Donald Ross-designed course had slipped into disrepair. Dedman restored the club to its now revered state.

Dedman's son, Robert Dedman Jr., has served as CEO of ClubCorp since 1998, and his daughter, Patricia Dedman Dietz, serves as a director for the company.

"I believe I speak for our extended family of ClubCorp members, guests, business
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Try to Lend a Helping Hand

SUPERINTENDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER HELP TO SHAPE THE INDUSTRY

By Frank Dobie

Volunteerism in the world of superintendents is not simply a nice thing to do; it's absolutely essential. Superintendents who volunteer help to shape the direction and integrity of the industry.

Where would we all be if it had not been for our predecessors, the people like Col. John Morley, John MacGregor, Chet Mendenhall and Fred Burkhardt, who took it upon themselves to create the National Greenkeepers Association? They banded together to pool their knowledge and resources. This all-volunteer group's dedication and love of the business gave us the legacy that we enjoy today.

However, their work was done years ago, and it would not have survived without the thousands of greenkeepers and superintendents who followed their lead for the past 75 years. Organizations stagnate unless they reinvent themselves over and over again with an eye toward the changing needs of the members.

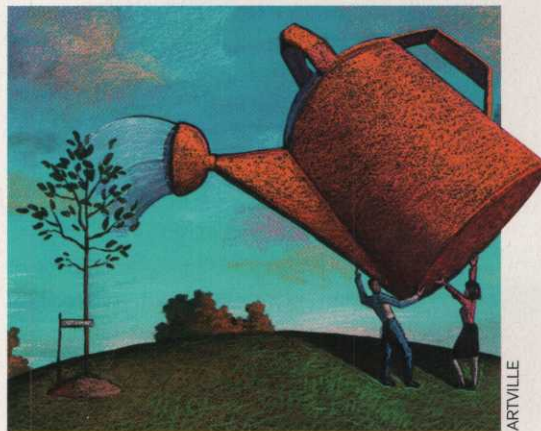
Opportunities to volunteer abound — from local GCSA chapters to state and national turfgrass organizations. All these groups operate on volunteer power. If members don't participate, important parts of the industry will die and be left to commercial ventures alone. And commercial ventures all have special interests.

Many superintendents also volunteer outside the industry by using their special talents and know-how. Whether in school systems or community parks, they not only strengthen the communities they live in but also build reputations within the communities. This participation, for the good of the communities, reaps many rewards beyond the obvious.

It's up to each of us to decide exactly how to contribute. People should volunteer in the area where their greatest interests lie — where they will enjoy their efforts without them being burdens or sacrifices. The satisfaction should come from what you do as well as the result.

Most people who volunteer do so not for credit or their own ego, but because they see that it's wanted and needed. Making a contribution is a natural part of being human. I've always been very proud, during my 41 years as a superintendent, to be associated with people who freely share their wisdom and time for the good of the whole.

Frank Dobie is superintendent and general manager of Sharon GC in Sharon Center, Ohio.



It's up to each superintendent to decide exactly how to contribute to the cause of keeping the interests of superintendents alive.

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partners and employee partners when I say we have lost an inspirational leader, a caring mentor and a devoted friend," Robert Dedman Jr. said of his father.

Jack Nicklaus said Robert Dedman "truly was a visionary."

"It was my honor and privilege to know him, learn from him and be associated with ClubCorp," Nicklaus said. "The world of golf has lost a legend."

Dedman Jr. has assumed the additional title of chairman. Nancy Dedman, widow of the founder, has been added to the board.

In other ClubCorp news, the company named John A. Beckert as president and chief operating officer. Beckert, 49, also joins the company's board of directors.

Beckert, 49, is responsible for all aspects of ClubCorp's domestic and international operations. He replaces Jim Hinckley, who resigned in July.

Environmental Industries changes name to ValleyCrest Cos.

Calabasas, Calif.-based Environmental Industries has changed its name to ValleyCrest Cos. The ValleyCrest name will be used by the parent company and all its business units to unify under one brand a comprehensive and integrated portfolio of landscape services. Environmental Golf, the nation's pre-eminent provider of golf course maintenance services, will become ValleyCrest Golf Course Maintenance.

"The driving force for the re-branding is to simplify the way customers view us and to better communicate the scope of the company's services," said Richard A. Sperber, president and chief operating officer of ValleyCrest.

Toro earnings up

Bloomington, Minn.-based The Toro Co. reported net earnings of \$21.9 million or \$1.68 per diluted share on net sales of \$375.6 million for its fiscal third quarter ended Aug. 2.

In the comparable fiscal 2001 period, the company reported net earnings of \$16.9 million or \$1.30 per diluted share on net sales of \$329.7 million.

LaPlante Wins John Deere Challenge

Tony LaPlante, superintendent of Kennebec Heights CC in Farmingdale, Maine, is the winner of John Deere and *Golfdom's* Major Challenge, the online fantasy golf competition for superintendents and other turf professionals. LaPlante, who finished six-under par, won an all-expense paid for two to the John Deere Team Championship in November at Grayhawk GC in Scottsdale, Ariz.

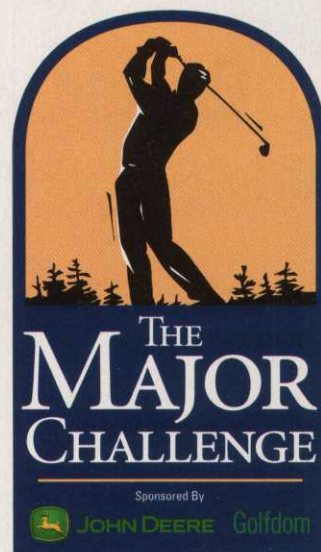
LaPlante edged Jim Knaffle, superintendent of the International Club in Murrells Inlet, S.C., and Stephen Cohoon, certified superintendent of Heritage Hunt Golf and CC in Gainesville, Va., who finished tied for second at two-under par.

Rounding out the top 10 are:

4. Brad Wolff, retired superintendent in Calgary, Alberta — Even.
5. Pat Cowan, sports turf manager in Birch Ridge GC, Soldotna, Alaska — five-over par.
6. Dan Wollner, superintendent, Lake Panorama National in Panorama, Iowa — 11-over par.
6. Ernie Miller, superintendent, Recreation Center of SCW in Sun City West, Ariz. — 11-over par.
6. Ian Cameron, technician, Alberta Springs Golf Resort in Red Deer, Alberta — 11-over par.
9. Don Ewoldt, director of golf course maintenance operations, Lake Erie Land Co. in Chesterton, Ind. — 13-over par.
9. Shannon Wheeler, horticulturist, The Peninsula Club in Cornelius, N.C. — 13-over par.
9. Steve Merkel, agronomist, Landscapes Unlimited in Lincoln, Neb. — 13-over par.
9. Scott Smith, superintendent, Little Ocmulgee GC in McRae, Ga. — 13-over par.

The second- through 25th-place finishers received John Deere golf travel bags from Club Glove.

More than 200 top finishers who "beat the bosses" — Deere's Greg Brenningmeyer and *Golfdom's* Pat Jones — received hats commemorating their victories.



Get the Inside Information

October marks the debut of *Golfdom's* new e-newsletter, *The Insider*, which provides up-to-date news and other features, including *Digital Flagstick* by Pat Jones, *Training Tips*, *Working the Web* and more. *The Insider* is sponsored by Standard Golf. For more information and to sign up to receive *The Insider* free of charge, log onto www.golfdom.com.