

# Off The Fringe

## Business briefs

### Scotts, Monsanto get go ahead

In a victory for The Scotts Co. and Monsanto, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has approved an 11,000-acre control area in central Oregon where 400 acres of the two companies' Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass will be grown. The joint project has been criticized by area bentgrass growers who are concerned about cross-contamination.

The decision followed public hearings last November and in June. The new variety is enhanced through biotechnology to tolerate Roundup Pro herbicide, which will allow invasive weeds to be controlled without harming the bentgrass.

The research will lead to full production if approval is gained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Approval could come in either the fall of 2003 or the spring of 2004. Planting within the new control area is expected to begin this fall.

"Superintendents have been forced to co-manage both *Poa* and bentgrass," said Don Suttner, regional technical development manager at Monsanto. "That often means frequent chemical applications to control insects, weeds and disease. Because *Poa* requires more irrigation, they've had to water more often, too. Eliminating *Poa* reduces many of the other inputs superintendents need to worry about."

### Environmental Golf joins venture

Calabasas, Calif.-based Environmental Golf, a subsidiary of Environmental Industries, formed a joint venture with environmental consultant, golf course agronomist and certified superintendent Ted Horton, of THC Consulting. Horton will partner with Environmental Golf to share expertise on environmental stewardship, indigenous landscaping and habitat protection

*Briefs continue on page 16*

## Defense Against Disease

BIZARRE WEATHER PATTERNS  
MADE DIAGNOSING SUMMER  
DISEASES DIFFICULT. HERE'S  
WHAT THE USGA AND OTHERS  
SAW THIS YEAR

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.,  
Managing Editor

**N**o one can quite explain the bizarre weather patterns across the country this year. It's almost as if something has gone wrong with the seasonal clock, making it particularly difficult this year to figure out which diseases might strike your course.

Still, the members of the USGA Green Section staff and others have been diligently trying to help superintendents diagnose and do battle with problems as they cropped up. Here's what they saw this summer:

**Northeast Region** – The USGA agronomists in the Northeast said the heat and humidity caused dollar spot to appear on several courses, but they assured regional superintendents that the rumors of fungicide resistance were greatly exaggerated.

"Disease pressure was extremely high," says Dave Oatis, the USGA's Northeast Green Section director.



CHIPCO PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

**Dollar spot has attacked golf courses in several regions.**

"Under these conditions, no fungicide held up as long as it would have under more moderate conditions."

Anthrachnose also posed considerable problems for superintendents in the Northeast, and summer patch plagued golf courses in the area. Oatis said syringing those areas helped, but superintendents must not overwater. "Good water management is critical at this point of the season," he says.

**Mid-Atlantic Region** – Stan Zontek, director of the USGA's Mid-Atlantic region, said he saw a resurgence in take-all patch.

"I saw two courses (vs. none last year) suffering from the disease,"

*Continued on page 20*

## Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 14

at Pelican Hill and Oak Creek golf courses in California as well as strategic business planning and project support.

### NGCOA launches Beginner Friendly program

The National Golf Course Owners Association launched a Beginner Friendly Course Certification program through its "Get Linked. Play Golf" player development program. The purpose of the program is to help people locate courses in their area that welcome new golfers. About 500 courses have been certified as Beginner Friendly.

### Hinckley resigns from ClubCorp

Jim Hinckley resigned in July as president and chief operating officer of Dallas-based ClubCorp after more than 30 years.

## GCSAA Growth Has Been 'Steady'

Since January 1994, GCSAA says its membership has grown 58 percent — from 13,300 to an all-time high of 22,000. What's with the big increase?

"The biggest reasons for the growth are the increase in member services that GCSAA provides, the value employers see in the association and our more aggressive recruiting activities," said GCSAA spokesman Jeff Bollig.

Bollig downplayed the growth spurt, though.

"I would not classify the increase in membership from one year to the next as huge," he said. "We have been on a fairly steady pace since 1996 of about 1,000 added members per year. I would agree that the jump from 13,300 to 22,000 over eight or nine years is significant, but it is not as if it was a spike in growth. It has been steady."

GCSAA's membership includes superintendents, assistant superintendents, golf course management executives, educators, students, corporations, industry representatives and others. The superintendent membership, including assistants, is about 17,000. "Superintendent still account for the majority of our membership growth over the extended time period," Bollig said.



## Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/lose\\_wt/index.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/lose_wt/index.htm)

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

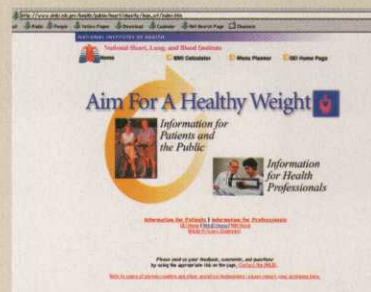
Are you trying to lose weight and revamp your lifestyle? Then the "Aim for a Healthy Weight" initiative from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) is for you. This interactive Web page offers numerous tools to help you figure out your ideal weight and how to get there.

It starts by giving you the tools to determine whether or not you're overweight in the first place. If you click on the Body Mass Index (BMI) calculator, it will ask you to enter your height and weight. Then it will give you a number between 18 and 30, which you can compare to a chart to see how you measure up.

If you determine that you're overweight (or obese — there's a clinical difference), don't despair. Click over to the "Meal Planner" page, which offers suggestions of what foods you can eat to

stay within a predetermined calorie count. You should visit the "Smart Shopping" module, which gives you tips on how to read nutrition labels more effectively. The site also provides tips on what kind of exercise program will take off those unwanted pounds and low-fat recipes that will have you eating good-tasting, healthy food in no time.

It's no surprise that this site is so useful and extensive: The NHLBI is a sub-institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) ([www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)), a national clearinghouse for the latest health information. If you're suffering from health-related problems, this would be a good place to start educating yourself about them. They have an index of common (and not-so-common) health problems and extensive information on all of them. The NIH re-



mains true to the mission it established for itself in 1887 — "to uncover new knowledge that will lead to better health for everyone."

*Golfdom's* managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr., who discovered that he was overweight (but not obese) when he visited this site, compiles *Scanning the Web*. You can reach him at [fandorka@advanstar.com](mailto:fandorka@advanstar.com) with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.

## Off The Fringe

# Read This Book . . . to Combat Whining Hackers

**NEWTON ON THE TEE WILL GIVE YOU AMMUNITION TO USE AGAINST GOLFERS WHO BLAME EVERYTHING BUT THEMSELVES FOR HIGH SCORES**

If you played a round with author John Zumerchik, you would learn plenty of things you never knew. But you also might want to wrap your nine-iron around his head when he yammered on about “coefficient restitution,” “kinetic chain events,” “gravitational acceleration” and “vibrational energy.”

Lucky for us (or maybe him), Zumerchik, the esteemed editor of the *Encyclopedia of Sports Science*, has given us all this science talk of golf in a surprisingly accessible book form — *Newton on the Tee: A Good Walk Through the Science of Golf* (Simon & Schuster, \$23).

In a way, Zumerchik repeatedly points out the obvious — golf is really, really, really hard, and the slightest mistake in any one of myriad factors can lead to

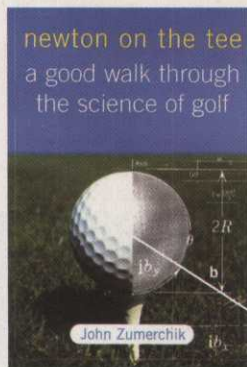
disaster. However, what Zumerchik does so nicely in this volume is explain not only the physics — and physiology — behind things such as backswings, follow-throughs, lofts, acceleration, friction and lift, but he also shows us how to use this knowledge to improve our game. He breaks all this down into interesting chapters that deal, by turns, with swing, muscle memory, equipment, conditioning, and statistics and probability.

He also rightly grumbles about subjective USGA rules and unrealistic claims by equipment manufactures, and dispels a great many myths about physical conditioning's role in golf.

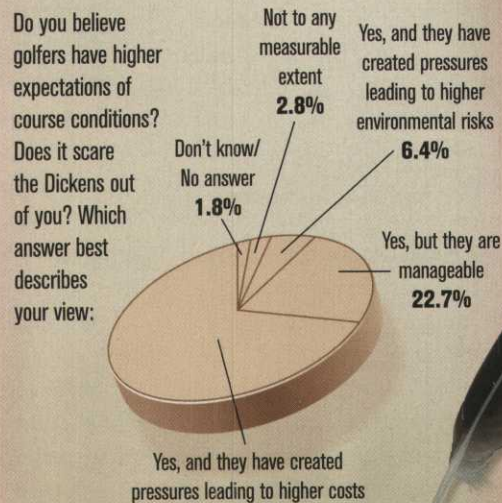
The information in *Newton on the Tee* will give superintendents some impressive ammunition to use against whining hackers blaming everything but themselves for carding 95s, as well as providing ample opportunities for mischievous physics-based gamesmanship.

Next time you're on the tee-box of a par 3, try the following: “Hey Joe, your allowable angle of lateral error to get that 1.68 inch-diameter ball into that 4.25-inch diameter hole can be measured in the one one-thousandth degree range.”

Joe will ponder and surely shank, and you just make sure to quietly thank Mr. Zumerchik. — **Mark Luce**



## Great Expectations



SOURCE: GCSAA  
ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDEY

Golfdom

## Quotable

**“This is like a wet T-shirt contest for guys.”**

— *The ever-quotable Peter Jacobsen on the sweat-inducing conditions at the John Deere Classic in July (Moline Dispatch).*

**“They’re just overstepping their bounds. They’re yelling before you hit and screaming after you hit. When you walk up on a green, they’re telling you which way a putt breaks.”**

— *PGA player Davis Love III, on golf’s overexuberant (is that too polite?) gallery (Associated Press).*

**“We will not be bullied, threatened or intimidated.”**

— *Hootie Johnson, chairman of Augusta National, in a statement lashing out at a women’s group for urging the club to open its doors to female members.*

## Off The Fringe

Continued from page 14

Zontek says. "One course was new, so this disease was expected to be more common. The other course was older, so it was a surprise. It could have been the drought.

"The older club was irrigating with high pH water, and take-all patch is aggravated by a high pH," Zontek says. "My thought was that with no rainfall, the bicarbonates and salts were building up in the thatch and making the disease worse."

Darin Bevard, a USGA agronomist in the Mid-Atlantic region, said superintendents used strobilurin fungicides, sterol inhibitors or benzimidazole chemistries to suppress the disease.

On *Poa annua* greens, summer patch and anthracnose were serious problems, but the latter was causing the most headaches for superintendents, Bevard says.

"Folks treated the diseases with



Anthracnose

everything imaginable with mixed results," Bevard says. "Anthracnose led to regrassing with creeping bentgrass in our area, with more courses planning to regrass in the near future. Although bentgrass is also susceptible to anthracnose, it's not as severe in our region."

Bevard noted dollar spot continued to be a problem, but that it caused more damage than in the past.

"We see heavy pitting almost overnight from dollar spot," Bevard said. "It may have been the result of the more intense maintenance used on fine-turf areas. Standard controls still provided suppression, but the residual control was not as long. The worst dollar spot I saw was on turf-



Brown patch

grass with lots of thatch and low nitrogen fertility."

**North-Central Region** – Lee Miller, manager of turfgrass research and interactive turf coordinator for the Chicago District Golf Association, said the most significant disease in the Midwest was dollar spot. It caused a lot of turf loss in the Chicago area and consumed much of superintendents' fungicide budgets.

"We also saw take-all patch hit area golf courses pretty hard because of the unrelenting heat we've experienced this summer," Miller says. "It's hard to control, but superintendents tried their best."

Miller also noted that the hot,

# It's cheaper than sending your plants to the spa.

- Protects turf against winter stress
- Reduces transplant shock and transpiration stress
- Stays flexible and will not discolor foliage
- Makes holiday greenery last longer
- Washes easily out of spray equipment with soap & warm water

AQUATROLS  
**LeafShield**<sup>TM</sup>  
Anti-Transpirant

AQUATROLS

800-257-7797 • Fax 856-751-3859 • [www.aquatrols.com](http://www.aquatrols.com)



Dollar spot (top view)

humid conditions caused an upswing in pythium blight. "You couldn't have created better conditions for pythium than those we experienced this summer," he said.

**Southeast Region** – Pat O'Brien, director of the USGA's Southeast Division, said the most common disease seen on bentgrass greens in his region was fairy ring. He says superintendents in his area used Heritage and ProStar, along with wetting agents, to combat the problem.

He added that anthracnose was present in his area, but it's more a leaf disease in his region. Superintendents used Heritage, Cleary's 3336 and Daconil to treat it. O'Brien also suggested



Summer patch

raising the mowing heights and venting the turf. He also saw a resurgence in dollar spot.

"This was a real nuisance [this summer]," O'Brien said. "Contact fungicides helped superintendents keep the problem under control."

As for bermudagrass greens, O'Brien said he saw bermudagrass decline and spring dead spot in addition to fairy ring and dollar spot.

**Southwest Region** – Patrick Gross, USGA director, says record high temperatures, combined with effective early spring applications of fungicides, limited the amount of disease he saw in his region.

"We saw a few minor infestations

of fairy ring and yellow patch, but we avoided anthracnose and summer patch for the most part," Gross says. "Many superintendents implemented good programs earlier this year for leaching greens and preventative disease control that helped keep these diseases at bay. I have to credit our superintendents with excellent planning. Now they need to manage their water carefully so they don't run into problems later."

**Northwest Region** —USGA agronomist Matt Nelson said summer patch was diagnosed at some locations in the Rockies where previously it was thought the disease did not exist. He said some golf courses in his area saw some cool-season brown patch, but that it was mostly a curiosity. "We're more likely to see snow molds, fairy ring and anthracnose in this area," Nelson says. ■

## PAY LESS. CLIMB MORE.



Get the most out of your budget while out-mowing all competitors on steep hills and banks. Try the new 8400—the next generation of National.

- A lower center of gravity and hydrostatic drive make the 8400 the King of the Hill
- The 8400's 15" overhang is the best in the industry—dramatically reducing hand-mowing time
- All-new electric clutch gives you perfect reel and ground speed, allowing you to slow down to cut the tough spots while maintaining a high quality cut

*It's time to demo the next generation of National. Call 888-907-3463 today.*



SINCE 1919

[www.nationalmower.com](http://www.nationalmower.com)