

## Off The Fringe

### Business briefs

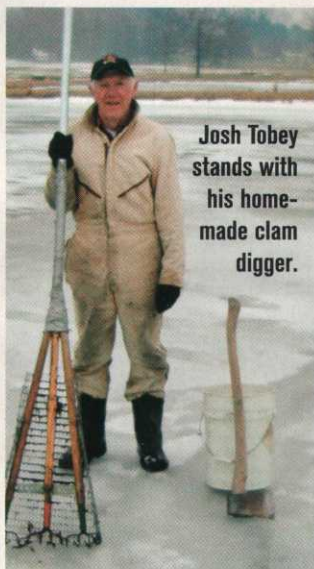
*Briefs continued from page 14*  
independent distributors through training and education.

"In establishing the training institute, ITODA is assuming a new role as the primary educational resource for independent distributors, with the support of other groups in the industry," ITODA President Chris Petersen said.

#### Singleton honored by ASGCA

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) will present its Donald Ross Award to golf course irrigation pioneer John Singleton at its annual meeting April 18 in Pebble Beach, Calif. Singleton will be the 30th recipient of the award, which is given annually to a person who has made significant contributions to the game of golf and golf course architecture.

## Digging for Clams ...Err... Golf Balls

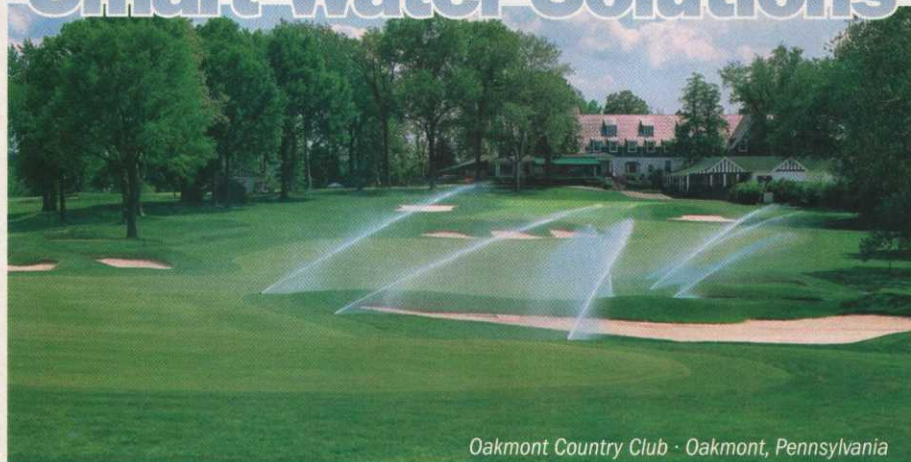


Josh Tobey stands with his home-made clam digger.

For the past four winters, Josh Tobey, a 78-year-old member of the Elks Club of State College (Pa.), gets his exercise in a unique way on the frozen golf course ponds. Tobey grew up in the New England area and was exposed to clam digging early in his teens. That practice has come in handy for his winter activity. He can be found almost daily, chopping holes through the ice-digging for golf balls with his homemade "clam digger." This past winter he found nearly 3,000 golf balls.

On good days Tobey will usually fill a 5-gallon bucket with balls, about 300 of them, that he has dug out of the muddy pond bottoms. Tobey says it's great exercise. The only negative is cleaning each of the

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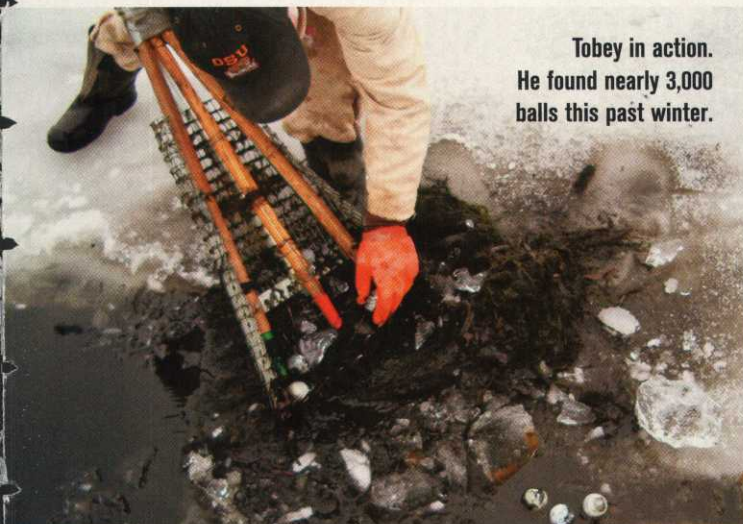
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**JOHN ZIMMERS**

Golf Course Superintendent • Oakmont Country Club  
Oakmont, Pennsylvania





**Tobey in action.**  
He found nearly 3,000  
balls this past winter.

balls before storing them. He tried washing them in his washing machine once at home, but his wife quickly put a stop to that practice.

What does Tobey do with thousands of golf balls? He has given many to local high school golf teams, sold them to raise money for his church and library and given them to the course pro for range balls.

*(Editor's note: David Williams, certified superintendent of the Elks Club of State College, sent us this information about Tobey and took the photographs of him in action.)*

## Quotable

**"I don't want to be out there mowing tomorrow and run over a mine."**

— Anonymous staff member with the Tea Tree Golf Club on the island of Tasmania, Australia, after a mortar shell — "quite old," according to police — was inexplicably found on the course. (Knight Ridder)

**"We've had rains before where we shut off the water for two or three days, but not 10. I mean, over 15 days already."**

— Carlos Federico, superintendent at The Pines Golf Club of Marana in Tucson, Ariz., quoted by KOLD News 13 on the abundance of rain throughout the southwest in February.

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