

Business briefs

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"I know that Mr. Foley will bring a different perspective that will have a positive impact on the growth and success of the association," said Tommy Sasser, GCBA president.

Four new grasses in spotlight at Turf Field Day

Five University of Florida researchers highlighted Environmental Turf's "New Grasses Field Day" in Avon Park, Fla., delivering reports on some of the newest grasses available for use in warm-season climates.

Brian Scully spoke of four new grasses developed by the University of Florida that are available through Environmental Turf's network of licensed growers:

- UltimateFlora Zoysia, a medium-textured Zoysia japonica grass.
- PristineFlora Zoysia, a fine-textured Zoysia japonica.
- Aloha Seashore Paspalum.
- Hammock Centipede, Eremochloa ophiuroides (Munro) Hack.

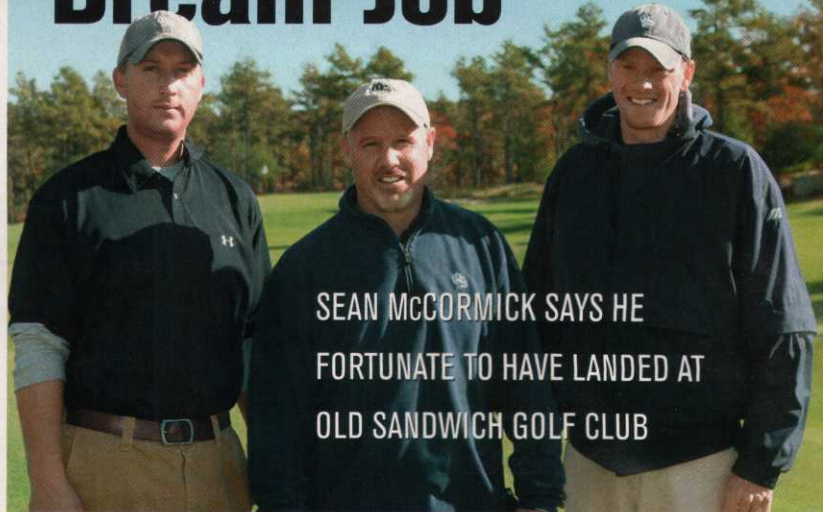
Patent application published, Aquatrols says

A collaborative agreement between Aquatrols Corp. of America and the performance products division of a surfactant development company has resulted in a patent application that was recently published.

The patent application covers the process of improving a rootzone growing environment and enhancing plant productivity through the application of methyl-capped block copolymer surfactants — alone or mixed with other soil targeted materials. The patent also covers the preparation of these surfactants. Aquatrols has exclusive rights to the use of the technology in the markets it serves and has brought it to market to date as Revolution.

"Being in a position to collaborate with experts worldwide increases our opportunities to discover or create innovative solutions for our customers," said Stanley J. Kostka, director of technology and innovation for Aquatrols, who was named as one of the inventors on the patent.

Dream Job



SEAN MCCORMICK SAYS HE
FORTUNATE TO HAVE LANDED AT
OLD SANDWICH GOLF CLUB

By Anthony Pioppi, Contributing Editor

Sean McCormick (center),
with assistants Mike Cunniff and Erik MacPherson.

Sean McCormick had a goal. From his days on the crew at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., to his time at Albuquerque Country Club, where he landed his first job as a superintendent, to his stint as the top man at the highly regarded Valley Club of Montecito in Santa Barbara, Calif., McCormick kept his eyes on the prize.

Ever since seeing the pictures of Prairie Dunes Golf Club shortly after it opened in 1995, the 45-year-old McCormick wanted to be part of a Bill Coore-Ben Crenshaw design. He received his wish nearly a decade after the dream began, returning to his home state of Massachusetts in 2002 to build and grow in their design, Old Sandwich Golf Club, which opened at the end of 2004.

McCormick considers himself fortunate to have been chosen for the project that stands apart from nearly every other course in New England, situated on rolling, sandy soil, carved out from forest and farmland.

It is Coore that insists he and Crenshaw are the fortunate ones.

"We could not have possibly had anybody better," Coore says, emphasizing his respect and admiration for McCormick as a person and a superintendent. "He's fun to be around and he's so talented at what he does."

Coore, Crenshaw and the rest of their tight-knit organization forged a friendship with McCormick during his seven years at Valley Club. The membership was remodeling the Alister MacKenzie design under the guidance of Tom Doak while Coore and Crenshaw were going through the permitting process for a nearby project that was never built.

"We relied on him from a friendship and a consulting standpoint," Coore says.

McCormick's life came full circle when his first superintendent, Bill Spence from The Country Club, called to tell him about the Old Sandwich project. McCormick was Spence's top assistant for four years.

According to McCormick, he was happy where he was, but this was an opportunity he could not miss.

"The only reason I left the Valley Club was for this," he says, sitting in his

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Off The Fringe

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spacious office that is part of the state-of-the-art maintenance facility.

It was during his stint at the Brookline layout that McCormick caught the Coore-Crenshaw bug. The duo touched up Brookline prior to the 1996 Ryder Cup, and Crenshaw captained the winning American side.

McCormick was at the Valley Cup during the Ryder Cup matches but was given permission by the membership to return to Brookline and help out for the event. "He kept me sane during the Ryder Cup," Spence recalls.

Coore says McCormick and his calm demeanor also helped him and others remain sane during the always-stressful grow-in at Old Sandwich. Everyone was on the same page for the grow-in, which helped the situation immensely.

Coore and Crenshaw wanted to seed the entire course and not use any sod. They realized their way would take longer, but knew the product would be better in the future.

Backed by the ownership group that includes Pete Bailey Jr., who developed the Coore-Crenshaw-designed The Golf Club at Cuscowilla in Georgia, the course was seeded and grown in to play firm. There are less than a thousand irrigation heads on the course, and the fescue areas are not wa-

tered. In keeping with the minimalist theme, ball washers or benches are nowhere to be found. "We all were on the same page as to how we saw the golf course being grown in and played," Coore says. "Sean made it very, very easy."

Also easy on all parties involved was the site chosen for the project. Originally part of the nearby two-course Pinehills Golf Club project, Old Sandwich was already permitted when Coore-Crenshaw and McCormick became involved. There was no wetland mitigation involved and the only area where the course gets near a sensitive area is the pond behind the first tee.

Greens are not built to USGA specifications but are constructed from material found on site. In fact, all sand used on the project is mined from a 5-acre pit found on the property.

McCormick grew up in Northampton, Mass. in the western part of the Bay State. He graduated with a two-year degree from the University of Massachusetts-Stockbridge in 1982 and went to work installing irrigation systems. An accomplished player, McCormick decided he wanted to work at The Country Club and, in his words, "just made a pest of myself," until he was hired onto the crew, eventually becoming the top assistant.

It was that job that years later opened the door to his current job, bringing him back home and fulfilling his dream.

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