

Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

Business briefs

PCNB on the Way Out?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that most uses of Pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB), an organochlorine fungicide used to treat snow mold on turf, have been found ineligible for reregistration. This means that fungicides containing PCNB will no longer be available to treat turf if EPA's recommendation takes effect. The EPA's determination is part of its plan to re-evaluate existing pesticides to ensure they meet current scientific and regulatory standards. The EPA announced a public comment period for on its Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for PCNB. Comments had to be received on or before Oct. 2.

Sifford Named Old Tom Morris Winner

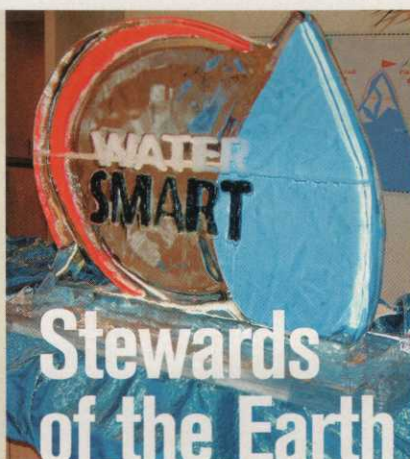
Charles L. Sifford is the recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's most-prestigious honor — the Old Tom Morris — for helping to integrate golf beginning in the 1960s. The 2007 Old Tom Morris Award will be presented at the Feb. 27 opening session of the 2007 GCSAA Educational Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show at the Anaheim Convention Center in California. The GCSAA also selected Pinehurst Resort to receive its 2007 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

Scott Coming "Home" to Nicklaus

After almost a decade of managing the PGA Tour's agronomic services, Jon Scott returns to Nicklaus Design to head its worldwide agronomy efforts.

"Coming back to Nicklaus Design is like returning home after an extended time

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TORO'S FIRST SYMPOSIUM RALLIES THE TROOPS FOR RESPONSIBLE IRRIGATION

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

Phil Burkart opened his talk with the bad news about freshwater — that it's disappearing from the face of the Earth.

"The lack of freshwater will be mankind's most serious challenge in the 21st century," said Burkart, the vice president and general manager of Toro's Irrigation Division. "Accelerated population growth, pollution and climate change are likely to produce a drastic decline of fresh water in the coming decade."

Without ample water supplies to irrigate our green space and crops, most everyone stands to lose, Burkart said.

"Without water, our children and grandchildren can't run, play and wiggle their toes in the grass," he added. "Golf balls can't roll up and stop on lush fairways. And somehow it just doesn't seem

right to have to take your kids to a baseball game played on Astroturf."

Burkart, the opening speaker at Toro's first WaterSmart "Success Without Excess" Symposium held in July at Toro's Riverside, Calif., facility, wasn't trying to demoralize the almost 200 people in attendance with such negative statements. In fact, Burkart was trying to do the opposite. Toro organized the event for the leaders and stakeholders in water conservation to rally the troops to conserve water in light of its impending deficiency.

"We believe it's time to step up and meet the challenge and find a new way for watering techniques," Burkart said. "There are many irrigation stakeholders who are enjoying incredible success as a result of offering water-saving irrigation programs and strategies."

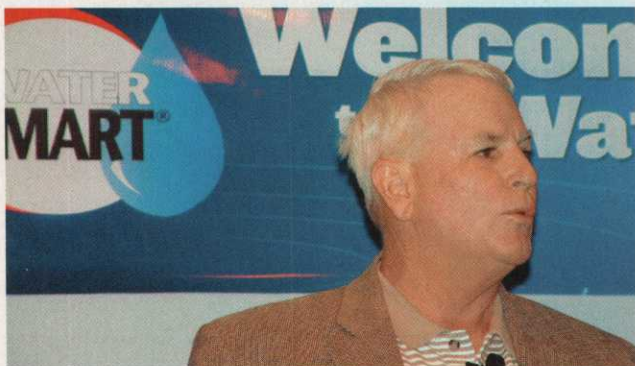
With that, Burkart turned over the program to a host of speakers, including Mary Ann Dickinson, executive director of the California Urban Water Conservation Council, a non-profit organization composed of urban water supply agencies, environmental groups and other entities interested in statewide water conservation in California.

Dickinson recited more troubling statistics regarding water shortage and efficiency. "More than 1 billion people lack access to clean, drinkable water, and many children are dying from water-borne diseases as a result of a lack of water treatment," she said.

An array of speakers participated in the event from different facets of the vast irrigation industry, including Sandy Clark, the certified golf course superintendent of Barona Creek Golf Club in

Lakeside, Calif. Clark would make a solid ambassador for responsible water use in golf course maintenance industry.

At the top of his speech, Clark said: "The golf industry is kind of a good news-bad news story when it comes to water. The good news is that we're very efficient water managers. The bad news is we haven't done a very good job of spreading the word beyond our own industry. We've done a great job of preaching to the choir. But it's too often that we hear someone interviewed on some program and they say golf courses use a lot of water, like a million gallons a night."



Sandy Clark says the golf industry has done a great job of preaching to the choir about its water use.

Clark told attendees that golf courses are "very conscious" about how much water they use. Not only that, Clark emphasized that most superintendents know how much water to use and don't waste it. "We try not to waste a drop," he added.

Clark told attendees that modern technology, from irrigation central control systems to palm pilots to weather stations to moisture sensors, have enabled superintendents to monitor their water use closely.

"We record our information religiously [at Barona]," Clark said. "We look at every single agronomic issue we can deal with in making good water-use decisions. ... Because what we use today, we have to make sure we've left ourselves enough to use tomorrow."

Eric Anderson, president of Valley Soil Landscape Services and Valley Soil, a water conservation consulting firm, titled his speech, "Change: It Ain't Easy (But It's Necessary and Worth It)." His talk focused on educating people to change their watering ways to amplify conservation.

Anderson said he understands that some superintendents are under tremendous pressure to "over-irrigate" their courses to supply golfers with thick, green turf.

"Superintendents have one of the toughest jobs in the world because they have all these inspectors every day," he said.

Anderson said superintendents in this situation should reduce irrigation incrementally, first in areas outside of the greens and fairways, and monitor the response from golfers. Then they can explore reducing water use in heavily main-

Quotable

"Tiger would have kicked the hell out of us, too. This guy is the most amazing athlete in any sport, ever."

— *Lee Trevino on Tiger Woods' game (Cleveland Plain Dealer)*

"No one here in the United States knows what is 'low budget' on a golf course. In Argentina, the courses I worked on were really low budget."

— *Alejandro Canegallo, former superintendent in Buenos Aires, now a Clemson graduate student*

"There are too many courses. The lenders should have stopped lending six or seven years ago. I don't know what they were thinking."

— *Dan Lejeune, CEO of RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve in Oaks, Pa.*

tained areas. Superintendents also might want to consider planting turf varieties that require less water and upgrading their courses' irrigation control to save water.

Other speakers touched on myriad topics. Speaker Ed Torres, president of Pro-Active Green Technology Land Development, discussed the benefits of a subterranean irrigation system.

"It's a phenomenal attribute to water conservation," Torres said. "It's the way to go."

Brian Vinchesi, president of Irrigation Consulting, discussed the Smart Water Application Technology (SWAT), a project that's focused on developing a nationally accepted conservation testing protocol for sensor/controller products and transforming the market for wider acceptance of it.

Vinchesi, who's based in Massachusetts, also spoke about the impact of recycled water use. "But using recycled water is illegal where I come from," Vinchesi said with sarcasm in his voice. "We're real progressive [in Massachusetts]." ■