

## Business briefs

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### BASF Hires Turf Director

BASF Agricultural Products appointed Paul Rea director of its Specialty Products

Division. The division consists of three businesses within BASF, including professional pest control, professional turf & ornamentals and professional vegetation management.

Paul has been with BASF for more than six years. His most recent assignment was director of regional marketing for North America. Prior to that, he was involved in the company's divestiture of the Microflo business and global marketing efforts for BASF's line of herbicides.

"Paul's background and experience will prove invaluable as we move forward with our Specialty Products Division," Group Vice President Markus Heldt said in a prepared statement. "His key focus will be working closely with his management team and their respective customers within pest control, turf & ornamentals and vegetation management to ensure continued mutual success."

### Aquatrols Teams With GEE

Paulsboro, N.J.-based Aquatrols recently announced it has become the third Technical Supporter of Golf Environment Europe (GEE) and sponsor of GEE's Environmental Innovation and Technology Network. In so doing, the company says it has set out its commitment to support environmental education and information exchange within and beyond European golf.

Aquatrols said its support of the Innovation and Technology Network will initially facilitate the production of a new Environmental Resource Centre (ERC) for European golf. Through the ERC, Aquatrols will help collate and disseminate practical information that assists practitioners in achieving greater water use efficiency and conservation in their turf management activities. ■

# Tackling the Bedrock of Bermuda

GEORGIA IRRIGATION CONSULTANT TAKES ON PROJECT **By Luke Frank**

*Editor's note: Golfdom is partnering with the American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC) to publish a quarterly column on irrigation success stories in the golf industry on behalf of its members. This is the inaugural column.*

**I**rrigation Consultant Services (ICS) in Conyers, Ga., recently concluded a complete irrigation overhaul of the century-old Belmont Hills Golf Club in Warwick, Bermuda. A fabulous golf refuge for the Northeast's gentry over the past 75 years, the course was in need of some serious upgrades. ICS's Bob Scott identified three specific areas of concentration:

#### Water Resource Development:

The toughest part of the design was addressing the limited water resources. The existing supply was 50,000 gallons a day of brackish water, so Scott had to develop additional resources.

Stuck with a brackish water source, ICS implemented reverse-

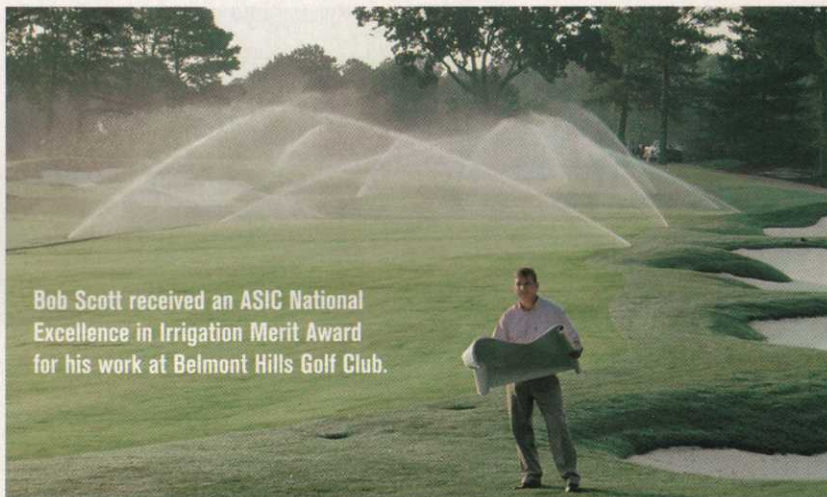
osmosis desalination to make it suitable for irrigation, and then supplemented that with two half-million-gallon tanks to capture annual rainfall (about 50 inches per year).

**Topography:** When ICS arrived onsite, the 100-year-old grounds at Belmont Manor were completely torn up, including the golf course. There was no existing irrigation piping for fairways, which lay atop solid, coral-like rock.

Scott used rock saws to carve out the irrigation system "track," laid in the piping on a sandy bed and backfilled with prepared topsoil that included the bedrock "sawdust."

Another site issue to be addressed by ICS was how to contend with a tricky windy season (30 miles per hour average).

**Irrigation Equipment:** The existing irrigation system was designed for watering greens and tees only, so ISC was tasked not only with developing water resources but stretching them to cover significantly more of the 85-acre site. Scott designed



Bob Scott received an ASIC National Excellence in Irrigation Merit Award for his work at Belmont Hills Golf Club.

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A national historic landmark, Longue Vue is located near the 17th Street Canal and is slowly working its way back to normalcy with the help of volunteers.

"After the storm, about 80 percent of our grounds were under 2 feet of water," said Amy Graham, head gardener at Longue Vue. "There was a small portion up near the house that wasn't submerged, but we also suffered severe wind damage and lost a number of trees along with a significant portion of our tree canopy."

After Katrina, 60 percent of Longue Vue's plants were lost to flooding and wind damage, and Graham, the only one of five gardeners to return to make her home in New Orleans, was left to tackle a six-month clean-up process. RISE volunteers worked under Graham's guidance during an afternoon of weeding, replanting, raking, maintaining and restoring the gardens according to the original 1934 plan.

One day and one plant at a time, Longue Vue is beginning to resemble the garden it was in its heyday, but full restoration is a goal still set in the distant future. ■

a pump station to integrate all water sources and efficiently operate within specific watering windows.

Next was a complete overhaul of the sprinkler design — realigning sprinklers and adding zones designed to address wind and sun exposures and runoff through aggressive programming based on real-time weather inputs. Sprinkler zones were designed specifically to interact with on-site wind and rain sensors to improve performance.

According to Scott, the final key to this project's success was to pull local talent into the project early.

"The system is unique, so we

**Quotable**

**"At least 36 states will be experiencing water shortages by 2013."**  
— Wayne Nastri, Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's Southwest Region.

**"He was one of a kind as a person."**  
— Steve Forrest, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), on the death of Ed Seay, who was Arnold Palmer's longtime golf course design partner and a popular man in industry circles.

**"Karen 'Kick the Activists in the' Reardon."**  
— ESPN's Chris Berman-ism given to Karen Reardon, communications director for the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, an association that represents pesticide and fertilizer companies.

wanted local crews to be fully trained in operations and maintenance," he says. "Those who use it need to feel in possession of it. Most of the locals are little older and consider themselves true craftsmen, so there was a lot of pride in system performance."

Belmont Hills Golf Club's irrigation system design and operation has proven so successful that Scott and ICS received an ASIC National Excellence in Irrigation Merit Award. ■

*Frank is the communications manager of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants.*

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— Lessley Boyd  
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