

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//NEW IDEAS



Danesha Seth Carley and Kevin Robinson, CGCS at Pinehurst No. 2, take a look at some of the vegetation on the course. "Normally on a course in North Carolina you'd think you wouldn't want cacti on a golf course, but it has a beautiful yellow flower," Seth Carley says. "And as long as it's in the right place, it's not considered a weed."

UNFAVORABLE LIES

BY SETH JONES // Editor-in-Chief



During the 2014 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2 — which, as of press time, was underway — the golfing public got to see something they might not be used to on the pristine courses that host TV golf: weeds.

Or, better put, native vegetation.

"The definition of a weed is technically a plant that's out of place," says Danesha Seth Carley, Ph.D., a professor of crop science at North Carolina State University. "Part of managing this vegetation is just realizing that while some of them you might consider a weed in a golf course environment, we actually liked them here (at Pinehurst No. 2)."

With the renovation of Pinehurst No. 2, the course was brought back to what it looked like when Donald Ross built it: sweeping sandhills with wire grass spotting the landscape. As the crew removed all the overseeded bermudagrass rough, they had to forget

one type of maintenance, and learn another.

"(The maintenance team) asked us to come in and help them identify the vegetation, and then take it a step further: help them with potential ideas on how to manage vegetation, whether they wanted to keep it or remove it or even move it around to different places," Seth Carley says. The project, funded by Bayer and conducted by N.C. State, allowed the crew to learn the ins and outs of this new vegetation as it sprouted up around the course.

Tom Ruffy, Ph.D., professor of environmental plant biology at N.C. State, believes the 2014 U.S. Open may be the coming out party for this type of maintenance.

"The big driver is economics. The cost of pesticides and fertilizers is going up and budgets are tight," he says. "Lowering resource use only makes sense."

//ACQUISITION

PINEHURST ACQUIRES NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

Pinehurst Resort & CC completed the acquisition of National GC under terms finalized with current club owners, the Robinette family. The Jack Nicklaus Signature Design course, also located in the Village of Pinehurst, N.C., opened in 1989 and is the only course by the famed designer in the Sandhills region.

The course will be named Pinehurst No. 9 and is immediately available to Pinehurst CC members. Pinehurst Resort guests will begin play at No. 9 in early July. Pinehurst recently completed a \$4 million renovation of its clubhouse and has plans for an expansive, multi-million dollar aquatics facility targeted for completion in summer 2015.

//NEW ADDITIONS

JACOBSEN ADDS ROB COOKE

Jacobsen recently named Rob Cooke territory sales manager. As a part of



Rob Cooke

Jacobsen's sales team, Cooke will be responsible for supporting dealers and customers in eastern Canada and will be based in Ontario.

Cooke has over 17 years of experience in the golf and municipal markets, serving a variety of sales and service roles at Vaden Bussche Irrigation, Rain Bird Canada, SMART Watering Systems and Holmes Irrigation/Aqua Turf Canada. Cooke is a certified irrigation designer, water conservation manager, landscape irrigation auditor and irrigation contractor.

"This position is critical for Jacobsen as we continue to develop and grow long-term relationships with dealers, customers and associations in eastern Canada," says Ric Stone, VP of sales and marketing for Jacobsen. "Rob's golf irrigation background has given him a great understanding of the Canadian turf industry and will help us expand our reach in eastern Canada."