

Events

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER

11 Web Page Training

Sponsored by the Oregon GCSA
Salem, Ore.
Contact 800-738-1617

11-15 Intensive Turfgrass Management Program

Riverside, Calif.
Contact 909-787-3806,
ext. 1631

16-19 Club Managers Association of America Annual Leadership/Legislative Conference

Alexandria, Va.
Contact 703-739-9500

18 Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's Annual Fall Field Day

Winnipeg, Manitoba
Contact 905-602-8873

20-22 NCGOA Legislative Conference

Washington, D.C.
Contact 843-881-9956

25-28 Computer Irrigation Installation with HDPE Piping

Ames, Iowa
Contact 515-294-3126

28 21st Annual Tuskegee University Career Fair

Tuskegee, Ala.
Contact 334-727-8294

OCTOBER

3 Iowa Golf Course Superintendents State Meeting

Lake Mills, Iowa
Contact 515-232-8222

4-5 Turfgrass Landscape and Equipment Expo

Costa Mesa, Calif.
Contact 800-500-7282

6-8 Multicultural Golf Association of America 10th Anniversary Celebration

Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Contact 631-288-8255

WEATHER PERMITTING ...

... you might want to play
Pete Dye's new track at Barefoot Resort & GC in North Myrtle Beach if you're attending the November Carolinas GCSA Show.

MICHAEL SLEAR

10 Georgia GCSA's Assistant GCS Seminar and Tournament

Woodstock, Ga.
Contact 706-742-2651

12 Turf & Landscape: Target Specialty Products

Sacramento, Calif.
Contact 562-802-2238

17 Insect and Disease Management for Warm-Season Turfgrass

Seal Beach, Calif.
Contact 800-472-7878

NOVEMBER

1-2 Intermountain GCSA Winter Meeting and Golf

St. George, Utah
Contact 877-292-0960

4-7 Georgia GCSA Annual Meeting

Savannah, Ga.
Contact 706-742-2651

4-7 11th Annual Green Industry Expo

Indianapolis
Contact 770-973-2019

6 West Virginia GCSA 2000 Conference & Trade Show

Morgantown, W.Va.
Contact 304-243-4154

13-16 Carolinas GCSA's Conference and Show

Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Contact 800-476-4272

14 Developing Your Hazard Communication Program

San Marcos, Calif.
Contact 800-472-7878

14-16 The NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

Syracuse, N.Y.
Contact 518-783-1229

20 Iowa Golf Course Superintendents State Meeting

West Des Moines, Iowa
Contact 515-232-8222

28-30 North Central Turfgrass Expo

St. Charles, Ill.
Contact 312-201-0101

DECEMBER

3-4 Michigan Golf Course Owners Association's Annual Conference

Location: TBD
Contact 517-482-4312

3-6 California Golf Course Owners' Convention

Location: TBD
Contact 831-375-6125

4-6 Texas Turfgrass Annual Conference & Show

San Antonio
Contact 409-690-2201

4-7 Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Regional Conference and Show

Columbus, Ohio
Contact 888-683-3445

6 Strategic Planning for Golf Course Operations

Ames, Iowa
Contact 515-232-8222

12 Maine GCSA's Annual Meeting

Portland, Maine
Contact 207-781-7878

12-14 New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Expo 2000

Atlantic City, N.J.
Contact 732-821-7134

2001

JANUARY

6-10 National Golf Course Owners Association's 2001 Annual Conference & Trade Show

Orlando
Contact 800-933-4262

14-18 National Institute of Golf Management

Wheeling, W. Va.
Contact 561-744-6006

17 Spanish For Golf Course Management I

Pleasanton, Calif.
Contact 800-472-7878

29-30 Club Managers Association of America

San Diego
Contact 843-881-9956

Let us know about your events. Send information to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.

Since this is a special issue of *Golfdom* devoted to the critically important topic of putting surfaces, it only makes sense that I'd write my column on ... the presidential election.

First, a little confession. You may be shocked to hear that I'm a lifelong Democrat.

Yup, it's true. For 20 years, I've been a card-carrying member of the party of FDR, Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Tip O'Neil. I even voted for Clinton, for God's sake. I'm essentially a liberal mole who burrowed my way into the largely conservative golf business.

So, I'll be voting for Gore in November, right?

Let's put it this way: If Big Al showed up here in person at *Golfdom's* World Headquarters and offered me a million bucks and the Ambassadorship to Pinehurst in exchange for my one little vote, I'd tell him to shove it. Why? Let me count the ways.

(It'd be way too easy to throw in some jokes about the generally sleazy stuff that's gone on in the Clinton/Gore White House for the past eight years, so I'll just focus on the things that matter to the golf industry.)

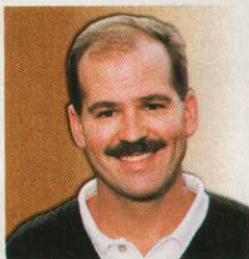
1. Earth in the Balance: If you haven't read Gore's famed environmental tome, I'll save you the trouble with this synopsis: "Industry bad. Wacky eco-ideas good." Even if Gore actually believes half of the stuff he wrote, this book should scare the crap out of you. I'm too cynical to think that Gore would have the political courage to implement all of his crackpot ideas, but do you really want to give him the chance?

2. Carol Browner: Even the remotest possibility that Gore would retain this granola-brained excuse for an EPA administrator should be enough to make you write a big, fat contribution check to the GOP. This woman hates most development and all pesticides. She took a relatively harmless law – the Food Quality Protection Act – and brazenly turned it into an unscientific witch hunt designed to bully the chemical companies into dropping proven products.

Forget the fact that billions have been spent to test and approve them — she says they're not "natural" and therefore must be

Just Say No To Al, Carol and Joe

BY PAT JONES



I SIMPLY CAN'T
STOMACH VOTING
FOR A PARTY THAT
PROMISES TO
DESTROY MY
BUSINESS

harmful to children (particularly at exposure rates thousands of times higher than in the real world). I'll be blunt: Browner has to go.

3. Joe Lieberman: Gore's running mate, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, is also no friend to those who rely on pesticides to do their jobs.

In a series of congressional hearings he co-sponsored in the early 1990s, Lieberman made it clear that he has no tolerance for urban pesticide use on golf courses or anywhere else. If a newly elected President Gore turned this veep loose as his environmental pit bull, there'd soon be a big hole right where our industry's ass used to be.

So, I simply can't stomach voting for a party that promises to destroy my business. The alternative, of course, is George "Dubya" Bush, who comedian Dennis Miller describes as "20 gallons of dumb in a 10-gallon hat." Well, his old man wasn't exactly MENSA material either, but he was smart enough to surround himself with people who were. I'm pretty confident that even Junior couldn't sink the ship of state with guys like Dick Cheney and Colin Powell returning to seats around the Cabinet table. And I'm completely confident that our industry (and my wallet) will be better off under a Bush II administration.

Speaking of which: I wonder who Dubya might tap to replace Browner at EPA? Any old political crony would probably do fine, but I still like the deliciously nasty idea of appointing Newt Gingrich (who actually has a Ph.D. in environmental science). Wouldn't that be fun? I've already thought of a motto for the Newt-improved EPA: "Goodbye FQPA! Hello DDT!"

*Pat Jones is the editorial director and publisher of *Golfdom*. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com*

IF YOU'RE NOT EQUIPPED WITH
AURORA™, YOU'RE PLAYING WITH
A REAL HANDICAP.

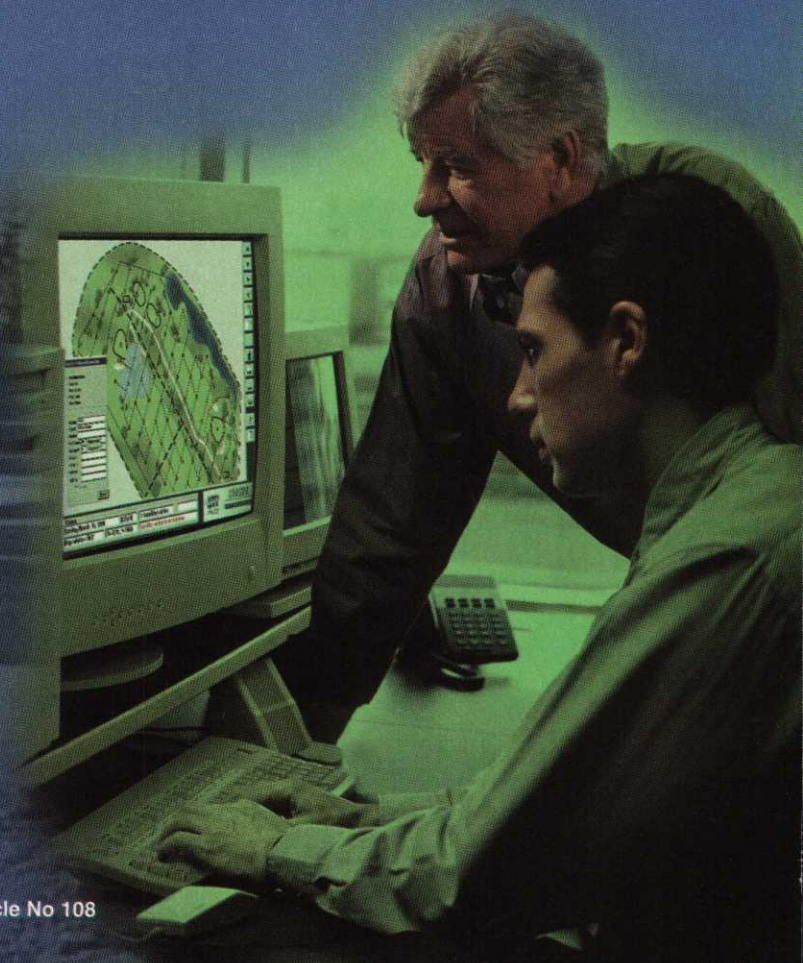


AURORA™
CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM

Are you saddled with an irrigation central control system so complex, only a professional programmer can set it up? One that forces you into an initial installation that's unnecessarily costly—or that demands you discard all your existing equipment, instead of retrofitting it? One that makes you replace your hardware, rather than simply loading new software for each upgrade?

Perhaps it's time you looked at the Aurora™ Central Control System from Union Tools Irrigation. It's the advanced, PC-based answer that's easy to maintain and easy to grow. With three tiers of software-based technology that interface seamlessly with field satellites and decoders. Which means you can buy only what you need, by choosing the tier that offers the feature set and level of operation best for you. While still leaving room to expand tomorrow.

Equip yourself with the technology it takes to master the course. Contact your Aurora representative or visit www.utirrigation.com today.



UTI

UNION TOOLS® Managing the flow of technology.
IRRIGATION, INC.

Phone 800.433.8766 • Fax 800.825.2741

Circle No 108

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Curalan remains available for course maintenance

BASF Agricultural Products said it will amend the listing of vinclozolin uses supported by U.S. labeling as a result of the tolerance reassessment process conducted by EPA under the Food Quality Protection Act.

However, the Research Triangle Park, N.C.-based company can still offer Curalan, a vinclozolin-based fungicide that controls dollar spot, for golf course maintenance.

ABT saga drawing to a close

The saga of the bankruptcy of AgriBioTech (ABT) is coming to an end. The Las Vegas-based bankruptcy court sold most of Henderson, Nev.-based ABT's grass business to a group consisting of former ABT president Kenneth Budd, Dick Olson of Proseed Marketing in Jefferson, Ore., and Idaho-based J.R. Simplot Co. The price was \$24.5 million.

Environmental Golf consolidates units

Calabasas, Calif.-based Environmental Golf, a division of Environmental Industries, consolidated its golf-related businesses as part of a restructuring program.

The consolidation is designed to make Environmental Golf a more customer- and sales-driven organization, according to Michael L. Dingman, senior vice president.

Meadowbrook purchases Sabal Point

Lakeland, Fla.-based Meadowbrook Golf Group purchased Sabal Point CC near Orlando from ClubCorp. It's one of 18 facilities operated by Meadowbrook in Florida and the ninth in central Florida.

The course was called Trophy Club of Orlando, but Meadowbrook is returning its original name.

Briefs continued on page 18

PDI Permutations

As D-Day approaches for the vote on GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative in February, the Membership Standards Resource Group (MSRG) has revised the proposal in accordance with feedback from its members. The key changes regard what it will take to become a Class A member:

- a combination of formal education, experience and points, including an alternative path for non-degree holders;
- a valid state pesticide license or a

"I am not sure of the nature of the rumblings, but the plans call for a vote in 2001 at Dallas."

— Jeff Bollig, GCSAA

certification from the GCSAA in pesticide management;

- five points (50 hours) of education and service points (which would replace the original professional development units and will retain the equivalent of 0.1 point per contact hour) over a five-year period. At least two of the points must come from continuing education.

The changes in the education requirements are the result of criticisms that the original requirements were too costly. In addition, the original plan didn't offer any credit for

on-the-job experience.

"By awarding credit to any education program that meets our criteria, we have gone a long way to providing education that is affordable and accessible," said Ray Davies, CGCS and a member of the MSRG.

Class A members will be encouraged to use the Professional Development Resource (PDR), which was formerly called HR Web in the original proposal. Though it will not be mandated (as it had been when it was HR Web), it will still be required to achieve certification.

All Class A members will, by definition, meet the initial requirements to keep their classification and will only be responsible to meet ongoing requirements. Class B and C members won't have to meet the sliding scale requirement, but must meet minimal experience and points to obtain Class-A status.

Bruce A. Williams, MSRG chairman, encouraged members to contact their delegates to voice their opinions about the revised proposal.

There was talk at a recent GCSA chapter meeting that a movement is afoot to postpone the vote on PDI until 2002, but Jeff Bollig, GCSAA's director of communications, disputes the claim. "I am not sure of the nature of the rumblings, but the plans call for a vote in 2001 at Dallas, with implementation set for July 2003," Bollig said.

The language of the final proposal will be finalized in October.

You've Got E-Mail (Tips)

In June, Golfdom featured a variety of stories on computer technology, from tips for buying a personal computer to the status of e-commerce. Still, we didn't and couldn't cover everything.

We received an e-mail from Sue Hershkowitz-Coore — a professional speaker, author of *Power Sales Writing: What Every Sales Person Must Know to Turn Prospects Into Buyers!* and spouse of golf course architect Bill Coore — who wrote us because she thought our readers might enjoy some e-mail writing tips. So did we, and we're passing Hershkowitz-Coore's tips on to you. Happy e-mail writing.

- Whatever you do, reread the e-mail before you send it. Because e-mail offers the ability to quickly respond, we often engage our fingers before our brain. (We've been doing this with our mouths for years, but now we have a new way to make fools of ourselves.)

Imagine receiving an e-mail from a colleague who accuses you of leaving out important details from a project. But you know you completed everything necessary, and you're angered by the comments. So, without a grace period

Continued on page 20

TRUE GOLF CONFESSIONS

Golfers reveal their seamy underbelly under interrogation:

Is it important for you to play in ideal weather conditions?

No (63.3%)

If lightning threatens, do you keep playing?

Yes (2.6%)

How do you feel about playing golf in the rain?

I intentionally play when it rains (0.7%)

Have you ever played golf when there was complete snow cover?

Yes (14.8%)

What is the lowest temperature at which you'll play golf?

Lower than 30° (12.4%)

SOURCE: NGF/USA TODAY
ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDY

Quotable

"You guys can put your voodoo dolls away now. It's not funny anymore."

— Persistent PDI critic Al Jansen after a second 100-year flood struck his Wisconsin course this summer (gcsaa.org).

"I'm finally losing gray hair this year."

— Walter Montross, superintendent at Westwood CC in Vienna, Va., on the cool summer in the Mid-Atlantic states that was a relief after 1999's killer drought.

"It was a bonehead call."

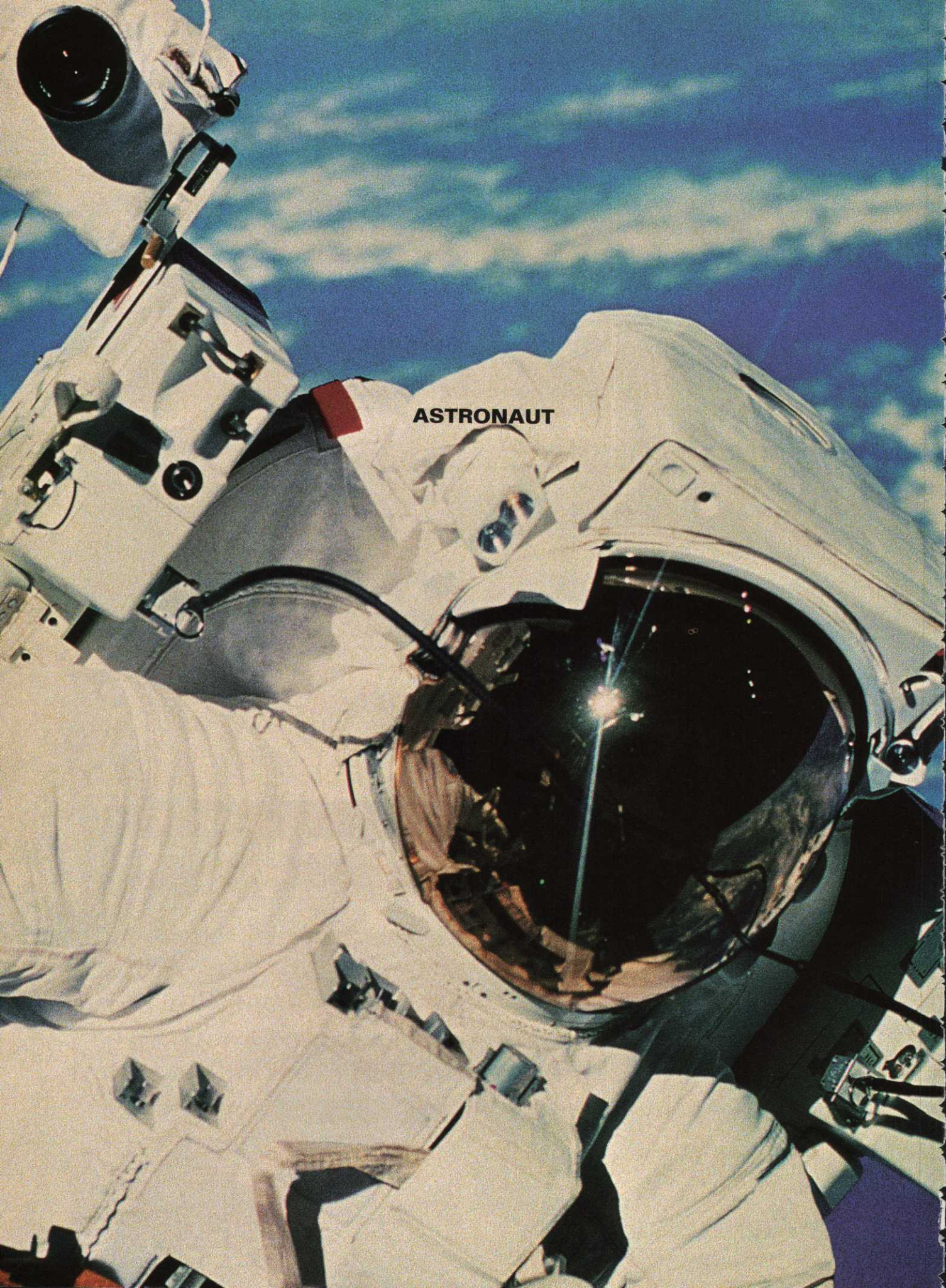
— Dan Bradley, WFLA vice president of news, whose Tampa, Fla., TV station cut away from Tiger Woods smashing records at the U.S. Open in favor of a weather bulletin.

"Robert Trent Jones Sr. gave me my start in this business. We spent more than 30 years together, so this is a special project. He taught me the value of hands-on approach to design."

— Golf course designer Roger Rulewich on his upcoming renovation of Palmetto Dunes Resort, a Robert Trent Jones Sr. course in Hilton Head Island, S.C.

"Ironic isn't it? It's the most strategic golf course that I've ever played, and it is the only one that wasn't designed by man."

— Nick Faldo, on the Old Course at St. Andrews (Associated Press).



ASTRONAUT



POLYON® PRO

SPACE-AGE TECHNOLOGY THAT DELIVERS OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD PERFORMANCE



For astronomical results, look no further than POLYON® PRO fertilizers. Using a patented reactive layer coating (RLC) process, Pursell Technologies has created a superior polymer shell unlike that of any other fertilizer on the market. This unique, controlled-release technology:

- Is unaffected by varying soil moisture, microbial activity and soil pH
- Feeds precisely and predictably when your turf needs it
- Resists cracking that causes premature nutrient release

Call (800) 334-8583 for the formulator or distributor nearest you.



FERTILIZERS FOR THE FUTURE™



Pursell Technologies Inc.
www.polyon.com



Pursell Technologies is the official fertilizer sponsor of The First Tee Program, a Platinum Tee Club member and an Environmental Steward Award sponsor. POLYON is a registered trademark of RLC Technologies, L.L.C., used by permission. The POLYON PRO design and the GREEN color are trademarks of RLC Technologies.

Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 14

ISTRC creates sister company

Olathe, Kan.-based International Sports Turf Research Center formed a sister company, ISTRC New Lab Mix, to conduct tests required to meet USGA Green Section guidelines for new construction or reconstruction of greens. ISTRC developed the ISTRC System, which has resulted in guidelines for new bentgrass and bermudagrass that refine USGA specs.

Lesco teams with Kawasaki; reports record sales

Cleveland-based Lesco will carry Kawasaki Motors products as its exclusive hand-held power equipment line in 234 Lesco service centers and 75 Lesco stores on wheels.

In another matter, Lesco reported record sales and earnings for the second quarter and six months ended June 30, with growth reflected in all major product categories in the first half. Net sales for the second quarter increased 5 percent to a record \$158.3 million, compared with \$150.7 million for the same period last year. Net income for the quarter increased 11 percent to a record \$10 million compared with net income of \$9 million last year.

Toro forms dedicated unit

Bloomington, Minn.-based The Toro Co. created a dedicated unit of personnel to manage and service its national and corporate accounts. In the past five years, national accounts have become a significant part of Toro's business. The people working with domestic national accounts customers are now unified under a single department allowing them to increase their level of service, according to the company.

Tyler opens warehouse

Elwood, Ill.-based Tyler Enterprises opened a full-service warehouse and delivery operation in Louisville, Ky. The 3,200-square-foot building serves as a distribution center for Tyler's custom-blended fertilizer products and specialty chemicals, and as an office for the Kentucky sales and service team.

Disc Connected to the USGA

GREEN SECTION RECORD ON CD-ROM PROVIDES EVERY ARTICLE PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1921 AND 1997

By Matt Kilpeck

It's a safe bet that most people reading this article have heard of the USGA Green Section Record. But how many know that the USGA also has a CD-ROM collection of the Green Section? I didn't, until my boss, Matt Shaffer, superintendent of The Country Club in Pepper Pike, Ohio, gave it to me.

The CD-ROM collection is a set of 11 discs spanning from 1921 to 1997. Although the CD-ROM collection only goes up to 1997, the collection is beneficial because the discs include every article published between those years. For all you pack rats, it's time to clean your shelves of all the old magazines and invest in the future. In the CD-ROM format, the articles are now available anytime in an easily accessible manner. The CD-ROM is a concise collection of articles which provides advice about different aspects of maintaining high-quality golf turf.

I was interested in the fact that I could browse the CD-ROMs and read a number of different articles pertaining to a particular subject from many different years. One feature that I found particularly appealing was the ability to look up an article from the past so easily. This provided a fascinating comparison between the techniques used in the past and those of today.

I did encounter difficulty when looking for a specific topic, however, because I didn't know where to find

an index or table of contents. After rooting around for a while, I found that the CD-ROM did contain indexes. They are located in the November 1976 issue, covering articles from 1966-76; and the December 1991 issue, covering articles from

1977-91. Furthermore, the indexes are broken down into

15 major categories that include all the relevant articles under that topic. For every article found in the indexes, the volume, page number and year are given, which enables the user to easily find the desired article. Search engines by word search and topic are also available, but this type of search is limited to the disc in use at the time. Also, the CD-ROM does not contain instructions regarding usage and navigation, but it doesn't take long to figure it out.

Overall, the CD-ROM collection is a valuable resource for anyone in the turfgrass industry because it provides quick research on any number of topics. Furthermore, the CD-ROM is also more efficient than searching through magazines and never finding a particular topic. Instead, all relevant topics pertaining to a subject are found by conducting a search or looking through one of the indexes. Finally, for all the turfgrass history buffs, the CD-ROM collection provides an interesting look at past turfgrass issues and techniques.

Matt Kilpeck is an assistant superintendent at The Country Club in Pepper Pike, Ohio.





WORK ETHIC

For you, good enough is not enough. Kohler shares that conviction. The award-winning* KOHLER Triad OHC

16-, 18-, 20- and 23-horsepower horizontal-shaft engines are the first utility engines to use advanced engine technology and feature — an overhead camshaft, patented low-profile rocker arms, and advanced powerhead design. An integrated head and crankcase casting eliminates gaskets, and a rugged timing belt replaces internal gears for quiet operation. Plus, we back it all up with a two-year limited warranty. So when you demand big-time performance and durability, specify KOHLER Triad OHC V-twin engines. Kohler—committed to power and technology.

KOHLER Triad™ OHC 16 - 23 Hp: Advanced engine technology allows these versatile V-twin engines to deliver big-time performance benefits.

- Superior starting and cooling
- Outstanding fuel efficiency
- Longer running times
- Smooth, quiet operation
- Reduced maintenance intervals and costs
- Fully emissions certified

KOHLER engines

Seek the innovation.™ Demand the power.™

1-800-544-2444 Ext. FR9

www.kohlerengines.com/cs/rental

*In 1998, the National Society of Professional Engineers recognized the KOHLER Triad OHC 18-horsepower engine with its prestigious "New Product Award". ©2000 by Kohler Co. All rights reserved.

Circle No. 110

Off The Fringe

E-MAIL TIPS

Continued from page 15

and taking time to think about the message, you dash off your nasty response. Two seconds later, you wish you hadn't sent it.

- Rereading the message before sending it solves the second-greatest e-mail challenge — poor spelling. Spell checkers only check words that are misspelled, and often e-mails are sent with incorrect words that are spelled correctly. (The best one I read was an e-mail sent by a Commission on Tourism announcing a public management program. The spell check



ARTVILLE

program, however, didn't pick up the missing letter "l" from "public.")

- Effective e-mail writers take the time to ask: What's my purpose for writing and responding? What do I hope to achieve with this message? What is the best way to position my point?

By taking a few minutes to plan, the document is more professional and more likely to get the desired result.

- Limiting the number of subjects discussed in each e-mail is another tool to enhance e-mail effectiveness. Create single subject e-mails for clarity and ease in filing and forwarding.

- Take the time to plan your message, make sure it says what you intend it to say and make it easy for your reader to follow.

Hershkowitz-Coore directs High Impact Presentations in Scottsdale, Ariz. Her Web site address is www.SpeakerSue.com.

Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews **weed identification sites**

Last year, I didn't really have a lawn as much as I had a field of weeds in which my kids played. In fact, figuring out which weeds took residence in my front yard would have been so time consuming, I would have had to quit my job here to do it. To save you that kind of time, here are some sites that will help you identify those pesky plants so you can eradicate them from your course (all sites start with <http://> unless otherwise noted):

(**** - Bookmark it and return frequently; * - Look at only if absolutely necessary)



****weedalert.com - This site's click-through format allows you to identify weeds specific to your area of the country quickly. It features an opportunity to ask a technical advisor about your turf. It provides a supplemental menu of services that make the site the complete package. The site's sponsor, PBI/Gordon,

didn't turn this site into an ad for its products (although there's a link to the company's own site if you want to visit it).

****www.rce.rutgers.edu/weeds/index.html - The home page of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension allows you three ways to figure out which weeds have infested your course. You can look them up by their Latin name, by their common name or by photos. Its extensive photo library makes up for its lack of a section on control measures. This is a great resource to use in conjunction with other sites.

**www.crop-net.com/weeds.htm - I'm ambivalent about this site. It has great pictures of weeds, but you need to know what you have before you can see them. You could waste considerable time looking for weeds here unless you know their common names.

Scanning the Web is compiled by Frank H. Andorka Jr., Golfdom's associate editor, who hired a professional lawn service to fix his front yard this year. You can reach him at fandorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.

Chart Confusion

Our chart on minority participation in the GCSAA caused confusion ("Winds of Change," August, page 21). It was brought to our attention that the overall U.S. population percentages add up to more than 100 percent and the GCSAA's percentages add up to far less than 100 percent. Here's why:

Under U.S. Census Bureau reporting rules, Hispanics can identify themselves as both "white" and "Hispanic" simultaneously. That's why the number of whites in the overall population figures appear so swelled and why the total percentages add up to about 110 percent (i.e., 10 percent of Hispanics identified themselves in both categories).

As for the GCSAA numbers, it's the "Left Question Blank" line that caused problems. The 23 percent that appears on that line under U.S. population should actually be listed under GCSAA percentages. An "N/A" should replace the 23 percent under U.S. population for that line.