When was the last time you took a REALLY GOOD LOOK at your water management

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Real-Life Solutions

Continued from page 70

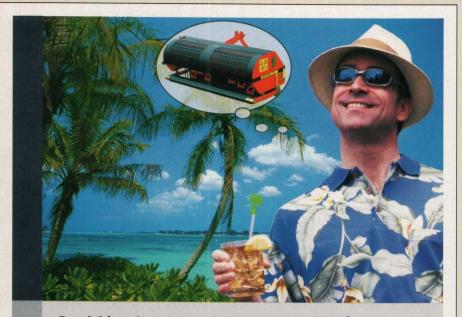
bunker at a time over a two-year period.

Morris and his staff also used old aerial photographs to study the original bunkers. But they hit pay dirt when one of the members gave them old home movies of the entire course soon after it opened in 1929.

"We had movies of every hole from

tee to green," Morris says. "I felt we had good enough documentation that we could do it."

Morris and his staff began the project in the fall of 1997 and finished in the spring of 1999. According to Morris, the Crystal Downs greens committee never considered hiring a contractor. It was agreed the project was straightfor-



Good things happen to those who Verti-Drain[®] more often.

Of course, we know that life isn't always fair. But sometimes if you do one thing right you gain great rewards. Sometimes more than you deserve. We like that when it happens to us. The converse, unfortunately, isn't so much fun. And so it is with those who aerate only once a year. That one little oversight can cost them, especially when turf conditions get tough.

Aerating with a Verti-Drain 2, 3 or 4 times a year using various methods works a little like insurance for your turf. You know, you don't always have to pull plugs and fill every time you aerate. There are lots of options - solid tining, hollow coring, needle tining - to name a few.

It's all based on releasing the soil and getting more air and water to the roots. That's how you get root growth past 6" deep. As far as compaction is concerned, it's an ongoing effort. The more you break it up, the better off you are 'cause you know it's coming back if you have any traffic at all.

So give yourself a chance, enjoy the rewards. Give your soil a chance - the paybacks are great. Get a Verti-Drain. Take control.





Redexim Charterhouse Inc. 950 Sathers Drive Pittston Township, PA 18640 1-800-597-5664 Tel: 570-602-3058 Fax: 570-602-3060 www.redexim.com ward enough to complete in-house, cost-prohibitive to outsource and that no contractor would find the project's two-year labor schedule acceptable.

"Another key element that allowed us to do it in-house is that we didn't have a lot of construction to do," Morris says. "We just dug out the old bunkers and reshaped them. We didn't purchase new sod, and we didn't have much sod stapling."

The outcomes

"The reaction from the members was incredible," Austin says of his completed project. "They were excited and thrilled that [the bunkers] were back to their original form."

Austin admits the Midland Hills approach is not a reality for most golf courses. Essentially, Austin had a blank check and was instructed to hire a bigname contractor to complete the work in the most accurate, expedient fashion.

"Money was not an issue, and Hartmen is not cheap," he says. "[But] I will go out on a limb and say it's the best [remodeling firm] in the business."

Because they elected to do the project themselves, Morris said his crew and the club's members were subject to more of the pros and cons of bunker restoration. Since he wasn't afforded any additional staff, workers had to split time between their regular duties and revamping the bunkers.

"Some of our seasonal maintenance practices were neglected for a couple years, like tree trimming, brush removal and aeration," Morris says.

However, one unforeseen benefit arose from the project, one that Morris said is hard to put a price on.

"Doing the project ourselves really empowered our staff members with the sense they had accomplished something," he says. "We have a display in our lunchroom that shows the before and after, and our crew takes a lot of pride in that."

Sharp is a free-lance writer from Charlotte, N.C.

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Fairway Herbicide Strategies

Take the time to design a program to fight those pesky weeds in the fairways

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR., MANAGING EDITOR

t's almost spring, and superintendents' thoughts turn to protecting their fairways from weeds. With restrictions on chemical herbicides growing rapidly, it's important to have an effective strategy in place before making your applications.

Here are some tips on how to formulate a plan for using herbicides on your fairways:

Educate yourself about which weed types affect your course annually.

Before you decide to apply wall-towall herbicides, superintendents should examine the history of the weeds on their courses, says Bruce Branham, professor of plant pathology at the University of Illinois. Weeds often afflict the same patches annually, he says. Therefore, if you know where weeds have occurred in the past, chances are they will return to the same areas next year, Branham adds.

"Create a map, either in your head or on paper, about what happens every year on your course as it relates to weeds," Branham says. "Armed with that information, you can spot treat only the areas that have weed infestations instead of spraying herbicides over the whole fairway."

Timing is everything.

Jimmy Thomas, certified superintendent at the Hyatt Regency Hill CC in San Antonio, says proper timing can save superintendents from having to do postemergent treatment.

"You want to put your herbicide treatments down when the weeds are



Olde Florida GC certified superintendent Darren Davis says healthy turf prevents a weed invasion.

germinating," Thomas says. "If you miss that window, then you're going to be stuck doing postemergent treatments, which often interferes with play."

Don't assume all weeds germinate at the same time of year, Branham says. Know when your weeds germinate and apply pre-emergent herbicides as necessary, he adds.

Calibrate your equipment to avoid double treatments.

Make sure your sprayer is calibrated properly to avoid treating some areas of the fairway with more herbicide than is recommended on the label, says Dave Kopec, associate extension specialist with the University of Arizona. In addition, mark the area you plan to treat clearly so you don't put down a double dose of herbicide as the result of operator error, Kopec says.

"If you make a mistake and apply more herbicide than you want, I guarantee you'll notice," Kopec says. "Everyone who puts down herbicides on your course should be trained so that accidents don't happen."

Consider alternative ways to treat weed infestations.

You can cut your herbicide budget if you investigate what other factors may encourage weeds on your course, says Darren Davis, certified superintendent of Olde Florida GC in Naples, Fla. Test your soil for nutrient deficiencies, and make sure you're not putting down too much water.

Instead of spending an enormous amount of money on herbicides, you might be able to change your fertility program to make your turf inhospitable to weeds, Davis says.

"It may be as simple as changing your soil chemistry by adding nutrients or altering your irrigation schedule," he adds. "It's a lot more economical to look at the whole picture to determine what might be happening before spraying herbicides on your whole course."

Thomas says what may seem obvious but is often overlooked: The most important herbicide strategy is to grow healthy turf.

"If you have good soil and a good fertility program, you won't have to worry about weeds invading your turf," Thomas says. "Your fairways will be so strong and vital that weeds won't stand a chance of overtaking them."

Golfers' concerns about superintendents spraying chemicals often conflict with their desire for weed-free turf, Davis says. When turf is at its healthiest, those two ideas balance. Then you can keep your herbicide applications to a minimum," he adds.



The National Golf Course Owners Association presented **Arnold Palmer** with its Award of Merit and the Course of the Year Award. It also gave the Don Rossi Award to **Jerry Hollingsworth**, long-time owner of Singing Hills Golf and Tennis Resort in El Cajon, Calif.

Clyde Luther of Burke, Va., won the USGA's 2002 Joseph C. Dey Award. The award recognizes meritorious service to the game as a volunteer. The USGA also named Judy Rankin as its 2002 Bob Jones Award winner.

The GCSAA has named four outstanding researchers and educators as 2001 winners of the GCSAA Watson Fellowship awards: **B. Todd Bunnell**, Clemson University; **Brandon Horvath**, Michigan State University; **Eric Lyons**, Pennsylvania State University; and **Mary Suplick**, Colorado State University.

NOTABLE ACHIEVERS

The following superintendents recently achieved certification: Charles Messenger, Basin Harbor Club, Vergennes, Vt.; R. Dale Edmonds, Challenge at Hideaway Farm, Graham, N.C.; Ronald E. Kelly, Country Club of North Carolina, Moore, N.C.; Mark Langner, Limestone Springs GC, Oneonta, Ala.; and Patrick Gentile, Patty Jewett GC, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Simplot named **Trent Bradford** as fertilizer manager for the Professional Products Division's eastern region.

Keith Cousineau was chosen as the executive director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Cousineau replaced outgoing director, Vince Gillis.

ClubCorp named **Richard Ellis** as regional vice president for daily fee golf clubs. He will continue to serve as the managing director for the development of the Bear's Best golf courses in Las Vegas and Atlanta.

Bill Brose and **Mark Lodewyk** became principals of SmithGroup JJR, a Michigan planning, design and engineering firm.

The Irrigation Association announced the membership of its certification board: **Glenn Moore**, Pound Ridge, N.Y., chairman; **Joe Fortier**, Las Vegas, vice chairman;

Smooth'em out...

and **Jim Kline**, Payson, Utah, member at large.

Doug Paige was named the new director of commercial marketing for Briggs & Stratton.

PBI/Gordon named **David Fearis** as a consultant. Fearis provides the company with golf market education, consultation and project coordination for the company's professional turf and ornamental product line.

Steve Blackshire joined Otterbine Barebo as its southeast regional sales manger.

Let us know about your people on the move. Send information/ color photos to Golfdom's Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.

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The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Chemical proportioner BioSafe Systems offers the

ZeroTol Dosa-Cart chemical proportioner. This self-contained system comes preconfigured with an 11-gallon per minute proportioner that operates at a range of 7 to 70 psi, and the necessary pressure regulator and quick coupling devices.

The Dosa-Cart System offers superintendents a number of advantages when spot treating, including: more uniform access and

broad coverage than backpack sprayers;

access to areas where

Boom

Rogers Innovative introduces the Windfoil Lite, a light boom that has wheels in front of the spray to mitigate tracking with iron fertilizers. It also features optional electric fold, and the tips can be serviced or calibrated at waist height, even on the manual fold.

Like the original Windfoil, the Windfoil Lite features excellent drift control, and corrosion-resistant aluminum and polyethylene construction. For more information, contact 888-975-8294 or www.rogersinnovative.com or CIRCLE NO. 201

Pressure washers

Tuff Pressure Washers offers a line of self-contained, skidmounted, gasoline- and dieselpowered hot-water pressure washers. The Super Skid TNT line has 12 models — eight gasoline-powered and four diesel-powered — with cleaning power ranging from 3.5 to 5.6 gallons per minute and 3,000 to 3,500 pounds per square inch of pressure. For more information, contact 800-772-8833 or CIRCLE NO. 202 spray rigs can't reach;

 allows dilution ratios to be changed on the spot for curative or preventative treatments;

allows for higher water-volume drench applications; and

it can be used with fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, algaecides, acids, wetting agents and disinfectants.

The proportioner requires no electricity and operates using water pressure to inject the proper amount of chemicals. *For more information, contact BioSafe Systems at 888-273-3088 or* **CIRCLE NO. 200**

'Natural' fertilizer

Nature Safe Fertilizers are derived from natural sources that contain no waste by-products such as manure or sewer sludge. The natural ingredients in Nature Safe are premium animal proteins – feather, bone, meat, fish, poultry and blood meals – that provide a balanced nutritional program for the soil and the plant.

Nature Safe supplies the food energy that increases the number of microbes in the soil and provides the basic nutrients needed for healthy plant growth, improving overall turf quality.

Studies at more than 20 universities have validated Nature Safe's performance for improving turf. For more information, contact 859-572-2562, www.naturesafe.com or CIRCLE NO. 203

Turf book

Turf Management for Golf Courses: 2nd Edition, by James B. Beard is now available from **Sleeping Bear Press**. The practical encyclopedia, written by one of the top turf agronomists in the world with the help of the USGA Green Section field staff,



covers every critical aspect – technical and practical – of golf turf management. It features more pages, photos, expanded tables and timely research. *For more information, contact* 734-475 4411, *www.sleepingbearpress.com or* **CIRCLE NO. 204**

Controlled-release nitrogen

Nu-Gro Technologies announces the formulation improvement

Fuel system

EZ Dispensing Systems introduces the 5-gallon EZ Fueler. The dual-chamber fueling system mixes twocycle oil and gasoline precisely and cleanly, according to the company. Achieving precise oil-to-gas mixtures protects engines and maximizes performance. With the EZ Fueler, setting a dial to the desired setting is all it takes to meet any manufacturer's specifications, whether in ounces, milliliters or ratios. For more information, contact 877-224-7763 or www.ezdispensers.com or CIRCLE NO. 205

and increased production of Organiform Controlled Release Nitrogen. The formulation improvement will meet and exceed environmental requirements for heavy metals content, the company says.

The new formulation is based on ureaform technology, but uses peanut shells as an organic base component. The formulation change further reduces any concerns about metal content and provides improved economics for end-users.

Organiform 30-0-0 is a reacted nitrogen product, similar to Nu-Gro's other proprietary products. Organiform offers an intermediate release, up to 24 weeks. Based on carbon-linked polymer chains, Organiform has 55 percent water insoluble nitrogen.

For further information, contact 888-370-1874, www.nugrotech.com or CIRCLE NO. 206

Geese repeller

Bird X offers GooseChase, a food-grade taste aversion agent made from a bitter, smelly constituent of concord grapes (active ingredient methyl anthranilate). GooseChase renders treated food sources unpalatable and inedible. Geese can't get used to the taste and eventually leave for better food sources. Field tests have shown reduced goose activity in treated areas.

GooseChase is an alternative to lethal methods and is environmentally friendly. The material is biodegradable, and is an FDA "Generally Recognized As Safe" compound.

GooseChase is a viscous yellow liquid. One gallon of concentrate (for each acre) is diluted, sprayed onto dry grass, allowed to dry, then reapplied every 7 to 14 days or after mowing. For more information, contact 800-662-5021, www.bird-x.com or CIRCLE NO. 207

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