

Krones says. "If superintendents suspect problems, they should have service technicians look at the station."

Keep it clean

Krones says good pump station maintenance starts with keeping it clean. Keeping the station clear of dirt and grime will help superintendents spot potential problems earlier, such as wear or rusty casings.

"I always preach the importance of cleanliness," Vinchesi says. "Superintendents should wipe down the station and possibly repaint it. The importance of being able to see the parts you're planning to service shouldn't be underestimated."

Many irrigation systems have screens that should be cleaned and checked every year, Krones says.

He also says the pump station's ventilation system should be checked to

make sure it's free of debris. That can save superintendents headaches by preventing the motor from overheating.

Even pump stations need exercise

Krones says superintendents should exercise the pump station valves to ensure everything is in working order. Opening and closing of the valves keeps scale from forming on the edges and causing problems later in the season.

Krones says the soft parts of all valves, which include items like o-rings and diaphragms, should be checked for cracks or flaws. "You may have to rebuild or replace these parts, but it will help you in the long run."

Check the hardware

As with all equipment, superintendents should check the moving parts of their pump stations to see if they need lubri-

cation, Krones says. "Some pump stations now come with sealed bearings, which don't need additional grease."

Vinchesi says superintendents should also check bolts to see if they're still tight and make sure all electrical connections are still intact.

Superintendents should have turbine pumps pulled once every 10 years by a pump technician to check them closely for wear, he adds. Superintendents using effluent or high pH water should have them checked more often. Centrifugal pumps should be checked after five years, and 10 years thereafter if no problems are found.

So before turning on the irrigation system for the season, take some time to do routine maintenance to the pump station. The time superintendents take now will ensure its proper operation during the height of the irrigation season this year. ■

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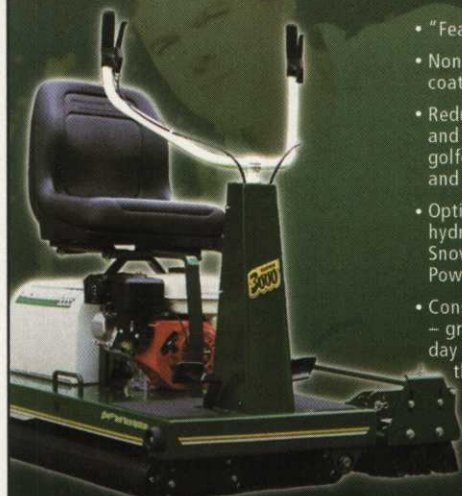


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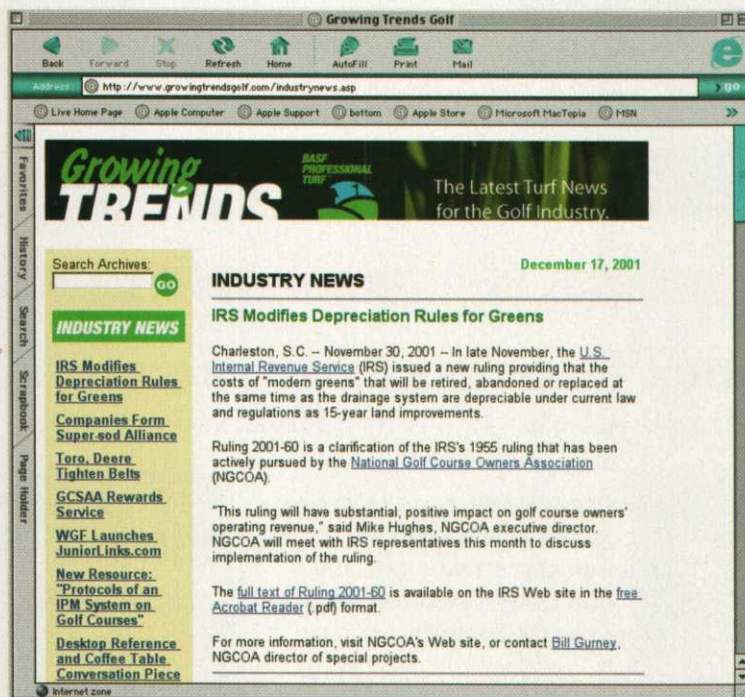
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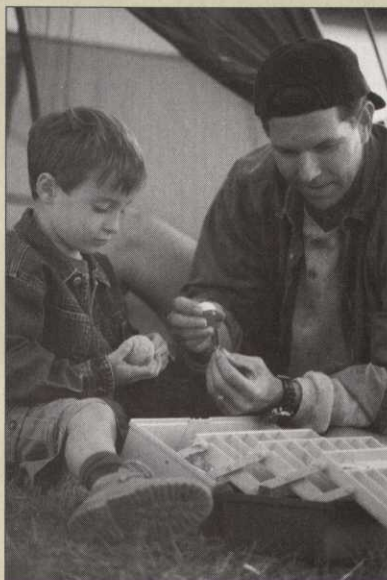
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Pausing on the magnificent 7th hole of a Scottish golf course, a Scot was diverted from the breathtaking view by screams from a nearby bunker. Rushing over, he found an American pinned beneath an overturned golf cart. "Quick! Get a doctor!" screamed the injured man.

"Hae innny insurance man passed by ye yet?"

"Nol For God's sake, why?"

"Move over!"

Golfdom's
Joke
of the month

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Out of Bounds

SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

skiing

MOST PEOPLE THINK DOWNHILL IS EXHILARATING, BUT REAL MEN AND WOMEN FAVOR CROSS-COUNTRY STYLE **BY MARK LUCE**



The weather was not delightful. There were mounds of snow already on the ground, more was falling gently from the sky, and I had nearly a mile to go. But I had managed to con my parents into the unthinkable — allowing me to ski to Adams Elementary School in Davenport, Iowa, rather than take a bus.

Granted, I was but a novice with the cross-country skis I received the previous Christmas, relegating my runs to a small slope that became the best whiffle ball/kickball field ever in the summer. I struggled at the technique to get uphill and didn't really know what I was doing. The shoes were cool, though, as were the ski poles that doubled as swords.

The extreme among us tend to think of downhill skiing as the ultimate — the speed, powder and adrenaline challenge — but those in the know understand that real men and women choose the refined, but lung-

scalding, cross-country variety to get their winter rush.

Not even trying to run the floor with high-school hoop mavens burns as many calories as hitting a cross-country trail. In one minute, a 155-pound man (does anyone know one of those?) can toast 14 calories. Do the math, couch potatoes. That's nearly a Big Mac an hour. Better yet, the sport works all the muscles groups and doesn't pound your bones and joints the way that running does. It's *the* aerobic sport, as long as there is snow.

Of course, one could tromp into the wild and ski to your heart's content, but it's easier and more practical to do some cross-country skiing on the golf course.

Now, some superintendents are wary of turning their turf to radical skiers who could potentially damage the course severely over the winter. But according to superintendent Mike Drugan of Drugan's Castle Mound in Holmen, Wis., cross-country skiers tend to follow etiquette more strictly than most golfers.

Drugan constructed nearly 10 kilometers of cross-country ski trails around his stunning course, while being careful to keep skiers off of greens. He finds that grooming the trails three times a week and not charging for skiing helps build summertime

golf business.

"We are really doing this for goodwill for the community," Drugan says. "It does help attract new golfers in the summer and gets people coming into the restaurant."

Beyond all the good-neighbor benefits, though, are some more intimate and long-lasting advantages, Drugan says.

"This is fun for the whole family," he adds. "You can learn to ski while young, and do it throughout your lifetime."

Further, he says cross-country skiing is a great way to keep fit over the chilly winter months. However, he adds with wry understatement, "It hurts."

I can attest that it does hurt — and often more than you could possibly imagine. Nevertheless, it's hard to complain too much when one feels the peace and majesty of gracefully gliding across pristine snow with no particular place to go.

Mark Luce, a free-lance writer, burns calories on his cross-country skis at an alarming rate near his home in Kansas City, Mo.

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