

## UPDATE

### Latest NGF data is out

The National Golf Foundation's latest report shows 56 new golf courses were opened last year and 48 courses were expanded, for a total of 12,197 courses in the U.S.

Florida had the most new courses with 12, 11 connected with real estate developments, and a total of 30 new or expanded courses. Texas claimed second with ten new or expanded courses. Minnesota ranked third with eight, and Arizona, California, and Wisconsin each had six openings.

The future looks as bright with construction starts on 100 new or expanding courses last year. Another 102 are in the planning stage. Florida also leads in these categories, but Michigan and Illinois are showing up near the top of the starts and planning lists.

Growth of public courses has greatly outpaced private courses in the last ten years. Since 1973 the number of daily fee courses has increased by roughly 800 and municipal courses by 400. Meanwhile, the number of private course has increased by 90. Today, there are 4,809 private courses, 5,528 daily fee, and 1,860 municipal.

The number of golfers has increased by five percent in the past five years for a total of 17.8 million. For a complete copy of the report contact the National Golf Foundation, 200 Castlewood Drive, North Palm Beach, FL 33408.

### GCSAA, NGF plan joint survey

A nationwide study of golf course maintenance activity will be conducted this summer jointly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the National Golf Foundation. GCSAA says superintendents of every course in the U.S. will be asked to share information on turfgrass maintenance practices, operating and capital budgets, and equipment use and needs. GCSAA has 5,000 members so the balance will have to come from NGF or other lists.

Questionnaires will be mailed this month. The returns will be compiled by the University of Kansas and results will be available by late summer or early fall, according to GCSAA. NGF President David Hueber says the survey is a pilot program in a long-range cooperative arrangement between the two organizations.

### TPC family grows to five

The renovation of Edgewood Country Club, Cromwell, CT, under the direction of architect Pete Dye is nearing completion and renaming to TPC of Connecticut, the fifth club to be owned by the Tournament Players Club. The Greater Hartford Open will be played there in July. A sixth TPC course is under consideration in Potomac, MD. Active discussions are also ongoing in six other locations by TPC. The Tournament Players Club is rapidly becoming a major multi-course company and land owner.

deterioration of forests from the Ohio Valley to the East Coast. Studies by the U.S. Forest Service and Butler University in Indianapolis, IN, point to air pollution to reduced growth rates of conifers and poor foliage production of softwoods. Hardwood trees are also showing symptoms as measured by studies of the growth rings of trees.

Scientists liken the problem to a similar event in Germany where 35 percent of the forest declined or died more than 20 years ago. Trees monitored for timber and paper use have shown substantially less growth than expected during the past 15 to 25 years, says Dr. Authur Johnson of the University of Pennsylvania.

More specific blame has been placed in the Ohio Valley where many coal-burning plants are located. Dr. Orie Loucks, director of the Holcombe Research Institute, Butler University, described symptoms as discoloration of foliage on pine, tulip, poplar, sycamore, white ash, hickory, maples and black oaks. Also mentioned are narrower growth rings and a higher degree of mortality.

### PEOPLE

#### Names in the news

**Joe Troll** made it 25 years of quarter-backing the Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference in March. Joe may be retiring soon and considering this year's conference, he is going out as a winner.

**Bob Mullane**, president of Alpine Tree Care, Inc., White Plains, NY, is the new president of the National Arborist Association. A University of Massachusetts graduate, Mullane said his goal is to reach out to others in the industry by attending at least ten industry shows. **Neil Engledow**, Mid-Western Tree Experts, Indianapolis, IN, will follow Mullane as president next year.

**David K. Scatterday**, has joined Martin Associates, Inc., Prairie View, IL, as a project manager. Scatterday is a landscape architecture graduate from the University of Illinois.

**Lyle Borg**, has been named sales manager for all Vermeer products by president Stan Vermeer. **Kevin Grooms** is the new industrial product sales manager for Vermeer, in charge of both tree and trencher products.

**Gordon Mitchell** brings 24 years of sales experience to Brouwer Turf Equipment as marketing manager. Gerry Brouwer, president, said Mitchell will be responsible for product introductions, dealer recruitment, advertising and promotion.