

SHORT CUTS

GOLF

New real estate booms with building of new golf courses

Approximately one out of two real estate projects under construction for year-round or resort living includes golf site lots for potential buyers, according to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

One reason for the golf boom is the aesthetic appeal to both golfers and non-golfers. Also, demographics show that, though the number of golf courses has doubled since 1960, the number of golfers has increased four-fold since then.

Further—and perhaps most important—is the excellent return of profits for developers and soaring property values for homeowners.

Buyers at a New England resort and conference center who paid \$90,000 for units were able to turn around and sell them for \$150,000 just two years later.

Industry experts believe this trend will continue as more and more people take up the sport of golf.

ATHLETIC TURF

Reprints available on safe fields

Athletic turf managers now have easy access to information on maintaining safe fields. *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine is selling reprints of two athletic turf issues. The reprints can be given to parent-teacher organizations or school boards to illustrate the importance of quality fields.

The two issues were originally published in September 1986 and June 1987. "Sidelined" deals with how to construct and maintain safe fields, and "Hard Knocks" explains in detail a test which may become a necessity for natural turf field managers.

Reprints sell for \$5.50 each (\$2.50 plus \$3 handling) or field managers can order both "Sidelined" and "Hard Knocks" for \$8. The price is tax-deductible since profits will go to the National Sports Turf Council.

To place an order, call HBJ's Business Information Services at (216) 826-2839 or send a check payable to HBJ to: Business Information Services, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Be sure to specify which reprint you want.

BENT GOING NATIONAL?...Jack Murray, Ph.D., says the USDA Beltsville (Md.) facility may establish a National Bentgrass Test, comparable to other national tests for bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fescues. "There is some interest," Murray notes. "We discussed it during the Southern Turfgrass workshop." Murray says 1988 is too early to expect the tests to be implemented, but that they could be in operation by 1989 or 1990.

DESERT—REAL DESERT—GOLF...Using the resources of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the first all-grass golf course in the Arabian Gulf will open just outside Dubai, Arabia, by the end of the year. According to "Parks, Golf Courses & Sports Grounds" magazine (Middlesex, England), constant watering is done through 740 Toro pop-up heads fed by two lakes containing 10 million gallons of desalinated sea water. Greens at Emirates Golf Club (and you should see the clubhouse!) have been seeded with Tifton 328 bermudagrass and fairways with Tifton 419 to cope with daily temperatures of 104 degrees and more.

A LIVING MEMORIAL...Workers broke ground June 15 on the Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia. The memorial is a tribute to Soto, a pioneer landscaper in Southern California who died a year ago. The garden was designed by Soto's friend Robert Cornell to exemplify Soto's determination to "never throw anything away." The garden emphasizes water conservative plants and the usefulness of recycled materials such as broken concrete, railroad ties and large trees rescued from the paths of bulldozers.

STAMP OF APPROVAL...A national campaign has begun to increase public awareness of arboriculture through a postage stamp honoring the industry. The Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee has received a proposal for such a stamp. Should the committee approve the proposal, about 100 million stamps would be printed. Those in favor of such a stamp should write: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-9998.

SEEDSMEN MEET...The 35th annual convention of the Atlantic Seedsmen's Association will be held at the Summit Hotel, Hartford, Conn., on Oct. 28-30. The seedsmen will begin their program on Wednesday with their annual member roundtable, according to president Jim Harris. The annual banquet will be held Thursday evening.

Additional program and registration information is available from John Baylor, Ph.D., executive director, Atlantic Seedsmen's Association, 298 E. McCormick Ave., State College, PA 16801. Baylor's phone number is (814) 237-0330.

NEW ADDITIONS...Arid turf-type tall fescue and Foltz alkali grass have been added to the American Seed Trade Association/Lawn Seed Division Variety Review Board's list of recommended turf cultivars. Dropped from the list were Clemfine tall fescue and Citation and Omega ryegrasses.