

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

GOLF

## Four-putt green? Try new Blackwolf Run



Former Blackwolf Run superintendent Don Cleamons waves from the middle of the No. 14 green at Blackwolf Run—all 20,000 square feet of it.

### AWARDS

#### Sarazen to receive 'Old Tom' from GCSAA

Golf legend Gene Sarazen will receive the 1988 Old Tom Morris award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association.

GCSAA will present the award to Sarazen, the sixth recipient, Feb. 8 at the closing banquet of the 59th International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show, which

begins February 1 in Houston.

Sarazen was the first of just four people to win golf's Grand Slam. He is also the developer of the sand wedge.

Sarazen, now 85, joins Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg and Robert Trent Jones Sr., as Old Tom recipients.

Nestled in a backwoods corner of Wisconsin is 6,800 yards of naked earth taking on a new shape. Construction crews are erecting what will be one of the toughest golf courses on the North American continent.

The Kohler Company hopes to have Blackwolf Run Golf Course completed in time for this summer's golf season.

It's a Pete Dye course that has been designed as a professional tournament course. When it's completed, its PGA rating should be neck-and-neck with the PGA West's 77.2, most difficult in the country.

You want length? Try the 566-yard No. 1 hole. Or the 556-yard No. 7. Or the 510-yard No. 10.

You want difficulty? Try No. 4, with its blind shot to the green. Or No. 14 with its 20,000-square-foot green bulkheaded by 400 feet of railroad ties shown here.

Blackwolf Run is a natural-appearing course, though being far from natural. It's all Pennncross bentgrass with fairways and greens surrounded by plenty of colorful wildflower mounds. Intermediate rough is bluegrass with roughs of fescue, bluegrass and prairie grass. Much of the rough will not be mowed.

The golf course is being built to help attract summer vacationers to the nearby America Club Hotel, also run by Kohler.

Says one Kohler source: "People don't play much golf in Palm Springs in June, July and August. We hope executive types on vacation from cities like Chicago, Minneapolis and Detroit come up here and play."

### RESEARCH

## Pesticides a victim of guilt by association?

Despite continued increase of pesticide use over the last 15 years, 23 of the 33 major life-threatening birth defects have stabilized or decreased, according to Dr. Stanley Shuman, medical director of the Agromedicine Program at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Shuman attributes the rise of the other 10 to heightened awareness and improved diagnostic techniques, especially for the four cardiovascular defects.

He notes, however, that only the

increases are reported by news media, sometimes resulting in removing products from the market.

Shuman reports that, statistically, one in every 100 births will result in a major birth defect, three in 100 a minor one, no matter what.

Statistics show that 25 percent of birth defects are genetic or chromosomal in nature, 10 percent environmental (not necessarily from pesticides) and 65 percent from unknown reasons. Shuman claims it is often these unknowns that suddenly

become a result of pesticides. But there is no proof.

While cancer is on the rise, Shuman says it is not a result of pesticides, but of an aging population. "The aging of cells causes cancer," Shuman says.

In addition, he notes that naturally occurring, plant-derived toxins occur in the average diet in concentrations sometimes as much as 10,000 times that of man-made pesticides.

Shuman spoke at the PLCAA convention last November.

## LEGISLATION

### N.Y. groups unite against legislation

Commercial pesticide users in New York have banded together, attempting to overturn the strictest proposed pesticide regulations ever written by a state agency.

If the regulations go into effect as written, everyone who applies a pesticide will have to post warning signs—everyone except homeowners.

Affected industries have spent the last six months objecting to the regulations and urging customers to write their elected officials. But the objections have not deterred the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Last spring, assorted landscape managers and nurserymen formed the New York State Green Council. This past fall, the council hired a lobbyist.

"We've been very segmented up until the last six months," notes Bill Stark, vice president of the New York State Turfgrass Association. Stark is both an LCO and a golf course superintendent.

The New York State Lawn Care Association, in addition to supporting the green council's efforts, has doubled the lobbying muscle by hiring its own lobbyist.

The regulations for lawn care applications are probably the most stringent of all. Among other provisions, LCO will have to place signs saying "Do Not Enter This Property" every 12 feet around the total perimeter after an application.

Golf courses will post at the pro shop, snack bars, bathrooms and clubhouse on every door, Stark says. Institutions and universities must post doors and two common areas, regardless where spraying is being done, he adds.

Public hearings on the regulations have been swamped with industry representatives, and input has been overwhelmingly against the regs.

One company, Lawn Medic of Bergen, N.Y., sent petitions to 400 customers. About 50 percent signed and mailed them back. The petitions have been shown to legislators.

"A number of the important people in the (legislative) assembly are coming out on our side of the regulations, mainly because they go way above the implied intent of the law," says Don Burton, president of Lawn Medic.



Woodlawn Cemetery sexton James Webber points out the cemetery map and directory used to locate plots.

## CEMETERIES

### Cemetery engraves plot directory on computer, gets good response

Woodlawn Cemetery in Claremore, Okla., has put its directory of deceased and pre-need plots onto a computer. According to Larry Roberts of Don Griffey & Assoc., Tulsa, the company that put the directory on line, it is the first such list in the country to be computerized.

Stored in the computer are 25,000 names, about 14,000 of which are of deceased, plus directions to grave and plot locations, displayed on a board at the entrance to the cemetery, says cemetery sexton James Webber.

The system went into operation March 1, 1987, and Webber says, has proven very successful. "It's beneficial to out-of-state people," he says. Because of the directory and the cemetery's reputation for excellent maintenance, Webber says, "People have come up from (nearby) Tulsa to buy space."

Webber adds that inquiries have come in from other cities around the country, including Denver, about installing such a directory and the cemetery maintenance program.

## RESEARCH

### N: no more 'pour-it-on,' Dr. Beard says

A number of trends are developing in turfgrass nutrition strategies as the decade nears its completion, says James Beard, Ph.D., Texas A&M University.

Beard cited four developing trends in a speech to attendees of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America's annual conference in San Antonio in November.

The first trend is toward lower application rates of nitrogen. This is a move away from the "pour-

it-on" philosophy of the past. New research shows that over-applying N can result in loss of carbohydrates needed for winter hardiness in cool-season areas, plus a greater susceptibility to disease as a result. Also, the increased shoot growth would result in more mowing and the removal of nutrients with clippings.

Beard also noted that applications of potassium will increase. He currently recommends applying it at rates of 65 to 85 percent of N once the soil has been raised to the optimum K level, then eventually going to a 1:1 ratio of N to K.

He suggests applying K every three to four weeks during the summer on cool-season turf because it will help



Dr. Beard

# SHORT CUTS

**SAND, SAND EVERYWHERE...**But not a drop to use. Most golf courses in Hawaii use manufactured sand because of a 1975 state law prohibiting use of natural coral sands from the beaches. The other alternative is to use volcanic cinder in greens. "Sands are not all the same," says Charles Murdoch, Ph.D., of the University of Hawaii.

**SAME THING WITH TURF...**Not only is sand scarce in the islands, but so is sod. Hawaii has only about 25 acres in sod production for the entire state. Many new turf varieties must be quarantined for up to two years before they can be brought from the mainland to the islands. Sugar cane is susceptible to the same viruses as turf, and it would take just one virus to wipe out the entire crop.

**NEBULUS NEMATODES...**It appears that the pest-fighting nematodes which infect Florida housecrickets is a different, previously unidentified species. Grover Smart, Ph.D., of the University of Florida's entomology department told the Florida Turfgrass Conference that research proving the nematode's identity will be released shortly.

**CONGRATULATIONS...**Gayle Jacklin, domestic marketing representative for Jacklin Seed, Post Falls, Idaho married Scott Ward on December 5. Ward is a management-trainee with lumber/paper company Boise Cascade. Gayle will use the last name Jacklin-Ward professionally.

**BALANCING THE BUDGET...**Marvin Gross, owner of Marvin's Gardens, Sarasota, Fla., has a favorite term when it comes to balancing the old budget. The word is "wobble-ate," and it means doing some fancy fudging of numbers when appropriate. From what was said at a panel session presented by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, most landscape contractors are adept "wobble-ators."

**A PERFECT FIT...**Golf courses and homebuilding go hand-in-hand, as housing developments are proving across the land. According to the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., a residential lot located on a golf course is worth up to 50 percent more than a "no golf" alternative.

recovery in high traffic areas.

Beard feels regular use of iron for rooting will be the norm down the road. While he says that iron exists in the soil, it is rarely in usable form. Thus applications in small amounts will benefit shoot and root growth, color and drought hardiness. He notes that visible results of iron are quick, often less than a half hour.

The trend farthest in the future, Beard believes, is fertilization based on tissue analysis. New technology, he says, will be able to analyze tissue for nutrient content and return results within two days. The cost will be high initially, though, he says.

## RESEARCH

### Runoff control affects groundwater

The degree of runoff control has an impact on groundwater quality, says Thomas Watschke, Ph.D., Penn State University.

Watschke notes that the main collection points for runoff water are watersheds, which land development often takes away. Not only is the water not given a chance to percolate and filter through the watershed, it is often lost as a resource because it runs off into creeks and rivers and eventually out to sea.



Dr. Watschke



Dr. Sullivan

Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., University of Rhode Island, says that pesticides often gather along with other toxins. Both Watschke and Sullivan agree that periodic flushings, or alternate periods with and without rain, result in higher concentrations of toxins in runoff water because they are allowed to build up on surfaces like curbsides and roofs. When the built up material is flushed, the concentrations are thus higher.

Research performed by Watschke shows that established groundcover will go a long way toward reducing runoff and filtering out dirt particles holding toxins.

Ideally, sod presents the best solution, if affordable. It is immediate and most effective, able to handle the equivalent of six inches of rainfall per

*Continued on page 15*

hour without runoff. New seeding, a more common and affordable practice, is less effective but also reduces runoff in time.

Sullivan suggests a more direct way to reduce pesticides in runoff and groundwater. Use less. Pesticide use has doubled since 1960, he says. The green industry accounts for 28 percent of all pesticides used.

Sullivan believes a trend toward less persistent chemicals is necessary, as well as a push for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on a more widespread basis. "If you don't reduce the application of pesticides, you'll reduce the availability of pesticides," he says.

Watschke and Sullivan spoke on groundwater and runoff at the eighth annual Professional Lawn Care Association of America conference.

LAWN CARE

Tru Green acquires Old Fox Lawn Care

Tru Green has strengthened its market position in the New England area by acquiring Old Fox Lawn Care, East Providence, R.I. Old Fox had revenues of \$9.5 million in 1987 with branches in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Atlanta-based Tru Green had less than \$4 million in these markets.

Tru Green, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oak Brook, Ill.-based Waste Management, Inc., will consolidate some of the two companies' branches, according to president Howard Evers. All employees will be kept, however, and the Old Fox management will be given more responsibility.

Bernard Buonanno, Jr., former president of Old Fox, will oversee all the Tru Green operations in the northeast region, Evers said. John Kenenski, former operations manager of Old Fox, will be the region's general manager.

Even the Old Fox name will remain. The branches will carry the title: "Old Fox, a Tru Green Company."

AWARDS

Irrigation Association honors Mel Hagood

The Irrigation Association named Mel A. Hagood its 1987 Man of the Year at the International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference in Orlando last October.

Hagood, now an irrigation consultant, amassed 40 years of experience in the irrigation industry. Most recently he was a professor at Washington State University, from which he retired in 1977.

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His work as the United Nations' consultant has taken him to Cyprus, Morocco, Iran, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Yemen.

Also, Terence D. Heiler, director of the New Zealand Agricultural Engineering Institute, received the IA's Crawford Reid Memorial Award. He was recognized for making significant achievements in the promotion of proper irrigation practices and brought advancements to irrigation outside the United States.

The association honored Robert B.

Daugherty, CEO of Valmont Industries, Valley, Neb., with the Irrigation Industry Achievement Award for contributions to the development of the industry and the products used by it.

William R. Pogue, president of Irrometer, Inc., Riverside, Calif., is the new president of the association. He is joined on the executive committee by Richard Hunter (president-elect); Glenn Tribe, (vice president); Michael Sypolt, (treasurer); John Riddering, (past president); and Bob Sears, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

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Elected to the board of directors were Larry Cox, William Gibson and William Koonz.

TREES

### For trees, LCOs need a 'total commitment'

Bob Felix, executive vice president for the National Arborists Association, was the voice of reason and caution in his talk to lawn care operators at San Antonio's Professional Lawn Care Association of America conference.

"You need a total commitment from a lawn service firm if it's going into tree care," Felix emphasized. "Tree care is labor intensive, with high turnover. It takes a certain mentality to go to the top of a tree 80 to 100 feet up hanging on a rope.

"It's safe if done properly. The hazards are there, especially powerlines." Equipment such as chain saws and chippers must be



Bob Felix

used properly, he adds.

Equipment is expensive. A truck with a chipper can cost \$35,000, an aerial lift as much as \$75,000, according to Felix.

Maintenance costs, debris disposal and different estimating tactics are also considerations. "It is easier for a tree care business to get into the lawn care business than it is for the lawn care business to get into tree care," says Felix.

He adds that spray techniques are different as well. Tree care's target spraying, and application techniques have improved, he says. But, "it takes a knowledge of application principles to get a high-pressure sprayer pointed in the right direction."

CONFERENCES

### Plane crash deaths mar 8th PLCAA show

Among the victims of Continental Flight 1713, which crashed on take off from Denver en route to Boise, Idaho, were Jim Marria of Perma Green Lawn Co., his wife Karen and two other Perma Green employees. They were all returning to Boise following the eighth PLCAA Conference and Trade Show in



Russ Frith of Lawn Doctor (left) receives congratulations from PLCAA's Jim Brooks after the former was elected 1988 PLCAA president.

San Antonio, November 15.

Jim Marria had served PLCAA as director, secretary/treasurer, vice president and president in 1986.

"The current success and financial stability of our association is due in large part to Jim's leadership over the past six years," PLCAA executive vice president James Brooks wrote in a letter to PLCAA members.

He and his wife are survived by two sons, Craig, 17 and Mark, 16.

Nick Ysursa, Marria's brother-in-law and Boise branch manager, and director of technical services John Stewart also died in the crash. Mike Spicer and Doug Self, both of Perma Green, survived the crash, as did Tom Denker and Barbara Hooper of Evergreen Landscape in Ketchum, Idaho.

The Marria family has set up a Bishop Kelly High School Scholarship fund in memory of the Marrias and Ysursa. Contributions can be made to: Marria-Ysursa Scholarship Fund, c/o Dr. Dean Sorenson, 5197 Redbridge Dr., Boise, ID 83703.

The deaths marred what was otherwise considered a successful conference. Though attendance was down to 1,250 this year as opposed to 1986 totals exceeding 2,000, seminars were well-attended.

A record 163 exhibitors covered 33,600 net square feet of exhibit space, and outdoor demonstrations were well-attended despite some rain.

Four new board members were elected at the show as well. They are J. David Fuller of Fullcare Turf Maintenance, Louisville, Ky.; Richard Miller of Ever-Green Lawns, Golden, CO.; Richard Steinau of Greenlon, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Richard White of ServiceMaster, Wheaton, Ill.

In addition, the PLCAA reports that 353 new members joined the association in 1987, exceeding the goal of 300, and bringing the total membership to 1,300.

"We're going to have another very, very good year in 1988," Brooks told members at the annual business meeting where Russ Frith of Lawn Doctor, Matawan, N.J. was elected new PLCAA president.

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