

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.