

Golf course building is up, architects say

CHICAGO - Golf course architects are approaching the "magic number" of new golf courses that must be built annually to cope with the increasing number of new players.

A survey of member firms of the American Society of Golf Course Architects reveals that 305 new projects and 268 remodeling assignments are in progress in the U.S. and Canada, both healthy increases from the previous year.

According to statistics from the National Golf Foundation, golf players jumped from 20.2 million in 1986 to 21.7 million in 1987.

Based on those figures, the NGF projects that approximately 387 new courses (one a day!) would have to open annually to correct the disparity between the number of players and courses available.

"I honestly believe we could build 400 new courses a year if financing were readily available," says ASGCA president Pete Dye. "If financing manifests itself, then it will be the responsibility of the architect and builder to meet this challenge and produce interesting golf courses that will make those millions of new golfers glad they came out to the course." □



Lee Hellman

PESTICIDES

Deer tick moves into new areas

BALTIMORE — The deer tick population in the United States is spreading, and with it the threat of Lyme disease.

According to Lee Hellman, Ph.D., the pinhead-sized, Maryland-based pest has been detected in a downward migration into the Appalachians, and may soon reach Virginia and other southern states. Cases of Lyme disease have also been documented in Western states and other world-wide locations.

Hellman says deer ticks attack when in the nymphal stage, which is also the time they carry the Lyme disease virus.

Adult females nest in rodents or pets, and then drop off in yards and fields to lay eggs. The first symptom of Lyme disease is a rash around the bite. If untreated, the rash will expand, and heart and nervous conditions or swollen joints may develop.

Two drawbacks in the battle against the disease are that only 75 percent of victims exhibit the rash symptom, and the disease is not always detectable in blood tests. According to Hellman, the disease can be easily controlled by antibiotics, but in some instances disease organisms have escaped the antibiotics and enter body tissue impervious to medication. There they will remain, causing recurrent symptoms.

"Lyme disease will be one of the major health control problems in the eastern United States," warns Hellman.

Hellman says the deer tick can be controlled by most materials now used against turf insects, such as Turfcam, Triumph, diazinon, Dursban, Sevin, or the soon-to-be-available insect growth regulators or synthetic pyrethroids. □

SHORT CUTS

MIDWEST HOT SPOT...The drought took its toll on the state of Michigan in 1988. Paul Rieke, Ph.D. at Michigan State University, says portions of the state had .83 inches of rainfall during May and June. Usual rainfall for that time is 6.07 inches. Michigan experienced 37 days above 90°, a mercuric rise from the usual 11 days. Average per day rainfall from April 24-July 15 was .05 inches.

HOUSES DOWN..."We predict that single-family housing construction will continue to inch downward but will remain above the one million unit level." That prognostication comes from Stephen W. Scott, vice president at JI Case. Case, of course, has a vested interest in housing construction because it manufactures construction equipment.

BE COUNTED...The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation has begun a survey of the Michigan green industry. The purpose, according to Tim Doppel, president of Atwood Lawn Spray, is to determine the size and earning power of Michigan's turfgrass industry. "We intend to use the results to show just how important the Michigan green industry is and thereby generate dollars to support research at Michigan State University," says Doppel, who is in charge of the project.

PR DEPARTMENT..."We all have a public relations department, whether we know it or not," says ServiceMaster vice president Rick White. White says "we are making impressions all the time on the people we serve and even people we don't serve." The four ways to impress people, hopefully positively: "the condition of our vehicles, answering the phones, the appearance of our employees and the quality of our work." White says "I think it's time for us to under-promise and over-deliver," instead of vice versa.

BUG DETECTOR...David Smitley of Michigan State reports the drought of 1988 greatly effected the insect populations in areas of Michigan. "European chafers and Japanese beetles expanded their territory, and there was some cutworm and bluegrass billbug movement onto golf course fairways because of the extreme contrast to other drought-stressed areas." Some fairways, he reports, suffered 50 percent turf loss. Interestingly, home lawns in the state showed little insect damage, with 95 percent being strictly drought stress. In fact, many bugs packed up and moved out of those lawns to find enough moisture.