

UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE DOUBLES AS RESEARCH LAB

Amidst the boisterous, disparaging remarks of those who proclaim golf courses to be the ultimate enemy of water conservation, a voice in the desert quietly refutes this notion through its daily commitment to environmental concerns.

The Karsten Golf Course at Arizona State University (ASU), Tempe, AZ, slated to open later this year, is the site of two university-department research projects and a third proposed project. Resort Management of America (RMA), the operational management company retained by the Sun Angel Foundation to manage the course, is standing behind its commitment to water conservation and responsible use of golf course land.

The ASU Laboratory of Climatology plans to conduct tests to determine the effect of golf courses on the environment, according to Robert Balling, its director. "The department's projects will reinforce the fact that the ASU golf course can be used for research," he said.

Balling has proposed the installation of an automated weather station on the course to continuously monitor air and soil temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, dew point, precipitation, soil measurement, and solar energy. The information will be used to calculate evapotranspiration rates

and climatic information. These figures will tell RMA precisely how much water to use when irrigating the course in order to prevent waste. The data will also be used in turfgrass experiments which measure plant compatibility and survivability.

Research on redefining water usage on courses in arid and semi-arid regions, turf-disease control, and growth regulators will allow responsible use of resources. "Weather data from an actual desert course will provide this useful information, primarily to the researcher, but also to the golfer who simply wants to know about course conditions," Balling explained.

Henry DeLozier, RMA president, noted that comparisons between turf varieties and water usage will be studied to provide conservation information to other course managers.

Dr. Ralph Backhaus, an associate professor in ASU's Urban Horticultural Program, has begun studying the golf course's turf and desert vegetation and the use of effluent in irrigation.

"Various low-water-usage plants and alternate species for golf course ornamentation will be tested to see how they perform in this environment," Backhaus reported. If the plants prove effective in the desert climate, they can be grown in the university's nursery.

Other university-proposed research includes turf- and green-disease diagnosis and a study of native vegetation in the course's nongroomed areas. The use of an athletic facility as an environmental research center is unique to the Karsten Golf Course at ASU. The course can be used to establish a work/study program for students interested in golf course management.

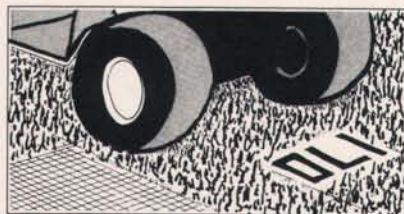
"We are committed to discovering mutual benefits to the golfer and the community," said DeLozier. A similar commitment was made from the ASU course's inception. Pete Dye, known in the golf industry for designing courses that demand a great deal of care, said he had never seen a more barren wasteland than the Salt River bottom on which the course was built. "We've taken the sorriest piece of land in Tempe and turned it into a useful, appealing recreation facility," he remarked.

Ed Gowan, executive director of the Arizona Golf Association, has been a vocal proponent of water conservation.

DeLozier agreed, adding, "But we believe we have gone far beyond the minimum of conserving water to advancing the state of environmental research. Multiple use of the land to benefit our community is taking golf course management into the 21st century."

FAIRWAY CART PATHS

- An interlocking system of 1 square foot pavers which protects grass from cart traffic.
- Balls bounce straight.
- Play is speeded up.
- Income is increased.



YARDAGE MARKERS

5" numbers imbedded in a 1 sq. ft. paver which lies level with the fairway. Use every 10 yards for precise club selection. Legal under USGA Rule 24-2.

GOLF 2000 PAVERS

9842 Hibert St. Suite 257
San Diego, CA 92131

1-800-824-9029 Tone 753

Circle 101 on Postage Free Card

The Brouwer Trash-Pik™

The Trash-Pik™ is the innovative method for picking up litter at municipal locations, theme parks, airports, shopping malls, car parks and such places.

Some outstanding features:

- 18 h.p. two cylinder Kohler gas engine
- Closed loop hydraulic hydrostatic drive
- 200 degree nozzle operating arc
- Reverse air-flow to remove hose blockages or blow leaves or litter for easy pick-up
- The 8 cu. ft. litter container bag tilts back for easy unloading
- Heavy-duty, corrosion free fibre-glass body



Solve your litter collection problems, fast, efficiently.

Call your Brouwer dealer for more information or a demonstration... TODAY.

Woodbine Ave., Keswick,
Ont., Canada L4P 3E9
Tel. (416) 476-4311
Fax. (416) 476-5867

BROUWER™
TURF EQUIPMENT LIMITED
An Outboard Marine Corporation Company

7320 Haggerty Rd.,
Canton, MI. 48187
Tel. (313) 459-3700
Fax. (313) 459-8778

89-109P Copyright 1989 Brouwer Turf Equipment Limited.

Circle 102 on Postage Free Card

March, 1989 37