



turf



aquatics



ornamentals

Long Island Superintendent Manages Water Under Extreme Conditions

A Case Study at The Seawane Club

Course Overview

- The Seawane Club (private)
- Brian Benedict, Golf Course Superintendent
- Located in Hewlett Harbor, New York (on Long Island)
- 18 holes, par 72
- Traditional links-style course
- Architect: Devereux Emmet

Regional Climate and Soil Conditions

- According to Benedict, “basically a beach site”
- 4,000 linear feet of seashore
- Naturally controlled ocean-side climate
- Ground water is only 30 – 40 inches down
- Seashore proximity provides saline conditions



Brian Benedict, Golf Course Superintendent

Although its location results in modest temperatures, being situated next to the ocean causes extreme irrigation inconsistencies. Course conditions vary with some areas of the course running wet, while areas less than 20 feet away remain completely dry.



Course Profile

The Seawane Club, in Hewlett Harbor, New York, is an 18-hole, links-style course situated on the south shore of Long Island. Its seashore location provides a consistent climate influenced by nearby ocean temperatures. While temperatures rise elsewhere in the spring, the climate at Seawane remains modest until the ocean temperature rises. Likewise, temperatures continue to hold steady deeper into fall because the ocean stays warmer longer.

Challenge

Situated at sea level, the constant battle at Seawane is ground water. With only 30 inches to ground water, rains in excess of an inch and a half will sometimes postpone play for a full day, resuming when the course is able to drain in sync with the subsiding tide. And because the course is close to the ocean, unique factors such as wind direction and even the phase of the moon can make the difference between soaked and dehydrated turf.



While the course experiences extreme water management issues, saline water conditions also remain a constant challenge. A perfectly timed nor'easter – one that is followed by high tides – will leave many areas of the course flooded with saltwater.

Products Used and Benefits

Benedict relies on the portfolio of Zone surfactants from Precision Laboratories to adjust the conditions on the course, according to the needs of the turf and the desires of the members.

“We’ve always used Cascade Plus™ on the greens, tees and approaches to drive the water down to create a dryer surface area,” said Benedict. “One year we didn’t use it, and we experienced a lot of rainfall. The product we chose to use that year made the greens really spongy. They held a lot of water in the upper profile which you don’t want.”

Benedict is unable to irrigate fairways with substantial amounts of water because the water table is so high. Even in high heat and humidity conditions, he can only irrigate some greens three-to-six minutes each night. To spread water more equally, Benedict recently started using Magnus™ on some areas, including fairways.

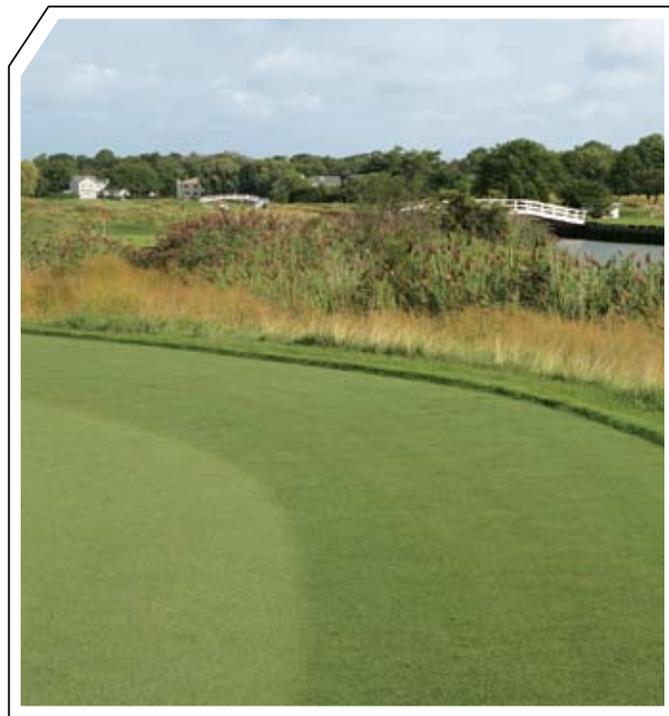
“One area could be wet while another area 20 feet away is completely dry, so I think Magnus has enabled us to basically uniform the water a little bit better.”

In addition to using Magnus, the fairways at Seawane are topdressed twice each year, coordinated with aerification. “We put about 1,000 tons of sand on the fairways, which has helped with drainage in the top layer, allowing the water to get through. So the products and the cultural combination of the two have made the fairways a lot better.”

In 2006, Benedict started treating all of the bunker banks by hand with a pellet applicator. As part of the application, EZ Tabs™ are used to further increase water infiltration, along with Super Signal™ Green to indicate which areas have been treated.

To round out the Zone portfolio, Benedict uses Duplex™ on certain – very specific – applications. “We use a little bit of Duplex in some pesticide applications which basically makes the water wetter, reduces the tension on top and allows the water to penetrate.”

By using Precision products, Benedict is able to gain control over unusually extreme irrigation challenges. As a result, he’s able to keep the club membership happy by providing a firm playing surface on the greens, and a lush expanse of green color on all the fairways.



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