GALLO TO REP OLSON IN NORTHEAST
SANTEE, Calif. — Olson Irrigation has appointed Phil Gallo to represent its landscape and agricultural products in New England, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and New York. The Olson line had previously not been available in the Northeast. Gallo can be reached at 203-350-5111.

BROOKS TO HANDLE SCOTTS FIELD SALES
MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Ken Brook has been promoted to field sales manager for the Consumer Business Group (CBG) of The Scotts Company. Brook, who has been with Scotts for 23 years in a variety of positions, had been field manager for the Southeast region. In his new role, he will assume responsibility for the CBG field sales organization and sales administration functions. He will move from Atlanta to central Ohio.

MILLWARD JOINS HUNTER IN EAST
CARY, N.C. — Hunter Industries has appointed Bill Millward the new district manager for the Mid-Atlantic region. Millward’s territory covers Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Millward will be based at the Hunter East Coast manufacturing facility here and can be reached at 919-467-7100.

STONEMAN TO PROMOTE ENVIROMATE
Ch. Hansen's Biosystems has named Bill Stone to promote its natural microbials and enzymes for environmental applications. Stone now manages and directs the Enviromat product line, which includes Enviromate Compost Inoculant and Organic Fertilizer Inoculant — concentrated sources of naturally occurring microorganisms for the manufacture of compost activators and natural organic fertilizers.

SMITH JOINS JAKE IN N'WEST
RACINE, Wis. — Jordy Smith has been named regional sales manager for the Jacobsen Division of Textron in the northwest portion of the U.S. and western Canada. A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Smith has previously held sales positions with Boyd/Martin Co. in Salt Lake City. He lives in Bountiful, Utah.

GOLFCourse NEWS

PROPOSED PESTICIDE REFORMS NOT EXPECTED TO IMPACT APPLICATION
By Barnaby Wickham
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The government has unveiled sweeping proposed legislation to reform the country’s pesticide laws, though changes are not expected to directly affect the golf course industry. ‘There is nothing in the new law...’ anything that addresses any change in [pesticide] applications, techniques, equipment or worker protection,” said Mike Scott, golf liaison for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). “However, there will be a general implication to any users of pesticides. The [Clinton] administration’s proposed bill is very significantly asking for integrated pest management (IPM) techniques which would apply to...golf course superintendents.”

The insistence on IPM programs — something not found in the current law, but something superintendents have been employing for years — was brought about by the administration’s directive to reduce use of pesticides, especially those with high levels of chemical toxicity. In addition to reducing the number of chemicals on the market, the program also seeks to promote biological products, hailed as “safer” pesticides.

“One of the ways we hope to encourage this to fast track the registration of them,” Scott said.

This increased speed in the registration of certain pesticides raises the general issue of product approval for all pesticides.

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NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH
Mechanized creature emerges from depths... with golf balls!
By Steve Bennett
White gold. That’s what Bill Serafin of Canton, Mich., Great Lakes Golf Ball Co. calls the booty he raises from golf course water holes.

But unlike sunken-treasure divers who may spend a lifetime searching for a single payoff, Serafin and his crews harvest some 20,000 lost golf balls a week from water hazards for resale to courses and driving ranges. Also unlike the sunken treasure chests that dreams are made of, Serafin knows he can go back to a pond or lake and retrieve new white gold in a few weeks — an endless, renewable supply of sought-after commodity.

A former machinist at a Michigan auto plant, the 52-year-old Serafin fishes golf balls out of ponds for many years using Scuba tanks or hip boots. Frustrated with the hazards and limited results, Serafin used his machinist skills to copy the design of a 500-pound slotted roller-retriever that is dragged with two winches across the bottoms of ponds.

Using two golf cars with a motorized pulley system, the roller enters the water empty on one side of the pond, and emerges from the muck and mud on the otherside with up to 900 balls caught in its slotted fins. The cars move the roller up and down the pond until it has covered each area twice. When the roller is full, crowd-like pickers are used to pull the trapped balls from between the roller’s fins.

“We did a golf course in the fall of 1992 that Scuba divers had been retrieving balls from for about 10 years,” Serafin said. “The course management said divers just pulled 4,000 balls out a couple of weeks earlier. We went in and with our roller collected 18,000.”

Serafin sells back to the course balls suitable for resale in pro shops — Continued on page 49

GCSAA renews commitment to Asian trade show
By Hal Phillips
LAWRENCE, Kan. — Citing its mission to further the profession and its continued belief in the value of cost domestic members a dime, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has decided to continue its relationship with Golf Asia.

The superintendents association will again sell booth space to "industry" exhibitors, while Singapore-based Connex Private Ltd. will cater to the "commercial" or playing-side exhibitors. GCSAA will also run the education conference that takes place during the trade show, while Connex will host the more development-oriented Asia-Pacific Golf Conference prior to the show. International Management Group (IMG), the sports marketing giant, is the third member of Golf Asia’s triumvirate.

A volatile portion of the GCSAA domestic membership has voiced its displeasure with the association’s overseas ventures. But at their spring... Continued on page 48

PVP Act ready by mid-summer?
By Mark Leslie
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers and the seed industry expect a new Plant Variety Protection Act to be ready for final approval this summer.

“We’re quite hopeful the full House will move within next month to six weeks [mid-to late-July], and then we’ll work out differences between the House and Senate bills and have a final bill for approval perhaps by early August,” Tim Galvin said from Sen. Bob Kerry’s office.

Kerry, D-Neb., last fall asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Variety Protection office to draft new PVP legislation to bring the United States into conformity with a new international Union for the Protection of Varieties (UPOV) treaty. Once a new law passes, the Senate can take the final step of ratifying the treaty — a 1991 rewrite of the original 1978 agreement.

Twenty-one countries negotiated UPOV to continue its relationship with the “commercial” or playing-side exhibitors. GCSAA will also run the education conference that takes place during the trade show, while Connex will host the more development-oriented Asia-Pacific Golf Conference prior to the show. International Management Group (IMG), the sports marketing giant, is the third member of Golf Asia’s triumvirate.

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