BRIEFS

MINDS MEET ON IPM
MARLBOROUGH, Mass. — "A Meeting of the Minds" is the title of an urban/suburban integrated pest management conference Oct. 13 at Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel. Focus is to highlight what has been developed and working in integrated pest management systems in the turf, landscape and ornamental, profiting structural pest control industries. It will provide a forum for industry leaders as well as educational, environmental and governmental agency personnel to discuss matters of mutual concern surrounding the practice of pest control and integrated pest management.

DEROCCO ENTERES MAINE HALL OF FAME
SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — Tony DeRocco, a native of Rocco Morice, Italy, who found happiness in Maine via an illustrious golf career capped by almost 30 years as a course superintendent, has been inducted into the Maine Golf Hall of Fame. DeRocco, 87, immigrated to the United States in 1921. He caddied at Atrisley-On-The-Hudson, slugged for Harmon at Hudson River CC, and moved into the pro shop as club cleaner. Maine has claimed him the past 65 years. He became pro at Summit Spring CC in 1929, pro at Wilson Lake CC in 1934, and at Oakdale CC in 1935. He returned to Summit as pro in 1963, then launched a successful stay as superintendent at the Poland Spring CC in 1965. He retired as cart maintenance chief in 1993.

METRO TURF FIELD DAY SET
The Westchester County Club will host the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association annual Professional Turfgrass Field Day on Oct. 18. A seminar co-sponsored with The Metropolitan Golf Association will coincide with the field day. The seminar will host Dave Oatis, director of the Northeast Region of the United States Golf Association, Green Section along with Dr. Joel Jackson, professor at the University of Rhode Island.

W.VA. SUPERS RAISE $14,000
The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association raised more than $14,000 for the Construction and Research Fund at its annual turfgrass scholarship and fundraiser golf tournament at Wheeling Country Club. The record $14,000 was raised to support the WVGCSSA William C. Campbell Scholarship and Research Fund.

MAINTENANCE

‘Iron’ men unite to broaden education, training
BY HAL PHILLIPS
W. ESTON, Mass. — Golf course mechanics associations are materializing across the nation, as technicians organize themselves to meet the ever-increasing challenge of innovation. As equipment continues to change and improve, mechanics need to keep up. Organizations now exist in New Jersey, Chicago, the Carolinas, the Mid-Atlantic region and New England, with two in Florida. The benefits are wide ranging. The New Jersey Golf Course Mechanics Association, for example, has compiled an equipment user’s list which details, by make and model, the equipment used at each member course. Should a mechanic run into a problem with repair, he or she can quickly locate someone with the same machine who may provide the insight needed to minimize downtime.

“It’s sophisticated. The average auto mechanic can’t work on this stuff,” said Stephen Lucas, the mechanic at Weston Golf Club, here and president of the Golf Course Mechanics Association, which is centered in New England states but holds national aspirations.

Hiers exports pro-golf message to the masses
BY MARK LESLIE
NAPLES, Fla. — Collier’s Reserve Country Club superintendent Tim Hiers, who has delivered the message that golf courses are ecology-friendly to those inside and outside the golf industry, has been presented the first John James Audubon Steward Award.

“Tim is the perfect example of one of those people who was already moving in the right direction” when his club joined the New York Audubon Society’s Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, said John Santacrose, NYAS executive director. “And he’s running with the new information we’ve given him. Hopefully, that will happen with more people.”

Presenting the award, NYAS President Ron Dodson said Hiers led the Collier’s Reserve course through the rigorous Signature Program process and the facility has become the international model for others to follow. The award, established earlier this year, represents “the highest recognition of leadership in the field of environmental responsibility.”

Santacrose said Hiers’ involvement in the Signature Program was “like a springboard for him.”

Among his new procedures were hiring an Integrated Pest Management specialist, and involving the general public, to the extent that a number of people have helped revegetation projects at neighboring golf courses.

“Tim got a lot of people in Naples, Colliers County and all of Florida involved in the program, has done programs for schoolchildren and things like that,” Santacrose said.

Dodson also cited the family-owned Collier Enterprises, the developer of Collier’s Reserve, for its “commitment to environmental excellence.”

Surprised by the award because he knows “a lot of other people who are just as deserving,” Hiers said: “I’m glad they have awards like this because superintendents don’t get recognized for what they do. It’s amazing. You have people in other organizations that don’t do nearly as much and, yet, get huge recognition. Meanwhile.

HINDMAN COMMUNITY PARE
LITTLE ROCK PARK SYSTEM

Delhi dedicates new education center
DELI, N.Y. — More than 100 representatives of the turf industry joined faculty and staff from the State University College of Technology at Delhi, Aug. 16, to dedicate the college’s new Turf Education Center here.

The building, which opened to students Aug. 29, is an example of the university’s commitment to environmental excellence.

"I would like to get together with as many [regional] mechanic associations as I can, so we can talk about eventually taking this thing nationwide. That’s my dream.”

Any hopes that the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) would adopt a "big tent" attitude toward course mechanics died

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