MINDS MEET ON IPM
MARLBOROUGH, Mass. — "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, private and 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 ENTERS 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 from Italy to Hastings, N.Y., in 1921. He caddied at Ardsley-On-The-Hudson, slugged for many Harmon at Hudson River CC, and moved into the pro shop as club cleaner. Maine has claimed him the past 65 years. He became shop aide at Summit Spring CC in 1929, pro at Wilson Lake CC in 1934, and at Oakdale CC in 1953, returned to Summit as pro in 1963, then launched a successful stay as superintendent at the Poland Spring CC in 1965. He retired as caretaker maintenance chief in 1993.

METRO TURF FIELD DAY SET
The Westchester Country 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 be held from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. under the direction of the Northeast Region of the United States Golf Association, Green Section along with Dr. Noel 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 Department of Veterans Affairs 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.

‘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 users 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.

MAKING INROADS WITH AUDUBON

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 Santacroce, 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."

Santacroce 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," Santacroce 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."

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DELHI, 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 industry investing in its future, according to Mary Ellen Duncan, Delhi College president. More than $855,000 toward the $320,000 educational center was raised through donations from the industry.

Lead gifts included $33,000 from the New York State Turfgrass Association and $25,000 from Ransomes, America Corp. Also contributing were the Central New York, Finger Lake, Hudson Valley, Long Island, Metropolitan and Northeastern golf course superintendents associations.

The remaining construction costs were paid by the College Association at Delhi Inc., the not-for-profit auxiliary services corporation that owns and operates the Delhi College Golf Course.

"Devotion to wildlife, golf moves Miller's muni to the forefront"

BY MARK LESLIE
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Here is a man who loves wildlife and golf courses. Most of all, he loves wildlife on golf courses. Hence, John Miller, the city's golf course superintendent, has earned recognition as one of the first Environmental Steward Award winners by gaining full certification for one of his three municipal golf courses in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP).

"I don't think there's anything more beautiful than a golf course early in the morning when the sun's first coming up," Miller said. "The only thing more beautiful is if there's a bunch of birds singing."
All holes barred in practice that could save turf, money

By BOB BRAME

ave you ever looked at a practice putting green after a hard
day? Worse, a practice putting green in late August after the
last big outing of the summer? It’s not uncommon to see what
resembles a war zone.

Dirt peering through thin and
weak turf around six, nine or
sometimes 18 holes, distributed
over what was a uniform green
carpet. Looking closer, you may
see ragged and rounded hole
dges, and often a dozen or
more previous hole locations
either too low (nice dark green
circular depressions) or too
high (four and a quarter-inch
scalp patch). It’s not a pretty
picture. Think about what this
same green might look like if
holes were not being used to
practice.

A practice putting green
which was once uniform

What has dimples and a
colorful personality?

Our famous Dimple-Ts are already the most popular markers on tees around the world. And now
we’re making them even better — personalizing them with your own club logo or easy-to-read hole
numbers. The durable plastic markers won’t chip,
dent or split under normal use. What’s more,
you can choose from a variety of colors — red, white, blue,
yellow and even black
for your “monster”
tees. All are 5-inches in diameter and feature
molded-in galvanized steel spikes for easy place-
ment and removal. For more information, contact
your nearby Standard Golf distributor.

According to many of the
A practice putting green with
game’s great teachers, this
is particularly true of putting. If
you think you’re going to miss
the three-footer, you probably
will, or at least it becomes a
whole lot tougher to knock in. It
is interesting that many golf
instructors actually discourage
practice putting to a hole.

The idea is that you will
condition your mind either to
see the ball going in or
missing the hole. Either way,
it can carry over to the golf
course. If you’re missing on
the putting green, you will
expect to continue to on the
course.

What happens when you
eventually miss one? Sugges-
tion: practice putting to a spot,
or place a tee in the green to
putt at. It makes sense. Get
the feel of the putting surface
without focusing on whether
the ball goes in or not.

Improving your putting game
by looking at a spot rather
than a hole? Interesting. How
about agronomically? Even if holes are
changed daily on a practice
green, wear can be very
destructive. Worn and bruised
surfboard is more prone to disease
activity and weed invasion. This
means more chemicals may be
needed to counter the effects of
heavy, concentrated wear.

Distributing player wear over
a larger area will result in
healthier turf and a better
playing surface. Sounds great,
but how can wear be monitored
and holes changed often enough
to prevent heavy traffic damage?
If holes are changed several
times on busy days, what will
the putting surface look like
with numerous transplanted
plugs trying to survive and grow in?

Agronomically, there would
be value in not using holes for
practice putting.

Why not simply cut the base
off the small flagsticks normally
used on practice putting greens
and sharpen the end? All holes
are eliminated.

Now the small flagsticks may
be pushed into the surface
where desired. As wear occurs,
players, pro shop or
maintenance staff could quickly
and easily move the flagstick.

Simply pull it up and push it in
elsewhere. Plugs from hole
changes are eliminated, as are
labor costs to move and repair
holes.

Players’ practicing efforts to
small diameter flagsticks
produce a better mental
foundation for scoring on the
course — an attractive
combination of benefits.

Give it a try. Fill in the holes,
cut off and sharpen the small
diameter flagsticks and “play
(practice) away.”

Bob Brame is an agronomist with
the U.S. Golf Association Green
Section’s Mid-Atlantic Region. He has
recently opened a sub-regional office
in Covington, Ky.

Delhi dedication

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Delhi College and its students
were vital contributors to the
success of the Turf Center,
Duncan emphasized.

"More than 245 students
enrolled in the college’s applied
technology programs completed
much of the actual construction
work as part of their on-the-job
training," she said.