GCSAA reaching out to educate through Audubon School Program

By MARK LESLIE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Air, water significantly better

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Grass carp legislation falls short of supers’ hopes

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OFF THE RECORD

Pioneering research getting to the bottom of putting greens

By KIMBERLY ERUSHA

BRIEFS

TOURNEY TO ENDOw DUCk FUND

OAKMONT, Pa. — Oakmont Country Club will host the inaugural benefit golf tournament for the Joseph M. Duich Turfgrass Endowment.

The conference will move from Spring- field to the Marriott Conley Plaza Hotel here, beginning next Jan. 15-17.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The governor of Nevada has signed a law redefining "golf cart" for the purpose of properly registering motor vehicles. Under the legislation, "golf cart" is defined as 1) having no fewer than three wheels in contact with the ground; and, 2) designed to carry golf equipment and not more than four persons, including the driver. According to the National Club Association newsletter, vehicles meeting those criteria do not have to be registered as long as they remain on golf courses and designated areas and are operated during daylight hours.

FAZIO TABBED FOR OLD TOM MORRIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Course architect Tom Fazio will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the GCSAA's international conference and show here next Feb. 10. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game. GCSAA President Gary T. Gragg cited Fazio's "commitment to the game and to his community — especially all the personal time he devotes to the Boys and Girls Clubs — is a great example of the spirit that Old Tom brought to golf."

CONFERENCEs COMBINED

BOSTON — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is joining forces with the Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Association to sponsor the Massachusetts Turf Conference in future years. The conference will move from Springfield to the Marriott Conley Plaza Hotel here, beginning next Jan. 15-17.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Golf courses like Anaheim Hills illustrate clean environment in California.

Calif. EPA: Air, water significantly better

by PETER BLAIS

Before anyone tells you the California environment is going to hell in a handbasket and golf is among the devil’s legions leading the way, check out these statistics generated by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency’s first "Environmental Indicators Report" lists the impressive gains in cleaner air, less solid waste, improved water quality and significant reductions in the volumes of chemicals released into the environment.

The golf industry has contributed significantly to the clean up of the Golden State’s environment, said David Flaxbeard, head superintendent of Oakmont Country Club in Glendale and immediate past president of the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSA).

"Superintendents are much more aware about the environment than they were 10 or 15 years ago and we are communicating that knowledge to club owners and members," Flaxbeard said. "When I told my members that our underground storage tanks (USTs) were apparently leaking, they were out of the ground and new ones in within a couple months. Everyone is more aware of how golf can help.

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Grass carp legislation falls short of supers’ hopes

by PETER BLAIS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Water may be good for fish, but a watered-down legislative bill is of little use to the sterile grass carp or golf courses, according to the president of the California Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Peter Bowman and other supporters of the grass carp, or white amur as it is also called, had hoped the state Senate would approve a bill allowing use of the exotic, weed-eating fish in any golf course pond not draining into the Sacramento or San Joaquin rivers, the state’s two major watersheds north of Los Angeles.

The grass carp, which reaches weights of 80 pounds or more, eats massive quantities of weeds and algae. More than half the states have approved golf course use of the fish as an environmentally friendly alternative to herbicide use.

"Grass carp can be sterilized so that they won't breed," said Bowman, who is head superintendent at Merced Hills Golf Club. "The sterilization is successful in more than 90 percent."

But it was that 1 percent of unsuccessful sterilizations that spooked lawmakers.

Facing the possibility that fertile fish could somehow find their way into the rivers — where they could mate and produce offspring that would threaten the ecosystem of other fish — the Senate recently approved a revised bill that...