**BRIEFS**

**ALTER REPLACES STARLING AT PENN**
BELLEFONTE, Pa. — Dr. Theodore R. Alter, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, has been named interim dean of the college. Alter succeeds the retiring James L. Starling, interim dean and profes-
sor of agronomy who had served in that capacity since January. Alter will serve in the post for one year or until a new dean is hired.

**RUETERS FIELD DAY PLANNED**
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The 31st Field Day turfgrass seminar and expo-
**nition will be held at the Rutgers Uni-
versity golf course/stadium complex on Oct. 8, 1996. After a three-
year hiatus due to stadium and bubble construc-
tion, the 1996 Field Day com-
mittee under the direction of Joe Kennedy has prepared an "Emporium of Turf Related Delights." The event will be hosted by Mike Mongou. The expo will feature traditional equipment demon-
strations and booths along with guest speakers, stadium tours and door prizes.

**TPH SETS RECORD STRAIGHT**
ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) has published "Turfgrass Facts" fact sheets spelling out what it terms "anti-turfgrass statements" and dispels them with "The Real Grass Facts." The TPI fact sheets tackle such topics as exaggerated pesticide fears, whether turfgrass is a wasteful water hog, whether lawns are a waste of time and money, and grass clippings in land-
fills. TPI can be reached at 885-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008; telephone 847-815-8873.

**IRRIGATION ASSN. SETS CONCLAVE**
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The Irriga-
tion Association's 17th annual In-
ternational Irrigation Exposition and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Technical Conference will be held from Nov. 3-6 at the San Antonio Conven-
tion Center. The Irrigation Association's exposition will be held Nov. 3-5 and feature North American and international companies; the ASAEE Technical Conference will run from Nov. 4-6. The three-day schedule of sessions and speakers will cover current topics in evapotranspiration and irrigation in the farming and turfgrass fields.

**MAINTENANCE**

**Friends not Foes**
Sand Creek Country Club attracts and sustains a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

Superintendents devise innovative new ways to push wildlife envelope

**By MARK LESLIE**

Casting aside the "chemical revo-
**lution" of the past, golf course superintendents have taken a long trek toward heightened environmental awareness, adding innovative twists of their own to the standard Audubon face.

Witness Director of Grounds Don Ewoldt of Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Ind., who started a Junior Conservation Society among his club members' children.

Or, John Netwal of Glynns Creek Golf Club in a county park in Long Grove, Ill., who takes interested campers on a tour of his course, then gives them bird boxes to place in their own backyards.

Or, Hank Kerfoot of Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., who with his wife this fall will instruct K-12 teachers about the outdoors and wildlife in a new program called Project Learning Tree...

"I farmed for 35 years and have been in this business for 15," said Ewoldt, "and I'll tell you: Golf courses are the least of our problems. I look back and cringe at what I did [on the farm]. So many homeowners are causing much more problems than golf course managers. Granted, we manage a lot more property, but we're doing it right."

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**Norman stakes claim in Bermudagrass market**

**By HAL PHILLIPS**

SOUTHLAKE, Fla. — With more than 400 golf course openings projected for 1996, September's opening of The Club at Eaglebrook here shouldn't cause too much of a stir... Right?

Wrong. The Club at Eaglebrook, de-
**igned by Ron Garl, is the first course in the United States to have 18 holes of GN-1, a new fairway Bermudagrass strain marketed by Greg Norman Turf Co.
**Several other GN-1 projects are in vari-
ous stages of development. Sugarloaf, the Norman-designed course outside Atlanta and future home of the Bell South Classic, will feature GN-1, as will Real Mar, another Norman design under construction in Puerto Rico. Also, The Medalist Club — a Norman/ Pete Dye collaboration in Hobe Sound, Fla. — has two holes grassed with the new Ber-
muda. However, Eaglebrook will be the first fully operational golf course featuring the hybrid Bermuda on all 18 fairways. Consequently, warm-climate superintendents, architects and sod growers across the country are eager to see how the new grass fares. "It looks fantastic," reported Eaglebrook superintendent Bob Wagner in mid-July. "I've had three superintendent jobs... and they've all been grow-ins. And this stuff [GN-1] grows like wild-fire. It's green as can be and it's very aggressive. We started springing April 16 and by the end of May it was completely covered."

"Time will tell and it's hard to pre-
dict what extra things I might have to do. But everything I've seen so far has been real encouraging."

GN-1 is the first commercial release

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**DuPont design improves grounds crew's morale**

**By MARK LESLIE**

LANDENBERG, Pa. — When DuPont Country Club determined its maintenance facility would be "world-class and com-
**petitive among the best," some say it went one better: It became

"I farmed for 35 years and have been in this business for 15," said Ewoldt, "and I'll tell you: Golf courses are the least of our problems. I look back and cringe at what I did [on the farm]. So many homeowners are causing much more problems than golf course managers. Granted, we manage a lot more property, but we're doing it right."

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DuPont Country Club's table lift greatly improves safety and working conditions.

"Shop Talk"

**Continued on page 23**
Agriculture Division Director
Continued from page 15

"My feeling," said Brookside Agriculture Division Director Mark Waddington, "is that everybody is using the same methods and as long as we have a sample exchange program and get a handle on the variabilities between labs — and if everyone would participate — it would be great. We should keep it so it is not a policing force, but an assistance to the labs."

Thus far, two other labs are nearing accreditation and "a number are actively working towards applying for accreditation," said Roxanne Robinson, vice president of the Gaithersburg, Md.-based AALA. "If they [labs] sat back on their heels to see if the others were going to seek accreditation, now they are scrambling a little bit."

"It isn't an easy thing because so many of these labs have been operating for years not looking at any kind of specific quality-system standards, and suddenly the USGA has said, 'You will now have to meet AALA requirements...'"

Robinson said the problem with most soil-testing laboratories has not been technical, but rather "internal audits, documentation control, complaint handling, corrective actions, management reviews — those kinds of quality-systems support that are necessary to shore up the technical aspects."

"To me, the AALA makes you do an excellent job of quality control," said Flock, whose company was the first out of the state to recommend accredited labs. "SNOW, does an excellent job of quality assurance. They have a lot more confidence in the results."

The laboratories will have an annual review and be re-accredited every two years.

"WSTP. WSTP will analyze the results and inform the labs if they are within reasonable standards."

"Some labs are going to participate in this program even though they are not going to be accredited," Snow added.

"The sample exchange will show if the labs can produce similar results," Flock said. "There is a certain amount of variability with every test. But right now we don't know exactly what that variation is for some of these tests. Not until we get the sample exchange going and the research data dispersed/promotion committee."

Flock said: "If they get their accreditation, we get the sample exchange going and iron out any differences within the same procedures. I would think the contractors, engineers and architects will be very pleased. They can have a lot more confidence in the results."

AALA's Robinson said the initial cost of accreditation is around $4,000 to $5,000. Most of that cost is paying the expenses of a visit by an AALA representative — either Dr. Don Waddington, retired from Penn State University, or Dr. Bill Dest of the University of Connecticut.

"Those are the AALA fees," she said. "The time, energy and manpower they have to put into getting the quality system in their laboratory ready for an assessment would have to be considered as well."

"When I need a reliable straight shot, I reach for my Putter."

"There's nothing like making a great putt. How the ball takes a smooth roll on a closely trimmed green. Over a texture so fine, nothing's going to get in the way of my shot."

"In fact, in test after test, Putter offers a true-line putting surface that outperforms the competition. (Now, if I could only outperform my competition, game after game.)"