BRIEFS

RMGCSA ELECTS HOOFNAGLE
GOLDEN, Colo. — John Hoofnagle of Valley Country Club in Aurora has been elected president of the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association. Hoofnagle replaces Dan Crowell of Valley Country Club in Aurora, who had been president of the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association since 1993.

MASS. SHOW Turner REGIONAL
BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show will be held Jan. 15, 16 and 17 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, a new location for the annual event. This year's show is being held in cooperation with state superintendents associations from Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont as well as the University of Massachusetts Extension. For more information contact Denise Ruszala at 413-562-0120, or for registration information contact Jennifer Howland at 413-545-0172.

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ISS INKED AT PORT MALABAR
ISS Golf Services of Tampa has reached an agreement with Port Malabar Country Club to manage the maintenance operation of the golf course. The agreement calls for ISS to provide the personnel (both on-and off-site experts), materials, and supplies for the on-going improvement and maintenance of the 18-hole facility.

MAINTENANCE

WOMAC HONORED IN GEORGIA
BILL Womac of Dunwoody Country Club, will receive the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association’s (GGCSA) Award of Recognition at the Annual Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Banquet to be held Jan. 6. Womac has been a member of the GGCSA since 1973 and served as a board member from 1977-1984. He served as the association’s president from 1981-1982.

Like father, like son: Williams passes the torch
By PETER BLAIS
If the name Williams sounds familiar when it comes to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presidency, well, it should.

Incoming President Bruce Williams’ father, Robert, was president of the GCSAA in 1958 and is considered one of the major players in elevating the superintendent profession to the prominence it enjoys today. Bruce, 46, who has been on the GCSAA board of directors since 1991, not only follows in his father’s footsteps as GCSAA president but also succeeds his father as head superintendent at Bob O’Link Golf Club, which they developed in the 1920s and is easily one of the major players in elevating the superintendent profession to the prominence it enjoys today.

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The ‘scout’ foreseen as new golf profession
By MARK LESLIE
ORLANDO, Fla. — A new occupation is about to emerge on golf courses, according to the director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section’s Mid-Continent Region.

“W...
Tree pruning: The kindest cut

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and appearance of trees and prolongs their life by removing dead, weakened, diseased or insect-infested branches.

Arborists place pruning cuts outside the branch collar, the swollen area where the branch attaches to the main trunk. You can easily see the branch collar on many trees. "The whole idea behind proper pruning is to avoid injuring the trunk," Rathjens explained. "Once the trunk is damaged, it can lead to decay and death of the tree."

A common pruning mistake is making one straight cut through a branch. When cut this way, the branch's weight can cause the wood to splinter and pull bark from the tree. To avoid tearing, a cut should be made on the branch's underside, a foot or two out from the trunk, about one-third of the way through the branch.

A second cut should be made on top of the limb a few inches farther out from the first cut. These two cuts remove most of the branch's weight. The stub is removed with a final cut made just outside the branch bark ridge and through the collar.

Another frequent error is painting a cut. In most cases, painting is not recommended because the paint traps moisture on the freshly cut surface, which provides an environment conducive to fungal growth. Painting should only be done in rare instances, such as on trees that are susceptible to oak wilt and Dutch elm disease during periods of beetle flight.

SCHEDULING PLANTING

Although properly prepared and protected planting stock can often be successfully transplanted during any season, there are specific times of the year when planting is most successful. Winter is a good time to determine which trees you want to plant. Planting at the correct time encourages the growth of healthy trees.

In general, plants are best moved when shoots are not actively growing — the resting or dormant stage. Deciduous trees are normally planted in the fall after leaf drop and before the soil freezes or in early spring before bud break.

Narrowleaf evergreen also may be planted in the fall or in the spring before new growth starts. Broadleaf evergreens should be planted in the spring in climatic zones where soils freeze. In northern regions where the soil freezes early and deep spring planting of evergreens is perhaps the safest, says Len Burkhart, Ph.D., a horticulturist with Davey.

"In the South with its mild winters, fall planting is preferred," Burkhart said. "Winter planting is fine for plants with a root ball large enough to contain undisturbed roots that supply branches with water until spring."

Transplant success often depends on soil temperatures. The soil must be warm enough to permit the growth of new roots immediately after planting and continue until adequate root growth can support the plant's water-absorbing potential.

"Roots grow best when soil temperatures are between 40 and 90 degrees F," Burkhart says. "Trees should be transplanted at least four weeks before soil temperatures drop below 40 degrees F to allow proper root development in the fall."

Heart of America elects Eldridge president

Superintendent Jeff Eldridge of the Deer Creek GC in Overland Park, Kan., was elected president of the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association (HAGCSA) at its annual meeting in November at Loch Lloyd CC. Eldridge succeeds outgoing president Chuck Hably of St. Joseph CC.

Bill Bologna of Swope Memorial GC in Kansas City, Mo., was elected vice president and Gary Higbie of Trails West GC in Leavenworth, Kan., was elected secretary/treasurer. Dave Dettmar of Lawrence CC in Lawrence, Kan., Woody Moriarty of Hillcrest CC in Kansas City, Mo., and Jim Naudet of Leawood South CC in Leawood, Kan., were all elected to two-year terms on the HAGCSA's Board of Directors.

Jon Kindlesparger of Alvamar CC and Tyler Koch of Hodge Park Golf Course both have one year remaining on their terms as directors. One other person will be appointed by the president to fill the one year remaining on Bologna's term as director.

The HAGCSA also passed a by-law change that the nominating committee for the Board of Directors shall now consist of three past presidents of the association with the immediate past president serving as chairperson as appointed by the president with board approval.

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