BRIEFS

MARRIOTT SIGNS ON TO AUDUBON
ORLANDO, Fla. — Marriott Golf has announced that the 18 facilities it manages are participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, including its two newest properties, Grande Vista in Orlando and Kierland Golf Club in Scottsdale. "This portfolio-wide membership exemplifies our commitment to an alternative approach to golf course management and development," said Tom Schlick, Marriott Golf's director of grounds operations. "Marriott Golf's goal is to achieve greater balance with the environment."

RHODY'S FIRST SHOW A SUCCESS
PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The first Rhode Island Turf Conference drew more people than expected and from a wider region, attracting superintendents from Long Island and the Metropolitan New York area as well as Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire. Speakers included Dr. Houston Couch of Virginia Tech, and Noel Jackson and Bridge Ruenemele of the University of Rhode Island.

GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO SETS SITES
CINCINNATI, Ohio — Organizers will hold the Green Industry Expo at the Cincinnati Convention Center, Nov. 18-21, with an outdoor equipment demonstration at Schmidt Field on the city of Cincinnati's golf course. "This effort will be a major step beyond the Cape Cod Study [which summarized results of four golf courses]. It will also be a significant expansion in depth and breadth beyond the article we wrote for the February 1994 issue of Golf Course News."

That story summarized the results of 13 studies of 25 golf courses from Massachusetts to Guam. The results of the studies were overwhelmingly favorable for the golf course industry.

Approval of the proposed new research was made by GCSAA's board of directors at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The project will be a comprehensive summary of other studies. The objective is to publish a critical evaluation of the impacts of golf courses on ground and surface water quality. Attempts will be made to draw meaningful conclusions.

New bents need different care
BY PATRICK M. O'BRIEN and CHRISTOPHER HARTWIGE

Much of the discussion on the new bentgrass varieties has focused on differences like color, texture and summer performance. But information on how best to maintain these varieties has been limited. Should they be maintained similarly to the most common bentgrass, Penncross, or are changes necessary in the basic management program to maximize their performance?

An overwhelming majority of superintendents with one of the new varieties such as Crenshaw or the new Penn series (A-1, A-4, G-2, G-6) believe maintenance programs need to be modified to manage them effectively. Here is a review of these management differences and specific practices that may need to be modified.

The 1990s have been an exciting time for bentgrass managers. More varieties are available than ever before. Many were developed to improve tolerance to the high heat and humidity common to the Southeast. Many new varieties have a higher plant population per unit area compared to Penncross and offer the golfer a higher level of putting quality. The combination of these improvements results in varieties with improved playability characteristically higher than traditional bentgrasses.

Metsker earns Tradition Award
BY MARK LESLIE
MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Stanley Metsker, who was instrumental in pushing the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to accept certification, has been chosen for the Scotts Trade of Excel- lence Award.

Metsker, 59, of the Country Club of Colorado in Colorado Springs, will be presented the Excellence Award during the PGA Senior Tour's Tradition tournament at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Although Metsker feels his crowning achievement was pushing certification for golf first through the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association (RMGCSA), then through GCSAA, his work through the Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to accept certification, has been chosen for the Scotts Trade of Excellence Award.

Hunker tops in TPC Network
BY PETER BLAIS
ORLANDO, Fla. — Outstanding tournament conditions, Audubon certification and a happy membership combined to earn superintendent Ted Hunker of the Tournament Players Club at River Highlands in Hartford, Conn., the TPC's designation as its top operation of the year.

Hunker received the award at the annual gathering of TPC superintendents held here during the International Conference and Show.

"The winning operation had such a terrific year it was a very clear choice," said Cal Both, director of maintenance for PGA Tour Golf Properties. "The head superintendent was very deserving of this award."

That superintendent was Hunker.

THE BEST AT WHAT THEY DO

Continued on page 26

Hun-ker tops in TPC Network

Continued on page 26

Dealing with big brother
BY TERRY BUCHEN

Superintendents who do not receive certain fringe benefits from their employer may not know that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) looks to use the buzz words "reasonable and necessary" in defining tax deductions if you are itemizing your income tax return for calendar year 1995. How does this relate to golf course superintendents? Let's take a closer look.

Golf clubs, shoes, umbrellas, bags and head covers are considered "tools of the trade" and are tax-deductible as legitimate business expenses. Golf hats, shirts, sweaters and jackets are considered uniforms as long as they have the superintendent's golf club logo and/or name on them and are worn for work. If your club requires you to wear a certain type of pants, dress/work shoes as part of a uniform, they usually are tax-deductible. These types of clothing obviously can be worn during non-working hours.

Continued on page 26

Continued on page 26

Continued on page 26