Twin Peaks

Scotts has named its Tradition of Excellence winner, and the TPC Network has honored its best 15

Did you miss the show in Orlando? Worry not. We've recorded all the high points for posterity — mergers and buyouts galore.

Lesco/ProLawn, Flowtronex/Amiad, Toro/Liquid Ag

Beat your algae problems with adoring fans

Beat the Tax Man with savvy write-offs

Never mind the wait: State park gets course

Q&A with architect Lindsay Ervin

Acquired Taste?

Juicy tidbits gathered on the trade show floor....

What's new in the marketplace?

Members buy Fla. course to keep it private

NGP acquires GEI

TIFs may hold $ promise for municipalities

Convinced that bigger is better

WHERE EARTH & SKY COLLIDE

A dramatic backdrop is only half the story at Scott Miller's Eagle Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. Eagle Mountain is one of two daily-fee, Miller-designed tracks to open this year in the Phoenix area. For stories, see page 43.

Frank dialogue earns industry respect from environmental activists

‘Green’ principles make debut in N.C.

The strength and breadth of relationships forged last year at Pebble Beach will be tested this month when representatives of the golf course industry and environmental movement meet here at the second Golf and the Environment Summit, March 10-12.

This year's attendees will review and, ideally, approve a set of "environmental principles" formulated over the past 12 months by representatives of the golf course industry working with environmental activists. The principles are designed to guide — not necessarily regulate — golf course siting, development and maintenance practices.

"It's important to remember, these principles have been put together by a consortium of people of both sides," explained Ted Horton, vice president of

GCSAA debate a turning point?

PINEHURST, N.C. — Golf made real progress in its ongoing confrontation with the environmental movement by providing opponents a public forum here during a debate led by Harvard law professor Arthur Miller at the recent International Conference and Show.

"I attended a [GCSAA] panel discussion at last year's conference and there wasn't a single environmentalist on the stage," said Todd Miller of the North Carolina Coastal Federation. "It was a simple case of preaching to the choir."

But the environmental movement is well represented here. The GCSAA has come a long way in trying to understand both sides of this debate and to be commended for that.

In terms of PR, has golf turned a corner?

Continued on page 68

TIFs may hold $ promise for municipalities

By J. BARRY MOTHES

WYANDOTTE, Mich. — An economic development tool traditionally used by cities to build downtown parking garages and revitalize neglected neighborhoods was used by city officials here to help build a championship-caliber, urban 9-hole golf course and riverfront park.

The tool is known as tax increment financing, TIF for short, and it may hold some promise as a mechanism for cities aiming to build courses within defined development districts.