ARGYLE CC NAMES BARRETT

SILVER SPRINGS, Md. — Mike Barrett has been appointed superintendent at Argyle Country Club here. He has been a member of the Argyle staff since February 1996 when he assumed the position of assistant superintendent. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture, Barrett has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Baltimore. He has extensive experience in turf management and was employed at Greenspring Valley Hunt Club and Cat-Tail Creek Country Club prior to joining the Argyle staff.

GCSAA UNVEILS COLLEGE GUIDE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has released a publication providing a concise profile of turfgrass management programs offered by two- and four-year colleges and universities. The GCSAA College Guide to the Golf Course Management Profession is designed to help students select the program that best fits their needs. Copies may be ordered through the GCSAA Bookstore at 800-974-2722.

FLORIDA CITES CAMPBELL

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) has honored Charlie Campbell with its coveted Wreath of Grass Award for outstanding contributions to the turfgrass industry. Campbell has more than 40 years experience in the turfgrass industry. He is currently a manufacturer’s representative at DowElanco. He has been an active member of the FTGA since 1986, serving on the FTGA board for six years and several committees including the Show and Membership committees in 1996-1997.

KILLINGTON JOINS AUDUBON

KILLINGTON, Vt. — Killington Golf Course has joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), a national program designed to help landowners preserve and enhance the environmental quality of their property. “It’s a great program to make people aware the environment on the golf course,” said superintendent Chris Voutas. “We’re putting out bluebird and bat boxes and encouraging wildflower growth. We’ll also cut down on water and pesticide usage.”

Dicamba, 2,4-D study finds little soil, water impact

BELLE GLADE, Fla. — A two-year study of a U.S. Golf Association-specified golf green by University of Florida Profs. George Snyder and John Cisar has found that concentrations of the herbicides 2,4-D and dicamba were low in the thatch and soil and far below federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in percolate water.

“Dicamba and 2,4-D, particularly dicamba, are pretty mobile in sand soils, and most people don’t want any in their drinking water,” said Snyder, adding, “As far as I know, they are not of any health concern at the concentrations we observed.”

Both of the phenoxy-acid type herbicides are widely used to control weeds in turfgrasses and general agriculture. They have been found frequently in surveys of pesticides and surface waters — and less commonly in ground water — and have therefore raised public concern. Although they have been studied frequently in agricultural settings, little research has been done on their persistence and mobility when applied to turfgrasses, especially high-sand-content USGA greens.

Snyder and Cisar, who presented their findings to the recent International Turfgrass Society meeting in Australia, reported that the average concentration...
GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Industry should be pro-active

Continued from page 13

Many people and organizations tend to focus on species that are easy to see. Some more cynical scientists refer to these species as the "charismatic mega-vertebrates." These are often species like whales and eagles and wolves — species that people rally behind and use as a symbol of the "true" health of our environment. This is not all bad. They serve as a focus for education that can ultimately lead to action.

These "focus" species, however, are most often at the top of the food chain. In actuality, we should be focusing on the bottom of the food chain. This is where the healthy, biologically diverse underpinning exists that supports everything we can see and rally around.

Economic health, like environmental health, depends upon diversity. The more diverse and competitive, the stronger the economy. "Sustainable" development is economic development that is founded on biological diversity.

It means using natural resources in ways beneficial to human beings, now and into the future, and at the same time, not adversely impact biological diversity.

To actually promote sustainable development as opposed to giving "lip-service" support for the concept is difficult for many. It means that we will have to challenge our beliefs, perceptions, and convictions and recognize that there are no perfect answers.

We need to understand that we can't have total sustainability right now no matter how hard we try. But we can, and we have a responsibility, to try.

We have to take small steps toward sustainability, through research and development, through individual and collective action, and by being willing to discuss how we can get there from here.

So the question is, what does biological diversity and sustainability have to do with golf?

Good question. Audubon International has taken a lot of hits from other environmental organizations because we work with the golf course industry. Even my own staff sometimes wonders why we're working with so many golf courses when we're an environmental organization.

I just remind them that it's all part of the diversity. The fact is that Audubon International doesn't have a "golf program." We have an environmental education program that we offer to golf courses. And we did it because of our belief in biological diversity and sustainability.

If crabgrass is a growing problem on your golf course, you're not using the right herbicide.

What you need is Pendimethalin.

No other preemergent offers a broader spectrum of control. Fact is, this high-performance herbicide effectively controls crabgrass, most annual grassy weeds and many annual broadleaf weeds.

And Pendimethalin has excellent turf tolerance. University and field research studies have shown that Pendimethalin provides consistent, superior weed control—yet offers tremendous tolerance to warm- and cool-season turfgrasses.

Here's how it works: After Pendimethalin makes

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Ohio State University 1996

Pendimethalin can become the economic engine that runs ecological restoration and endangered species protection, and promotes biological diversity, conservation and sustainability while at the same time providing jobs and recreational opportunities for humans.

Golfers, golf course architects, golf course developers, and the entire golf course industry need to think beyond the borders of their respective courses and projects, and beyond the game itself.

It is, in fact, a game. But, with a willingness to face the challenge, this game can be a catalyst for community involvement, environmental improvement, and the spirit and diversity of human beings as well as wildlife and habitat.