Golf course ‘living lab’ Cal State Poly’s aim

**By DOUG SAUNDERS**

POMONA, Calif. — Dealing with society’s trash is an issue that draws little attention from the public until a landfill needs to be created or closed down. After operating a 200-acre landfill on campus property since 1957 in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, California State Polytechnic University here hopes to close the landfill and build an 18-hole golf course that will serve as a living laboratory.

The landfill has served two purposes over the last four decades. It has been a repository for the tons of refuse from the growing LA metropolis, and has served as an outdoor lab for waste management, environmental sciences, engineering, and agriculture.

“The landfill has been very beneficial to the university from not only an economic standpoint, but also as an educational tool,” said Ed Barnes, executive director of the Land Lab and Asset Development for Cal Poly Pomona.

At some point landfills do reach capacity and the next question was how to best close this one down. Strict EPA guidelines specify the closure procedures for landfills. The university has decided that, in conjunction with closure and monitoring regulations, creating a golf course can continue to provide economic and educational benefits into the future. “Our desire,” Barnes said, “is to build and 18-hole course that will generate income through greens fees, provide a recreational outlet for students, be of value to our athletic program, and give more opportunities for internships for our colleges of hotel and restaurant management, turfgrass management, landscape architecture, and biosciences.”

Cal Poly recently selected Golf Dimensions, a golf course management firm based in Irvine, to help the university through the project’s planning and construction phases. Golf Dimensions recently completed the

**NEW ENGLAND TURF CONFERENCE**

Wake up to soil acidity tests, Hummel tells superintendents

**By MARK LESLIE**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Decrying the fact that many of them have no idea how acidic their soil is, Dr. Norm Hummel called on turfgrass managers to establish soil-testing programs to define the best fertilizer regimes for their properties.

Speaking at the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference here on March 4, the former Cornell University professor said: “As basic as it is, it’s amazing to me how many people don’t have an idea of what the pH of their golf course or athletic field is at.”

A soil test can address soil acidity and liming requirements, pH reduction, soil phosphorus and potassium, secondary nutrients like calcium and magnesium, and soluble salts for those in coastal areas, said Hummel, who now operates Hummel & Co. in Trumanburg, N.Y.

Calling pH “one of the most basic soil fertility aspects,” Hummel said the optimum reading for most cool-season grasses is in a range of 6 to 7.

“One of the reasons is that optimum nutrient availability is found within that slightly acidic range,” he said. “When you get into higher pHs, many of the micronutrients are there but tied up in unavailable forms.”

When you get much below that, nutrients

**GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Aspetuck Valley fulfills Audubon requirements

**By RON DODSON**

WESTON, Conn. — Aspetuck Valley Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International.

The membership is very proud that Aspetuck Valley is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course,” said superintendent Steven Colangeli, who initiated the program at the club in 1996.

“It’s a great feeling to know that a golf course can act as a recreation area for golf as well as a wildlife sanctuary. It’s also nice to know that our daily maintenance practices and

**The policy game of golf**

**By RON DODSON**

One of the major problems facing the golf industry today is whether governmental action is the most effective way to protect or restore the environment. Actually, it’s a question of whether the public believes governmental action is the only way to protect or restore the environment. To golfers, superintendents and developers, this is an important question because governmental action impacts us all — individually and collectively.

Because the public’s awareness of environmental issues and golf courses is at an all-time high, it’s timely to take a

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