

BRIEFS



GLORIOSO RECEIVES PTC SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Tim Glorioso of New Kensington, Pa., graduated from the Pennsylvania State University Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program in March and was chosen to receive the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Scholarship. After beginning his career at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, Glorioso worked his way up to superintendent at Hill Crest Country Club in Lower Burrell. He will return to Hill Crest as superintendent upon graduation.



TURF, LANDSCAPE FIELD DAYS SET

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The Turfgrass Research Conference and Field Day and the Landscape Management Research Conference and Field Day will update developments for landscape professionals, Sept. 15 and 16, at University of California — Riverside (UCR).



The events are organized by environmental horticulturist Dr. Victor Gibeault and Dennis Pittenger under the sponsorship of the University of California Cooperative Extension, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, and the Agricultural Operations unit at UCR. For further information and registration materials, contact Susana Velez at the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, 4106 Batchelor Hall, University of California, Riverside, Calif. 92521-0124; telephone 909-787-4430.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF PROMOTES

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf Maintenance has promoted Gregg Swanson to regional superintendent and named Mike Robson as course superintendent at Cross Creek Golf Club in Atlanta, Ga.; Stan Overton superintendent at Birkdale Golf Course in Huntersville, N.C.; and Brad Rook as superintendent at Silver Lakes CC in Helendale. Swanson will be responsible for overseeing golf course maintenance programs Canyon Lake Country Club (CC) in Lake Elsinore, Bernardo Heights CC in Rancho Bernardo and Silver Lakes CC in Helendale. A superintendent since 1988, Swanson has extensive experience in golf course operations, turf management and horticulture. From 1992-1995, he was a director of the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association and is a Class A member of GCSAA.

Michigan pioneers environmental self-audit

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program was officially launched June 25 at Michigan State University here, pioneering new ground for golf courses. Golf turf representatives from throughout the state attended the first Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar to learn how to improve water quality, prevent pollution and increase compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Russell Harding and Michigan Department of Agriculture Deputy Director Keith Creagh provided opening comments and welcomed participants to this new partnership. "As this groundbreaking initiative gains momentum, we expect to see increased levels of environmental protection and habitat enhancement statewide," said Harding. "This effort holds tremen-

dous promise and will no doubt serve as a model for other states." The program is the first of its kind in the nation and is supported by Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Golf Association of Michigan, Michigan Golf Course Owners Association and environmental advocacy groups. **Continued on page 16**

Dwarf hybrid Bermudas need special regimen

By BRUCE SHANK

TIFTON, Ga. — The latest generation of dwarf hybrid Bermudagrasses is changing the way golf greens play and are maintained in warmer regions of the United States. And, according to Dr. Wayne Hanna of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station here, as with any quantum change in turfgrass management, superintendents face a learning curve with these Bermudagrasses. Hanna, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Bermudagrass expert for two decades, is in the final stages of publishing a booklet on how to manage the new Bermudagrasses.

The advantage of the new Bermudas is their absence of seedheads and preference, not tolerance, for cutting heights below 5/32 inch. They also exhibit finer texture and higher density. Because they are very aggressive and very dwarf, they are maintained to prevent predictable problems, such as thatch. "You can only see the differences among the new Bermudagrasses at close mowing heights," said Hanna, who developed the dwarf TifEagle. Only trials mowing the new Bermudagrass below 3/16 inch provide a true comparison of qualities. Test sites at 33 golf courses and universities enable superintendents to see the differences first-hand.

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS COUNTS

The prevention steps Hanna recommends are typical for many golf courses — grooming, top dressing, verticutting and aeration. The difference is frequency and consistency. While standard Bermudagrasses perform better at longer heights of cut, the new varieties don't perform as intended when allowed to grow much above 1/8 inch. Grooming (light verticutting with greensmowers) should be performed every week or two, followed by light top dressing, according to Hanna. More aggressive verticutting and top dressing should take place two to three times during the summer. Intervals between aerations should be shortened and cores removed.

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Terry Buchen photo



ON THE GREEN

Filling a truckster-mounted or towable sprayer with water is easier with this simple devise.

A snappy fill-'er-up

By TERRY BUCHEN

TIMONIUM, Md. — Pull-behind golf course sprayers and those mounted on a turf truckster come in a variety of sizes, the most popular in the 100- to 400-gallon range. No matter the size, they can take a long time filling — if your set-up is inefficient.

Douglas W. Petersan, superintendent at Baltimore Country Club here, uses a time-honored way that "fills up our sprayers in virtually no time at all," he said.

He uses a simple but effective overhead piping system using 2-inch-diameter galvanized steel pipe with a 2-inch ball valve and a 2-inch-diameter canvas fire hose con-

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As we live & breathe: Golf courses as open space

By RON DODSON

As we live and breathe, could it be that golf courses provide some value to the environment? Part of the answer to that question can be found in the air around us. The quality of air depends on open space and, consequently, open space is an essential environmental management tool.

"Open space" is an area with a natural cover of soil, water and plants, where there is usually minimal or low-impact human activity and where legal restrictions limit the development of facilities or structures. There are a variety of different types of open space. We most often

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Superintendent Patrick Blum records the species of birds and other wildlife on Colonial Acres GC.

Colonial Acres joins world's elite 135 fully certified

GLENMONT, N.Y. — Superintendent Patrick A. Blum, who said he learned from his superintendent father that golf courses can and should help to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources, has led Colonial Acres Golf Course to full certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

Colonial Acres Golf Course is the sixth course in the state and 135th course worldwide to receive the designation, for which a course must demonstrate a high degree of environmental quality in the areas of environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education,

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Bermuda care

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Hanna said superintendents should operate from the standpoint that dwarfs can produce 20 to 25 percent more thatch than taller members of their species. Their internodes (branching points) are much closer together, so the foliage produced in a given space is greater. That can be managed by mechanical and nutritional practices.

More foliage means a slightly higher nitrogen requirement. Hanna recommends balancing nitrogen with potassium while keeping track of micronutrients. When starting to manage a Bermuda like Tifeagle, he said, regularly test tissue samples for nutrient levels, then adjust applications to meet the turf's needs without generating excess growth.

One important point of comparison among the new Bermudagrasses is the way they accept overseeding, Hanna said. Any time a turf's density is increased, its ability to receive seed broadcast on the green can be decreased. Since the seed of poa trivialis is smaller than perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), it overseeds in the dwarf Bermudas better. Overseeding performance is one reason Hanna feels it is impor-

tant for superintendents to see one or more of the 33 trial sites before choosing a variety.

"The denseness of the dwarfs forces the overseeded turf to be more erect," Hanna said. That provides a better turf year-round.

However, some varieties can be so dense they rapidly become thatchy. Select one that fits your management program from a qualified sod producer who can guarantee purity, he urged.

The changes in maintenance are worth the benefits of faster and truer greens, both summer and winter.

"We encourage superintendents to become familiar with the dwarfs before they switch," said John Foster of West Coast Turf in Palm Desert, Calif., which worked closely with Hanna during the development of Tifeagle. "There are differences which you need to know about."

Fill-'er-up!

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nected to the end of the pipe.

"The sprayer operator simply drives under the fire hose, lining up the sprayer fill-up hatch and making for a very fast fill-up."

All the galvanized piping is hooked up to the irrigation system, which has an operating

pressure of about 125 pounds per square inch when it leaves the pumphouse.

Another 1-inch-diameter pipe, ball valve and high-pressure hose can be used to wash off the equipment or fill up smaller, under-100-gallon sprayers.

A 24-inch-diameter concrete cylinder was installed to protect all of the galvanized piping from an accident.

"Investing in the Beauty of Golf"

AN ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN FOR THE GCSAA FOUNDATION

Campaign Chairman

Jaime Ortiz-Patiño
President
Club de Golf Valderrama
Host of 1997 Ryder Cup



Campaign Cabinet



Steve Melnyk
Riverside
Golf Group
Friends of
Golf Chairman

"Whether we enjoy the game as amateurs playing at the club level or compete professionally in events around the world, we have an obligation to be stewards of the game and the environment in which it is played. And so I would ask that you join Jimmy Patiño and myself, as golfers, to support this campaign which in turn will support the game we all love. Thank you."

Jim L. Awtrey
PGA of America

Judy Bell
USGA

Thomas Chisholm
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GCSAA Members Chairman

Coming Together for a Common Goal

The game of golf is centuries old, yet it continues to evolve, flourish and grow. The GCSAA Foundation's endowment campaign, "Investing in the Beauty of Golf," is an opportunity for all who love the game to participate and reap the rewards by answering the call to action. The threshold financial goal of this campaign is \$3.5 million. Together, everyone associated with golf can help meet this ambitious goal. The success of the campaign will have an enormous impact on the game. It will:

**\$2.6 MILLION
PLEGGED TO DATE**

- Ensure that greenspace, wetlands and wildlife habitat are protected and secure
- Help develop cost-effective golf courses that allow affordable play
- Produce aesthetically pleasing playing environments
- Help create artistically crafted golf courses that appeal to and challenge golfers at all levels
- Assure that the industry has the technological tools to advance the game
- Solidify the bond between the player, the game, the course, the environment and the superintendent

To make a pledge, contact The GCSAA Foundation at (800)472-7878, ext. 445, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Daylight Time. For more information, see the GCSAA Web site at www.gcsaa.org.

The first 500 callers to make a pledge of \$25 or more will receive a commemorative campaign golf ball!

The GCSAA Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thronson hands-on

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and wetland and half in tall pines. It measures from 5,250 to 7,187 yards.

Trendwest hired Palmer Design to create the course, but wanted Thronson's participation.

"Ed Seay and Eric Larsen [of Palmer Design Group] were just wonderful to work with," said Thronson. "They were receptive to a lot of my ideas. We've built a playable, fun course with five sets of tees that can be enjoyed by any golfer."

Trendwest's Mountain Star destination resort in Washington is still in the permitting process. Thronson's design is well under way, but he estimates two to five years before construction will begin on the 54-hole complex.

Meanwhile he and Anderson are actively involved in promoting junior golf at Eagle Crest.

"I have to give so much credit to Terry for not just giving lip service," Thronson said. "He allows the kids to play for free after 3 p.m. on slow days."

Thronson's ultimate plans are to be a full-time course designer. "I look at it, from beginning through construction to completion, as a piece of art," he said. "When you're a painter, you need a canvas. My canvas is the earth. Course design is something that gets into your blood."