BRIEFS

GERRY WHITE STAYS ON IN MAINE

FALMOUTH, Maine — Gerry White, superintendent at Point Sebago Outdoor Resort in Casco, was re-elected in December to a second term as president of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association. Remaining in place for a second year are Vice President Scott Cybulski of Falmouth Country Club, Secretary/Treasurer Dick Fahey of Poland Spring (Maine) Country Club, Past President Mark Verhey of Mere Creek Golf Course in Brunswick and Directors Bob Myers of Union Country Club in Appleton and Tom Small of Abenakee Club in Biddeford Pool. Jeff Hevey of Dutch Elm Golf Course in Arundel or Gregg Grenert of Samoset Resort Golf Course in Rockport was elected to fill the third director’s position.

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE SLATED

The 2nd annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show (NERTCS) will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center here, March 2-4. The conference will feature seminars for turf professionals, at which rectification credits can be earned. Sessions will focus on golf course management, lawn and landscape care, sports turf, athletic field and municipal turf management, as well as machinery and shop maintenance. More information is available from the NERTCS show office at 401-448-0004.

DPC HIRES MOOREHEAD

LONGWOOD, Fla. — George E. Moorehead has joined Diamond Players Club (DPC) as superintendent of Wekiva Golf Club here, it was announced by Todd Stottlemyre, DPC president. Moorehead is a Major League pitcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks, and PGA Professional Gregg Galliardi. Moorehead, a native of Tampa, was formerly assistant superintendent at the Quarry Course of Black Diamond Ranch Golf and Country Club in Lecanto. He has an associate degree in golf course operations from Lake City Community College.

GERRY WHITE

Gerry White

N. Georgia Tech to graduate first turf students

By PETER BLAIR

LARKSVILLE, Ga. — The new golf course turf management program at North Georgia Technical Institute (NGTI) will graduate its first two students this spring.

“We want to put people in the industry as quickly as possible with as much knowledge as possible,” said lead instructor Joshua Jackson. “People come to a technical school to get hands-on training. We have more than $100,000 worth of equipment and 70 acres that have been made available to us. We’re looking at building a putting green and a practice facility that will be open to the public. We’re also looking at building a nine-hole course.” The program arose from a needs survey that revealed a half-dozen courses within 20 miles of the school and a growing landscaping market that witnessed an expansion from two to 15 businesses over the past few years. A healthy turf market coupled with the fact the school (located an hour and 45 minutes northeast of Atlanta) already operated a 140-acre sod farm, indicated a technical school turf program might be a welcome addition to NGTI’s offerings.

Paul Harvey’s super speaks out

By MARK LESLIE

ELMWOOD PARK, Ill. — Calling Paul Harvey "a wonderful part of the American landscape" and a person who loves the game of golf, the superintendent at the famed radio broadcaster’s home course defended Harvey’s past tirades against golf courses.

Alan Fierst, who Harvey has mentioned a number of times in his daily news broadcast — including Dec. 2 when Fierst’s crews were mowing grass for the first time ever in that winter month — said he does not believe Harvey thinks poorly of golf courses. Harvey has drawn the ire of the golf industry for years after making such claims as there are no birds on golf courses and superintendents are dying from mixing pesticides.

"Frankly," Fierst said, "his [anti-golf] comments have not been recently, and he has tempered them. I don’t see it as a concern. He’s not militant. But, by and large, I never sensed that [anti-golf sentiment] is Mr. Harvey’s personal heart-felt belief."

The course manager at Oak Park Country Club here for 23 years, Fierst said Harvey’s comments “cause a little bit of concern, but don’t have enough meat in them to push anyone who is really interested in knowing the whole picture to cause trouble.”

Harvey’s writer, Fierst believes, writes his news “for his constituency, who don’t need a lot of wide-ranging information. ‘He has a lot of control over what he reports, but has he internalized it as his own belief? No. He reports what he feels is newsworthy and of value to his constituency, at the level of intellect and depth those people choose to go to.’”

Saying he is not giving an alibi for Continued on page 26