

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.



Gerry White

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 401-848-0004.

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.



George Moorehead

Diamond Players Club is a golf management company headed by Stottlemyre, a Major League pitcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks, and PGA Professional Gregg Gagliardi. 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.

N. Georgia Tech to graduate first turf students

By PETER BLAIS

CLARKSVILLE, 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



Chateau Elan Golf Club superintendent Michael Brisbois demonstrates Stimpmeter use to a group of North Georgia Tech turfgrass students

operated a 140-acre sod farm, indicated a technical school turf program might be a welcome addition to NGTI's offerings.

Jackson put together a one-year turf and golf course management certificate program requiring 17 in-class

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Deer wander through the 7th fairway, with natural areas above the bunkers, at Almana Colonies Golf Course in Almana, Iowa.

Resolutions for Audubon, supers, golfers

By RON DODSON

It seems that beginning a new year allows an opportunity to look to the past and the future and develop some perspective. So, here it is the first month of the last year of this century. I wonder what people were thinking about in January 1899? I'm sure most people were not, in their wildest fantasies, thinking about international jet service, the World Wide Web, or Global Positioning Systems. The first

United States golf courses were only a dozen or so years old. The "heavy equipment" they used to shape the fairways of those courses were horses.

The 1800s were steeped in the "discovery" and settlement of America. A large number of people from the East were heading west. The westward migration started by foot, horse and wagon, but by the end of the century automobiles were seen on occasion.

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Brooklake certified Club adopts school

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Brooklake Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Brooklake Country Club is the 4th in New Jersey and the 141st course in the world to receive the honor. The first three courses in New

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SOUTHPORT, N.C. — Carolina National Golf Club at Winding River Plantation, a Bluegreen Golf community, has selected Supply Elementary School to participate in Audubon International's Adopt-A-School Program. The program provides a hands-on approach to environmental appreciation, awareness and action that will turn the school into a sanctuary for

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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 broadcasts — 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 writers, Fierst believes, write 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

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N. Georgia Tech's 1st grads

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credit hours along with five credit hours (150 field hours) of internship. The curriculum requires core courses in math, English, office and skills development, business management and computers, along with 10 hours of turf-related offerings. Students can

enter the program at any point during the calendar year and still receive a certificate within 12 months.

Jackson graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. He teaches all the turf classes, working in conjunction with the school's

environmental horticulture instructor. The two programs share many students and classes. Core classes are taught by other instructors at the 1,400-student campus. Jackson has worked at several Georgia golf courses, including Southernness GC in Stockbridge, Laurel Springs in Suanee, The Landings in Warner-Robins and Hamilton Mill in Dacula.

In developing NGTI's program, Jackson said he pulled together the best of his own college experiences and borrowed from such successful programs as Horry-Georgetown, Lake City (Fla.), Clemson University (S.C.), Texas A&M, Auburn University (Ala.) and the University of Western Kentucky. Among the offerings he developed are classes in soil science, fertility,

turf management, insect/weed/disease control, irrigation and drainage, horticultural science, pest control and safety. He also incorporated hands-on experience such as the operation and calibration of golf course equipment.

"We even teach the theory of something like backing up a trailer, something anyone entering the golf business will have to do at some point," Jackson said. "No one likes to feel stupid when faced with doing something for the first time. We want people to have the experience so that when they are faced with doing it in the field, they are at least comfortable with it. It's a simple thing, but a lot of schools don't recognize that can be important.

"We also stress communications and public speaking," Jackson said. "Once they are working, students will have to make presentations on why they need a new piece of equipment, want to undertake an addition, or why they need new employees. They have to be able to eloquently state what they want and why."

Those wishing to go beyond NGTI's one-year certificate program and obtain an associate's degree in applied science can move on to Gainesville College or Truett-McConnell College.

NGTI launched its golf turf program in March 1998 and will graduate its first two students this March.

All eight NGTI turf students are working at golf courses, sod farms or practice areas, and range in age from 19 to 56, Jackson said.

Most have some previous secondary education. Jackson expects future students to be a mixture of recent high school graduates and those with previous work experience.

"Our big push will be next fall," Jackson said. "We've really been emphasizing recruitment at the high schools, which should be a fertile area for us since all our classes are held during the day. We've had several requests for night classes and have been exploring the possibility."

Jackson anticipates most NGTI graduates with limited turf experience, will enter the industry as spray or irrigation technicians, second- and first-assistant superintendents.

Others could work in related fields such as the sod, landscape or lawn maintenance industries, athletic field management as well as chemical, seed or equipment sales.

"NOW INSTEAD OF FIXING
SPRINKLER HEADS,
OUR IRRIGATION SPECIALIST
IS HELPING US MOW."

Dale Davenport, The Golf Center at Kings Island

After attending a GCSAA seminar on irrigation efficiency, Dale Davenport was convinced that Toro could take his productivity to new heights. "All I could say was 'Wow!'" recalls Davenport, V.P. of Grounds & Course Conditioning for The Golf Center at Kings Island. Today, the Toro 750 and 780 sprinklers he chose "...are saving us a lot of hours because they're so dependable. Now, instead of fixing sprinkler heads, our irrigation specialist is helping us mow." With fewer parts, simple maintenance,

and 35 years of field experience built in, Toro sprinklers deliver peace of mind.

In fact, Dale Davenport describes them in two words: "No problems."

For more information see your Toro distributor or visit www.toro.com.

The Golf Center in Mason, Ohio uses a Toro irrigation system with 750 and 780 sprinklers exclusively because, as Dale Davenport puts it, "Seeing the reputation of Toro and the distributors in my area, and how it compared to other systems, I had to choose Toro."



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IRRIGATION