

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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Harvey's super speaks out

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Harvey, Fierst said: "I don't hold any ill will because I know he is addressing his audience. If he or any other broadcast personality would choose to address the concern of the materials that are applied to corn fields, home lawns and the unregulated areas of the country, it might be different.

"Keep in mind, golf courses are easy targets. Most of the people who play golf are regarded as somewhat elitist, playing a 'wealthy man's' sport, if you will."

An adjunct faculty instructor in turfgrasses management at Triton College in River Grove, Fierst defended golf course superintendents, saying: "Yes, we spray plant protectants, including chemicals. But there is a golf course manager (I hate the name 'superintendent') at your course who, if anything, is a conservator of the environment and the watchdog of a very valuable piece of property.

"That person is not randomly distributing materials, regardless of a protocol, that are going to be damaging to the applicator let alone to the golf course (his source of income), the environment, or the people who come out and play the course... That is just not going to happen."

Adding that "Mr. Harvey's comments don't threaten me in the least," Fierst said: "I talk to people around the country who say, 'Paul Harvey's a member at your course? That must be hell.' No, actually it's very pleasant. He's a very nice man. He is a strong supporter of golf and loves to play the game. He's a gentleman who takes great pride in his ability to reach a wide segment of the population."

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In his Dec. 2 broadcast, Harvey, speaking of the unseasonably warm temperatures in the Midwest, mentioned that Fierst was mowing Oak Park's greens for the first time ever in December. Fierst was deluged with phone calls from friends and colleagues, he said. But it wasn't the first time.

Harvey has spoken of Fierst's dog Wiley, who chases geese on the course, and about Fierst tree-trimming with Husqvarna equipment, an advertiser on the broadcast.

How did the bird comment make the airwaves?

While playing golf one day on the Donald Ross-designed course, Harvey asked Fierst why there were no birds on the golf course. "It was high noon and I told him the birds were nesting and taking their noon

siesta," Fierst recalled. "I told him to come out in early morning or late afternoon and he'd hear a racket he wouldn't believe. A couple weeks later he asked me the same thing and said, 'And don't tell me to come out here at 6 o'clock in the morning.'"

But Harvey apparently knows

the truth. As Fierst said, "He loves to ask about the red-tailed hawks that are on the property. And he likes the bluebird houses we have. We have chickadees nesting, and cardinals and robins and bluejays and all sorts of creatures and critters on the golf course.

"And the golf course is indeed a very comfortable place for Mr. Harvey and anybody else to play the game of golf."

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS BEARDS

EAST LANSING, Mich. — To honor Dr. James and Harriet Beard, Michigan State University's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences has established an endowment that will be used to support students who are pursuing doctorates in turfgrass research and management. Beard retired in 1992 after 30 years of teaching and research at MSU and Texas A&M. He is considered one of the nation's pioneers in bolstering turfgrass research and development and authored three textbooks on turfgrass research, production and management. For information about making a contribution to the James B. and Harriet Bear Endowment Fund, write to James Obeare, associate director of development, 101 Agriculture Hall, MSU, East Lansing, Mich. 48824; or call 517-432-5179.



SOME PROS EAGLE EVERY HOLE.