BRIEFS

PA. TURF COUNCIL DONATES $175K
COLLEGE STATION, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council has allocated $175,000 to support the turfgrass industry. The money will be used to solve problems relating to turfgrass pests and other cultural practices used in the turf industry.

NYSTA SHOWS ITS 50TH
SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with Cornell University, will celebrate its 50th year at the annual Turf & Grounds Expo, Nov. 9-11, at the OnCenter here. The conference theme is "Committed to Excellence: Plants, People, The Environment, and You." For more information, people may call NYSTA at 800-873-8873.

Bugged? Try dragonflies
CASCO, Maine — Superintendent Gerry White had loaded Point Sebago Golf Club with bat and bluebird houses and a purple marton hotel to fight his insect problems. So what else could be done?

"Ever hear of dragonflies? As naiads (nymphs) they prey on small aquatic invertebrates, while adults dine on midges, mosquitoes and other insects," The Audubon Society Field Guide to Insects and Spiders states. "Both naiads and adults are highly beneficial predators, destroying huge numbers of mosquitoes."

ON THE GREEN
Gerry White places dragonfly naiads from a container into a pond at Point Sebago Golf Club.

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‘Aerifier dolly’ easily rolls around the shop
NAPLES, Fla. — Darren J. Davis, superintendent at the Olde Florida Golf Club, and equipment and shop manager Kim Ellis have designed and built an "aerifier dolly" to make their 3-point hitch-mounted aerifier much easier to move around the shop and make repairs, change aerifier tines, slicing blades, etc. without tying up tractor.
The frame and five-riser (two front, three rear) are made of 2- by 2-inch by 1/4-inch square tubing. The 29- by 75-inch frame is lightweight, strong and versatile. The holder or bracket that

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MONTREAL — Building a golf course in a single season is almost unheard of in snow-packed areas like Canada, the Northeast and Midwest United States. But Robbie Hellstrom, a former superintendent turned golf course consultant, may be changing those expectations.
The Montreal-based, 34-year-old owner of RJH Golf Course Management Services Inc. has turned the single-season trick at two recently built Canadian courses — Le Diable at Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, and Dundarave Golf Course and Academy at the Brudenell River Resort on Prince Edward Island (PEI).

"Now that we’ve done it twice, we may have started a trend that will have to be continued," Hellstrom said.

Hellstrom’s firm handles everything from course construction to golf event management. He recently coordinated the Molson’s Export A Skins Game featuring John Daly, Fred Couples, David Duval and Mike Wier at Mt. Tremblant. In addition to building and maintaining the two courses at Mt. Tremblant, he was project manager at Dundarave, the new Michael Hurzdan/Dana Fry design on PEI that opened this summer. Sugarloaf Golf Club in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, also recently hired Hellstrom as course consultant.

Hellstrom started RJH Golf Course Management Services in 1996, while still working for Intrawest, a major North American ski resort operator.

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Digital mapping enters various course operations
BY KEVIN P. CORBLEY
Unheard of on the golf course just a few years ago, digital mapping technologies are rapidly being integrated into virtually every aspect of course operations.

First, satellite-based GPS surveying was introduced to map irrigation system components, track golf car locations, and calculate yardage from player to pin. Now, superintendents are increasingly turning to another computerized map tool — known as GIS — to manage daily operations and course facilities.

Geographic information system, or GIS, technology has proven so successful at automating land and infrastructure management functions in industries such as forestry, electric utilities and oil production that some firms are touting it as the future of golf course maintenance.

GroundLinkx LLC of Littleton, Colo., developer of the GroundLinkx GIS golf course management program, has formed a joint venture with IntraSearch Inc. of Denver, an aerial photography and digital mapping firm, to create fully integrated GIS software and digital map packages customized for individual golf courses. Packaged under the GroundLinkx name since 1994, the new integrated system also runs on a standard Pentium desktop computer.

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