

BRIEFS



GOLF COURSE TREE CARE BOOK READY

Golf course development and management demands a vast scope of expertise, including the knowledge to care for trees, which perform a crucial role in the strategy, playability and aesthetic presentations of golf courses. To get the most out of trees, superintendents can rely on a publication available from the International Society of Arboriculture. The book provides information to preserve and maintain trees in a manner that adds character and vitality to a golf course. *Golf Course Tree Management* retails for \$60 or \$45 for ISA members. It can be ordered prepaid, plus \$7 for shipping and handling in the United States and \$15 elsewhere, from the International Society of Arboriculture at PO Box 3129, Champaign, IL 61826.

WINDERMERE OFFICIALS NAMED

ORLANDO, Fla. — Linkscorp has named Chris Collins as regional golf superintendent and Peter Sharp and Spyder Klyne as new assistant general managers at Windermere Country Club in southwest Orange County. Windermere General Manager Mike Shubich said Collins will also oversee golf operations at Linkscorp facilities at Eastwood Country Club in east Orlando and Kissimmee Lakes Golf Course in Osceola County. A graduate of Iowa State University with more than 12 years of experience in golf course construction and management, Collins was formerly associated with Stonehenge Country Club in Crossville, Tenn. Sharp formerly served with Hyatt and Sun International, Inc. in the Bahamas. Klyne, a PGA professional, recently came from Brandywine Country Club in Toledo, Ohio.

RUTGERS HONORS GRADUATES

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The 10th Annual Turfgrass Awards Banquet was held Nov. 6, presented by the Rutgers University, Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, the Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, and the Center for Turfgrass Science at Cook College.

The groups honored the 1999 graduates of the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School, Advanced Golf Turf Symposium Attendees, Cook College undergraduate and graduate student scholarships recipients, and turfgrass industry leaders.

UK-US internships a boon for all involved

East Lake Golf Club in win-win situation

By MARK LESLIE

ATLANTA — Scotland, Ireland and England gave America golf. Now more and more golf courses in America are returning the favor, accepting turfgrass students as interns for a year of on-the-job experience.

In the midst of preparing to host this year's PGA Championship in November, East Lake Golf Club is one of the most enticing among the American hosts — much to superintendent Ralph Kepple's delight.

"Interns are wonderful," Kepple said. "They are here to learn. They are willing to do most anything — as long as they know they will do something else later that they will learn on. They're motivated. In this industry right now that is difficult to find."

"I love teaching these guys," said A.J. Horr, East Lake's assistant superintendent. "Interns, including Americans, are the meat of our crew. It's a good trade-off. They are enthusiastic about learning. They ask questions and they challenge you about why you do different things. If I don't have the answer I will look for it. It makes

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Checking the effect of Graden verticutting on rooting on the practice green at East Lake Golf Club are, left to right, David Hickey, Kevin Bell, assistant superintendent A.J. Horr and Jon Crook.

Program head: Study abroad opens doors

By MARK LESLIE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Saying that turfgrass maintenance is "an international profession today, unlike any other," Ohio State University's (OSU) program coordinator for International Programs in Agriculture said his training internships are door-openers for American and foreign students alike.

Twice as many students are coming to work at U.S. golf courses as there are

Americans traveling abroad under the agricultural internship program. But Program Coordinator Michael O'Keeffe stressed: "We want to encourage more American students to go overseas and do this. There is an infrastructure. We obtain a legal permit for training that allows them to learn and enjoy the country [they are going to]."

Students from colleges other than OSU
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NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE REVIEW

Foreign workers a solution to the labor crunch

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — With the economy booming and unemployment rates dropping, superintendents are having an increasingly difficult time finding and retaining quality seasonal workers. However, as some golf courses are already discovering, utilizing foreign labor is one way to beat the labor-market crunch.

Speaking at the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference, John Young, president of the New England Apple Council (NEAC) and head of H2a/b Employer Labor Programs, outlined the advantages and availability of a federal work program that allows businesses to bring in seasonal foreign labor.

Young, who has been in the apple business for 38 years, has used foreign labor to supplement his regular workforce for all but one growing season.

"The foreign workforce is hardworking, they want as many hours as they can get and they are willing to do the backbreaking work that local workers don't want to do," he said.

Golf courses, Young said, are eligible for the government's H2b pro-

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Superintendents encouraged to report activists

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Citing the difficulty of keeping up with the increased anti-pesticide activism on the local and regional level, a representative from Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), urged superintendents to be more vigilant on reporting and responding to reduced-use legislation proposals in their communities.

In his talk here at the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference, Fred Langley, manager of state government relations for RISE covered several recent reduced-use issues and initiatives that could soon affect pesticide and insecticide use on golf courses.

• Children's health is very high on the anti-pesticide agenda, said Langley. Twenty-five states have taken up the issue of reducing pesticide use in schools and the Government Accounting Office is developing a report on school pesticide use. The state of Maryland requires elementary schools to post pre-notification and notify parents and staff prior to pesticide applications.

• Use reporting and right-to-know issues are also on the forefront and are already required by California and New York State.

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Canada GSA's president hails association's help

By PETER BLAIS

OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada — Merlin Affleck, head superintendent at Stanhope Golf & Country Club on Prince Edward Island (PEI), was elected president of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) during the group's recent annual conference and trade show here.

"I found out how professional golf superintendents were when I started this job [as head superintendent at Stanhope] 15 years ago and got involved with the association," the new president said. "CGSA has helped me answer a lot of questions."

Affleck has been at Stanhope since 1980, head superintendent since 1984 and a member of the CGSA since 1986. He is married with four children aged 10 to 23.

During a brief talk at the conference, Affleck discussed his own course and golf in Canada's smallest province, known for its red clay, beautiful beaches, sand dunes and quiet lifestyle.

The 1994 opening of Tom McBroom-designed Crowbush Cove, which hosted the 1998 Molson Skins Game, helped elevate the game of golf on PEI and raised the standards for the rest of the courses

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Merlin Affleck