



BRIEFS

BEYERS TAKES OVER AT RED HAWK

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Western Golf Properties (WGP) has promoted Timothy J. Beyers to course superintendent at Red Hawk Ridge GC, in Castle Rock, Colo. Prior to joining WGP, Beyers was assistant superintendent at Arrowhead GC, in Littleton, Colo.

John Carson, director of operations for WGP, said Beyers has “the knowledge and determination needed to maintain the immaculate course conditioning and uphold the reputation that Red Hawk Ridge has quickly established in the Colorado golf market.” The course, an 18-hole layout designed by Jim Engh, features bluegrass fairways, dramatic elevation changes and superb views of the Rockies.

Beyers is currently attending Front Range Community College in Colorado, studying urban horticulture.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENTRIES DUE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Entries are due Oct. 2 for the ninth annual Environmental Steward Awards, which recognize superintendents and golf courses for their work towards a clean environment. The awards are sponsored by Novartis Turf and Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Textron Golf & Turf, and Pursell Technologies. Applications are available on the the GCSAA web site or from the GCSAA service center at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP PLEDGE

WAYZATA, Minn. — The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, based here, recently signed a three-year agreement to fund \$8,000 in scholarships for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America’s (GCSAA) Footsteps on the Green program. The scholarship program provides aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members.

Eligibility is limited to full-time college students studying for careers as course superintendents. Applicants are evaluated based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and community involvement, which may include membership in one of GCSAA’s 50 student chapters.

The scholarships range from \$3,500 to \$500, and the awards are administered by the GCSAA Foundation.



Scientists make breakthrough in drought-resistant tall fescue

By JAY FINEGAN

GRIFFIN, Ga. — University of Georgia turfgrass scientists have developed a new drought-resistant strain of fescue that promises to be a boon to golf courses. The so-called Southeast Tall Fescue is the first release to emerge from the university’s fescue breeding program, started in 1992. The seed is expected to be marketed by Landmark Seed Co. and available sometime next year.

Ronny Duncan, Ph.D., professor of breeding and stress physiology in the department of crop and soil sciences, headed up the painstaking development project. His search for grass samples that could be used in the experimentation took him to South America, Africa, the Bahamas and all over Georgia.

Duncan’s colleague in the fescue breakthrough, Bob Carrow, Ph.D., professor of turfgrass science, said the new variety will likely see duty on golf courses as rough and fairway framing and on clubhouse grounds. He said recommended mowing heights — two inches in southern



climates, an inch and a half in more moderate regions — would bar fairway use.

When the breeding program began, the goal was to develop turf-type tall fescues with the attributes necessary to persist under Georgia conditions. The primary goal was to come up with a fescue that could withstand drought, acid soil complex, and high soil temperatures, while generating enough carbohydrates — plant food produced by photosynthesis — to maintain strong roots during hot summer months. Additionally, the scientists sought a fescue strain with good turf quality, in shoot density, color and growth rate, and which would exhibit pest-resistant qualities and strong seed production.

BOOT CAMP FOR PLANTS

It took eight years, but finally Duncan and Carrow produced a strain, through natural selection, that met the criteria. “Southeast Tall Fescue,” Carrow said, “is very, very drought resistant.”

The scientists subjected their various experimental strains to severe stress and water deprivation during a “plant boot camp” that killed between 95 and 99 percent of them. “That’s the only way you can identify the ones that have super

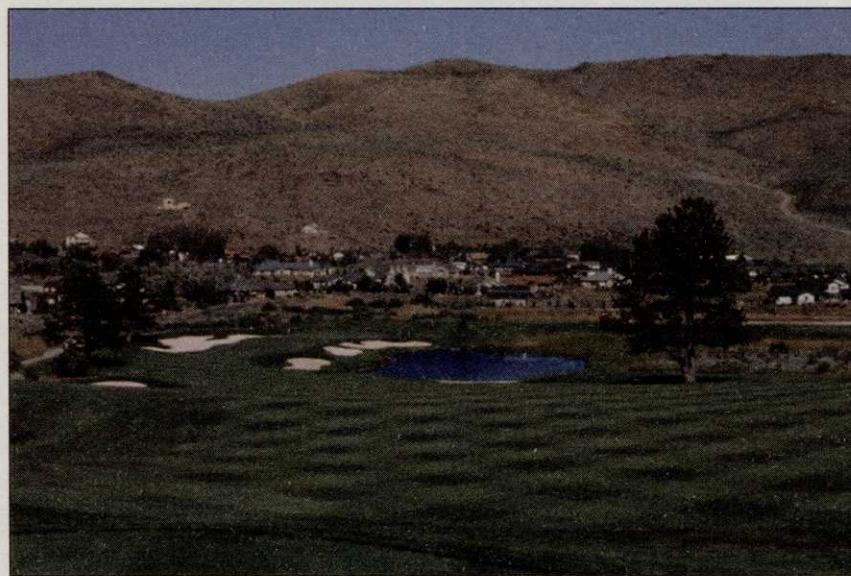
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Supers rate Audubon program highly

SELKIRK, N.Y. — A survey by Audubon International has found that taking part in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses (ACSP) brings verifiable environmental benefits. When queried on a number of measures to improve wildlife habitat, protect water quality and reduce chemical use, ACSP members — primarily course superintendents — reported significant improvements in their environmental management practices. They also reported that they sacrificed little if anything in terms of playing quality or golfer satisfaction.

Audubon International launched the ACSP in 1991, in conjunction with the U.S. Golf Association, as an environmental education program designed to help golf courses enhance and protect wildlife habitat and natural resources. Today, 2,140 courses in the United States are enrolled in the program, and

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The par-4 fourth hole at Montreux Golf and Country Club, site of the Reno Tahoe Open

At Montreux, Heinricks thrives on annual Reno Tahoe Open

By DOUG SAUNDERS

RENO, Nev. — The long, hot, sunny days of Nevada summer never come quickly enough for Doug Heinricks, head superintendent here at Montreux Golf and Country Club.

The Iowa native is in his second year caring for the bentgrass fairways of this massive Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course on the eastern slope of Mount Rose, just south of Reno — “The Biggest Little City in the World.” His challenge is nurturing lush, consistent fairways and greens, not only for the discerning members of this private facility, but also for the recently held Reno Tahoe Open, a PGA Tour event.

“I love it when the warm weather sets in, because I need to have my soil temperatures come up in order to stimulate microbial activity and root growth,” he said. “The soil at the base of the mountains is decomposed granite, which makes it easily compacted and hard to penetrate. Irrigation water seems to run off rather than soak in. But it is a challenge that I am glad to take on just to be in this region.”

Montreux opened in 1997 in the midst of a golf construction boom in these parts. More than 140 holes have been built in four years. Montreux has established itself as the premier private club on the eastern slope of the

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ISTRC adds new greens unit

OLATHE, Kan. — International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC), based here near Kansas City, recently created a second company, ISTRC NML, to provide physical properties analysis for the construction and reconstruction of greens.

ISTRC developed the first ISTRC system of physical properties analysis mainly for existing golf course greens. Their system of undisturbed core analysis has produced data from thousands of cores that has resulted in the guidelines for new bent and Bermuda grasses that refine U.S. Golf Association (USGA) specs.

ISTRC NML (New Mix Lab) was created to conduct tests required to meet USGA Green Section guidelines for new construction and reconstruction of greens. ISTRC NML qualifies for USGA recommendation by meeting the criteria and earning the accreditation of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).

Dave Doherty, founder of both companies, said that ISTRC NML is a natural extension of the firm’s capabilities. “Imagine the benefits of the data that we have already compiled when applied to New Mix Lab technologies. As the only company with two labs, one for existing greens and one for new construction, we have combined an operation that will be an invaluable asset to the new course from inception through maturity,” he said. “We’re excited about all that we can offer our clients today.”

In 1990, Doherty and Leon Howard, who wrote the original USGA specs, began to monitor sand-based greens, a task which no one had then bothered to do. “When we first started this company, we were really just out to grow grass on athletic fields for kids,” Doherty said. “But now we do about 40 of the top 100 courses in the country.”

Salmon return to Oregon stream that meanders through 27 holes

WELCHES, Ore. — Thanks to The Resort at The Mountain's "Wee Burn" stream restoration project, fish are now being seen in parts of the stream and ponds that have been inaccessible since 1928, and two crops of wild coho salmon and steelhead trout smolts that spawned in the new

habitat have migrated to the open sea. The Wee Burn wanders through the resort's 27 holes of golf, set at the western base of Mt. Hood.

The Wee Burn (Scottish for small stream), which runs through The Resort's Three Nines golf course, is a minor



Workers restoring Wee Burn

tributary of the Salmon River, a federally designated "wild and scenic river," and is part of the Sandy River Watershed. Since 1995, The Resort has been working closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest, WolfTree, Trout Unlimited, and others to restore wild fish habitat in the stream. In addition to volunteer work and grants from the

Oregon Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, The Resort has invested over \$200,000 in the project.

"We knew the Wee Burn had the potential to provide excellent fish habitat, and we're encouraged to see the juvenile fish using the prime habitat in the ponds and upper stream

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Audubon survey

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219 have achieved designation as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries by implementing and documenting a full slate of conservation activities.

"As we move into our 10th year of the program, we wanted to quantify the results of program participation," said Larry Woolbright, Ph.D., Audubon International's director of research, who spearheaded the survey. "Do courses that participate achieve the goal of enhancing and protecting the environment? The survey gives us some hard numbers about how members have improved on a variety of environmental fronts."

QUANTIFIABLE RESULTS

For example, members reported that, on average, acres devoted to providing wildlife habitat jumped from 40 to 70 per course — a 75-percent increase. Also 79 percent of ACSP members decreased the amount of managed turfgrass, and 64 percent now monitor wildlife activity, up from 16 percent beforehand.

Another key environmental priority of the ACSP is helping members to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and to safely use, store, and handle chemicals. Survey results show that golf courses have been able to achieve that goal without sacrificing playing quality. In fact, 86 percent reduced pesticide use and 92 percent reported using pesticides with a lower toxicity level since joining the program. Also, 84 percent increased the amount of slow-release fertilizers they used.

ACSP members said that playing conditions and golfer satisfaction remained the same or improved for 99 percent of ACSP courses. Sixty-four percent of participants also reported that their job satisfaction improved after joining the program.

"Golf course superintendents can be excellent stewards of the environment," said Ronald Dodson, Audubon International's president and CEO. "Not only are they contributing to improved quality on the course, they are also spreading the word about environmental responsibility." ■



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