



## BRIEFS

### REIS TAKES TOP SUPER SPOT AT PINE HILL

PINE HILL, N.J. — Kevin Reis has been named superintendent at Pine Hill Golf Club, Empire Golf's high-end course that opened for limited play in October. It's the first head superintendent job for Reis, 27. "I've actually supervised the construction and grown since December of 2000," he said. "There's no question that playing Pine Hill will certainly be an unforgettable experience for all golfers. It's a tremendous thrill for anyone in this business to become head superintendent for the first time, but it's even more exciting for me considering it's a Tom Fazio-designed, world class course." After earning a degree in turf management from Rutgers University, Reis spent a year at Clinton Country Club (N.J.) before joining Empire Golf as an assistant superintendent at Basking Ridge Country Club in New Jersey.

### CORNELL PRESENTS TURF PROGRAMS

ITHACA, N.Y. — Cornell's Turfgrass Program here has announced the 2001 continuing education courses for professional turfgrass managers. A first turfgrass management short course will be held at the Cornell campus here Jan. 8-12, 2001. The second short course will take place in Westchester County, N.Y., Feb. 12-23, 2001. Both sessions carry a \$600 tuition. Held at the campus here will also be a turfgrass advanced seminar series with four seminars available: Soil Management, Jan. 15th; Nutrient Management, Jan. 16th; Water Management, Jan. 17th; and Pest Management, Jan. 18th. Each seminar has a \$100 tuition charge. More information is available by calling 607-255-1792.

### WYNNE HEADING SALES AT BIOSAFE

GLASTONBURY, Conn. — BioSafe Systems has named John Wynne as its new national turf sales manager. He will be responsible for managing distribution relationships for the sales of ZeroTol Professional Turf Care Broad Spectrum Algaecide/Fungicide and TerraCyte, environmentally safe products for the control of moss, algae and turf disease. Wynne has 20 years of experience in sales and marketing and attended Eastern Connecticut State University. BioSafe Systems, based here, offers products used in the turf, greenhouse and agriculture industries for disease management and control.

## Sugarloaf Golf Club embarks on major upgrade project

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — Already ranked the best daily-fee golf course in New England, Sugarloaf Golf Club officials hope a major improvement program will raise the facility to even greater heights.

Crews embarked in November on \$800,000 in improvements to the course following a special Carrabasset Valley town meeting, at which voters overwhelmingly approved an \$800,000 municipal bond to finance the work.

Sugarloaf USA, which leases the course from the town, will pay off the bond over the next 23 years.

Golf magazine recently ranked Sugarloaf 20th in the "Top 100 Courses You Can Play in the United States." Only two other New England courses were named and they stood at the 61st and 83rd positions. Sugarloaf has held the 20th position in the prestigious ranking since 1998, and has been number one in Maine every year since it opened 15 years ago.

"We will not be resting on our laurels,"

said director of golf Scott Hoisington, adding that the two-year project will include a state-of-the-art irrigation system, bunker renovation, added drainage, improved teeing and landing areas on the driving range, and paving for all of the cart paths and the parking lot.

Beginning in mid-November, the work



The 14th hole at Sugarloaf Gold Club in western Maine

started with the paving of the parking lot. Golf course superintendent Mike Vella will oversee work on all other aspects of the project, including the clearing of some woods.

"We want to make the course more player-friendly," said Hoisington. "We know it is challenging. It is a heavily wooded, mountain course. But if they hit it in the woods, we want them to find it and be able to bang it out."

Crews will complete the cart path program early next spring and continue to work on the bunkers and irrigation system next summer, Vella said. The improvements will be accomplished in a manner that will have "little to no impact to the golfers," said Vella.

Sugarloaf is a golf and ski resort.

## University of Georgia offers new turfgrass management program

By JOEL JOYNER

ATHENS, Ga. — The University System of Georgia Independent Study (USGIS) now provides certification in the field of turfgrass management via the Internet. The new program was designed to give even the busiest golf course superintendents a flexible opportunity to earn college-level credit in the field.

The USGIS, in conjunction with the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, has established 10 courses that may be completed by traditional correspondence or via the Internet, allowing students the leeway of taking up to 12 months to complete each course.

Enrollment may be made at any time without admission examinations or transcripts of prerequisites. Students can take one course at a time or several at once.

"These courses were developed with the working turfgrass professional in mind," said Keith Karnok, a turfgrass management PhD. Working with Hannes Combest, director of education, and

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## Aquarina CC wins Audubon nod

MELBOURNE BEACH, Fla. — Aquarina Country Club, a Charles Ankrum design on a barrier island near here, has been designed as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International. It is the 262nd course in the world and the 36th in Florida to win the prestigious environmental distinction.

The 18-hole semi-private layout, opened in 1996, joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses in 1997.

The course, a 4,300-yard par-62 track, is set on 100 acres near the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. The area is a rich haven for animals. Alligators are so common they sometimes have to be chased off the course. Florida panthers have been spotted here, and bobcats reside nearby. Snakes, turtles, eagles, herons, cranes, and numerous other bird species populate the area.

Superintendent Scott Campbell described the certification process as twofold. First, course personnel were required to complete an environmental plan. Second, they had to successfully implement programs addressing each of the categories for environmental excellence established by Audubon International.

"I'm very proud to receive this special recognition on behalf of Aquarina," Campbell said, "and I'd like to thank my

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## WOLF-Garten rolls out laser mower

By JOEL JOYNER

COLOGNE, Germany — WOLF-Garten Ltd. has introduced a "revolutionary" new lawnmower that cuts grass with a laser. The product debuted at this year's International Gardening Fair here and at the GLEE National Exposition Center in England.

Known as the "Zero," the lawn tractor uses lasers to finely cut grass and a breakthrough "siltidry" process to chop and dry the clippings into tiny particles. It fires out the particles in a jet of air.

The machine comes with Internet capabilities and leather seats, and it allows the operator to place supply orders on-line. The four-wheeled vehicle is approved for use on public roads.

At \$30,000, the Zero is not inexpensive, but the benefits are significant. It's powered by an environmentally friendly engine that produces practically no emissions from its "catalytic afterburning or state-of-the-art fuel technology," according to the design-

ers of the prototype, Cognito Design and Engineering.

The new mower was developed on the chassis of a Mercedes Smart Cabriolet, a two-seat convertible. The price is expected to decline once the models go into large-scale production. "It's a bit like color televisions when they first came out," said Juergen Goos, lead designer of the mower.

The manufacturer, the Betzdorf-based WOLF-Garten here in Germany, claims that the mower is capable of "solving several problems at once, including noise pollution, waste disposal, nutrient administration and lawn disease."

The WOLF company said that the Zero name is symbolic of the vehicle's characteristics. There's zero noise, because lasers do the cutting rather than blades. There's zero disposal, since cuttings are finely chopped and redistributed to the lawn in a dried condition. There are zero difficulties with lawn quality as the siltidry process effectively avoids thatch and mold formations. There's zero blade wear,

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The "Zero" silently cuts grass with lasers.

**Univ. of Georgia**

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Daniel Ward, senior manager of curriculum at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Karnok and the USGIS were able to key in on the feedback from superintendents.

"The issues being addressed were flexibility, availability and cost," said Karnok. "We wanted to establish an alternative certification program that would be widely accepted by the industry. Also, rather than just create a continuing education program that offered a certificate, this program will provide college-level credit. Upon completion of the program, the student will have 27 hours of college credit that may be used toward an associate or bachelor's degree."



All courses are taught by the CAES faculty, communicating with students through e-mail, phone calls and traditional correspondence. Academic credit that non-UGA students receive for the courses completed is "non-resident credit," also known as "transfer credit." Tuition will run \$104 per semester hour.

The USGIS program will include courses in soil science, pest management, landscape irrigation and other turf management topics, as well as courses in business, arts and science to satisfy requirements for electives. ■

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