



## BRIEFS

### TULLY NAMED SUPERINTENDENT AT KEMPER LAKES GC

**NORTHBROOK, Ill.** — KemperSports Management has named Dan Tully superintendent at Kemper Lakes Golf Course in Long Grove, Ill. The Chicago-area native has over 15 years of experience in the golfing industry. Since January of 1998, Tully has been superintendent at the 27-hole, 650-acre White Hawk Country Club in Crown Point, Indiana. He also has worked at the Michael Jordan Golf Company in Aurora, Ill.



Dan Tully

### DELHI COLLEGE RECEIVES NYSTA SUPPORT FOR LIBRARY

**DELHI, N.Y.** — The New York State Turfgrass Association has contributed \$2,000 in support of reference materials for students of Delhi College's golf, turf management and landscape programs. The collections of materials will be available to students at the university's Resnick Library. According to Dominic Morales, dean of Applied Sciences, the grant is a good start in developing a resource room dedicated to students of these majors. Industry support has played a key role in the development of golf-related programs at Delhi. The college receives over \$100,000 in equipment and supplies for student use each year from the industry, along with more than \$15,000 in scholarships.

### SEVERANCE JOINS CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN

**THOMPSONVILLE, Mich.** — Scott Severance has joined Crystal Mountain here as the new superintendent. He will be responsible for managing turf conditions and maintenance on the facility's two golf courses and the Crystal Mountain Golf School's 10-acre practice center as well as overseeing renovation work being done on the resort's Betsie Valley layout. Severance previously held a superintendent position at the Florence Country Club in Florence, S.C.



Scott Severance

### EDITORIAL FOCUS: Irrigation & Pump Stations

## Technology and innovative ideas drive new irrigation product development

By JOEL JOYNER

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** — The golf course irrigation industry has sunk millions into research and development to bring to market a slew of new products and services designed to improve efficiency, conservation and ease of operations.

Superintendents are continuously striving to conserve water and energy. Applying the right amount of water to turf where they need it, when they need it, is essential to course operations. Irrigation supply companies are looking to assist those efforts by developing products like wireless rotors, handheld control devices, upgraded central control systems and advanced software.



Toro's 720G

Headquartered here, the Toro Co.'s irrigation division is preparing to launch its first line of new sprinklers in 10 years. The 800 series will eventually be replacing the 700 series line and offers new features like a low-power solenoid.

### TORO

"It requires less than half the amperage that the current solenoid requires," said Kristina Spindler, golf marketing manager for irrigation. "It means that golf courses can run more heads simultaneously than what they could before. Or they can reduce the



Toro's new 800 series sprinkler head

size of their wiring."

The product also has more than twice the surge protection, according to Spindler. "Many currently offer up to 7,000 volts of protection. This product has been tested up to 20,000 volts and has yet to fail," she said.

Another new sprinkler, released last month, is the 720G series. "It doesn't spray as far, and superintendents can adjust the trajectory," said Steve Snow, director of golf renovation and sales. "It provides more precision and control.

"They can dial in the amount of water to be used, the trajectory and radius of the sprinkler with a twist of a screwdriver," explained Snow. "It's perfect for tee boxes, between cart paths and greens and where superintendents need to water 15 feet to 20 feet rather than 60 feet."

### SIGNATURE CONTROL SYSTEMS

Signature Control Systems, based in Irvine, Calif., is working to release software that integrates irrigation into more areas of the golf course. "We're now looking at our equipment as more of a management integrator rather than just an irrigation controller," said Bruce Smith, president.

Fertigation injection system software has been in testing for close to a year and is scheduled to be released toward the end of December. "It's capable of handling nine hole courses right through to 36-hole sites," said Smith. "As long as



Rain Bird's Freedom Pad pocket PC

Continued on page 12

## Floodgates open in Conn. for permitting, water conservation

By JOEL JOYNER

**FARMINGTON, Conn.** — Superintendents here and across the state are getting another chance to comply before officials crack down on courses without water diversion permits.

The floodgates opened when a new Public Act for compliance was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly. It involved golf courses that use a private water supply for irrigation and have not registered for state permits for water diversions.

The Connecticut Water Diversion Policy Act, first initiated in 1982, requires any person or municipality pumping more than 50,000 gallons of ground or surface water a day to register each diversion. The state's Department of Environmental Protection estimates that there are at least 75 golf courses throughout the state — old and new — diverting water without authorization.

If courses fail to at least begin the application process by July 1, 2003, officials are going to get tough — threatening a variety of enforcement actions. "Our intention is to reach out to superintendents and help them understand what they need to do to comply — without penalty — with newly enacted state laws," said Carla Feroni, environmental analyst for the Inland Water Resources Division of the DEP.

### COMPLIANCE IS NO PICNIC

Unfortunately, even voluntary compliance is no picnic. Superintendent Tim O'Neill at the Country Club of Darien first became aware of his club's need for a water diversion permit in July of last year when



Tim O'Neill

Continued on page 11

## So-called 'native' plants offer no guarantee of water conservation

**TEMPE, Ariz.** — Superintendents take note: using plants identified as 'native' may alter your water conservation objectives.

Reported studies from the American Water Works Association Research Foundation and plant biologists at Arizona State University here both found that so-called xeriscape or native landscapes were actually receiving more water than traditional style landscapes.

ASU scientist Chris Martin, Ph.D., found that desert plants such as acacia, brittle bush, creosote bush and mesquite could use two to three times as much water as flooded alfalfa or turfgrass.

According to the findings, the problem is not necessarily with the plant, whether it's a desert plant or lawn, but with watering management

practices. Desert plants survive because they are capable of absorbing large amounts of water very quickly in order to survive in an area with infrequent rainfall.

When landscape water is made available, most plants act as "water pumps" and absorb the resource rapidly while growing at tremendous rates.

The studies recommend that landscape managers learn the growth cycles and true water requirements of managed plants to conserve water effectively.

According to researchers, even properly established turfgrass can survive on very limited water if it is allowed to go dormant during hotter, dryer times of the year, as long as the plant's crown is kept hydrated with as little as one-quarter inch of water a week.



## Superintendents should embrace Hispanic workforce

By KEVIN ROSS

As the labor market continues to tighten, more golf courses are relying on Hispanic labor for staffing needs. As this trend continues, course operations must develop relations that will ensure a cohesive, hard-working team.

An important factor is integrating Hispanic crew members into the overall operation and making them feel comfortable. Also, taking time to recognize cultural differences will benefit both workers and employers.

Here at the Country Club of the Rockies, I have created a system that pulls from both my working knowledge and ideas gleaned from other superintendents.

### GOLF LESSONS

Educating Hispanic staff about golf will not only teach them the game but will also increase their understanding of their duties on the course.

The best way to do this is to have your professional golf staff give an employee golf clinic. Our clinic is lead by our director

Continued on page 12

GOLF COURSE NEWS