



## BRIEFS

### DILLINGER JOINS ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF

CALABASAS, Calif. — Robb Dillinger, CGCS, has joined Environmental Golf as regional superintendent and business development manager for the central United States. In his new position, he will be responsible for acquiring maintenance contracts and spearheading industry awareness of Environmental Golf. In addition, as regional superintendent, he will support the efforts of the company's superintendents and ensure that client properties are maintained at a high level.



Robb Dillinger

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### JOHNSON TAKES ON DARKHORSE GC

AUBURN, Calif. — Eric Johnson has been named golf course superintendent at the DarkHorse Golf Club located here. The course, still under construction, is scheduled to open next September. Johnson was previously superintendent at Spyglass Hill in Pebble Beach for five years.

### NEW WEB SITE FOR SEED SOLUTIONS

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Viewing the Internet as an important tool for future opportunities, Seed Solutions has created a new site at [www.seedsolutions.com](http://www.seedsolutions.com). "This is the first step of our commitment to build a complete business-to-business e-commerce solution for our customers," said Bill Junk, president of Seed Solutions. Visitors to the site can find complete product information for turf, farm, garden, native grass and wildlife seed. The site also features a distributor locator.

### ERC COMES TO NEW ENGLAND

CARY, N.C. — The Environmental Resource Center, headquartered here, has announced the opening of a new branch office in Hartland, Vt. Though the organization has operated in the area since 1981, this is the first time that it has established an office in the region. Vermont staffers are now available to provide information on environmental safety, permit assistance, audits, and customized on-site training. The new office will handle environmental and safety requirements throughout the New England area.

## Armyworms hit the Northeast, far afield from usual range

By JOEL JOYNER

MASHPEE, Mass. — The media has tried hard this summer to whip up a public hysteria about armyworms, but superintendents have taken the so-called invasion pretty much in stride.

"They're fairly easy to kill," said Bill Levesque, assistant superintendent here at Willowbend Golf Course. "And they probably won't survive the winter this far north."

Truth be told, armyworms are a menace. They often travel and feast in masses, like soldiers moving across enemy land. They'll devour turfgrass leaves right down to the nubs before migrating to a new sector. They've been known to consume up to 10 acres of crops within a 24-hour period.



An armyworm straps on the feedbag

Usually found in the South and Midwest, great numbers of armyworms made their way to the Northeast this year, borne on the winds of tropical Storm Allison. They hit the region by the millions.

### 'BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS'

As homeowners grew panicky about their lawns, the media picked up the scent of a big story. In sensationalized stories, they tossed around terms like "attack," "siege" and even "plague." One reporter totally lost his grip and said the invasion was "of Biblical proportions."

"Armyworm" is really a misnomer—it's not a worm at all. The pest is actually a caterpillar with a voracious appetite for turfgrass, wheat, corn, rye, and hay crops. The insects

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## Cook 11th American to qualify as Master Greenkeeper

By JOEL JOYNER

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. — Steve Cook, superintendent here at the Oakland Hills Country Club, is now one of the 31 certified Master Greenkeepers worldwide and the 11th American to achieve the prestigious distinction from the British International Golf Greenkeeper Association (BIGGA).



Steve Cook

A graduate of the University of Illinois, where he earned a B.S. in ornamental horticulture, Cook has nearly 20 years of experience in the golf course maintenance profession.

Cook said he undertook the process as a personal challenge. "If you're going to be a superintendent, you might as well get as many certifications as the industry offers," he said. "I consider myself a goal-oriented person, and it was one more goal."

Building his resume in hopes of higher  
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## IGM's Florida fold expands by three

LAKELAND, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance, headquartered here, has signed on three more courses in Florida, continuing to dominate the region as a leading golf course maintenance company.

The Fiddler's Green Golf Club in Jacksonville, Shalimar Pointe Golf & Country Club in Shalimar, and the Pelican Bay Country Club in Daytona Beach have all entered into maintenance agreements with the fast-growing company.

### BUILT BY SEABEES

Fiddler's Green, a public course located on the west side of Jacksonville, has an 18-hole, heavily wooded layout originally built in the 1950s by Navy Seabees.

"The major aspect we're looking to IGM for is to bring a sense of teamwork to our staff," said general manager Jeff Johnson. "Scott Zakany [IGM's executive vice president] said he and his staff will always be available to us."

Superintendent Paul Rio agreed. "We have a lot of work to do to bring the course up to standards we find acceptable," he allowed. "We're now operating on a 120-day plan focused on improving the playability and aesthetics of the course."

### 'JEWEL OF THE EMERALD COAST'

The Shalimar Pointe facility is considered the "jewel of the Emerald coast." The 18-hole semi-private club was originally built in 1968, then redesigned by Finger & Dye Architects in 1984.

Located just 10 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, the traditional layout features the terrain of northwest Florida, with natural sand dunes. "We're excited," said Greg Plotner, CGCS, vice president of Florida

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## Brian Bossert's Bryn Mawr Country Club clinches Audubon certification

By JOEL JOYNER

LINCOLNWOOD, Ill. — It took him three years, but Brian Bossert finally cleared Audubon International's tough environmental gauntlet.

Now Bryn Mawr Country Club counts itself a proud member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, one of fewer than 20 clubs in Illinois to be certified.

"It's challenging," Bossert said, "particularly in the summer, when some of the documentation gets placed on the back burner."

Located across from the Chicago city limits, the private club was built in 1919.



Native areas were established around the pond along the eighth hole at Bryn Mawr CC.

"We have an urban environment to work with here," Bossert explained. "We're on 135 acres surrounded by some crowded residential areas. Not everyone has 400 acres out in the middle of nowhere, so we do the best we can."

### 2001 'BIRDWATCHING OPEN'

The amount of wildlife on the property is limited. Birds have become the primary visitors.

"We participated in a Birdwatching Open this spring, and identified as many as 28 species on the property," the superintendent said. "My mother-in-law and one of our members are avid birders, and they helped us identify the different varieties."

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## Armyworms

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feast for about two weeks between birth and when they escape into the soil, only to emerge as moths in a few days.

Several generations of armyworms may occur in a single season, with female moths capable of laying as many as 14,000 eggs. The moths can ride the jet stream over great distances.

### 'GROSS AND STINKY'

Despite the bad news barrage, superintendents have stayed cool.

"It seems to be mostly a media hysteria problem for homeowners," said Scott Cybulski, superintendent at the Falmouth Country Club in Falmouth, Maine. "The armyworms are pretty sensitive to chemical treatments. Banding sprays [one pass along the border of the course] seem to stop them."

Turf maintenance professionals rely on their training, experience and available resources to halt the small beasts. "Entomologists are saying that healthy, highly maintained grasses can outgrow this pest," Cybulski said.

Two of the best known insecticides – sevin and malathion – have a good knock down factor for armyworms. "We're pretty consistent about treating for ants and cutworms, which are a bit

sturdier than armyworms," said Cybulski. "I will spray if high-maintenance or aesthetic rough is affected, but only to quell the questions and complaints from members.

"I'm not really worried about losing turf to armyworms," he said. "Superintendents that encounter them have told me that they are basically gross and stinky."

### SHOWING NO FEAR

Sometimes, the best option in

dealing with armyworms is simply to do nothing.

"We had a little bout with them," said Greg Holder, assistant superintendent at the York Golf & Tennis Club, in southern Maine. "We had isolated areas that were just covered with armyworms. Basically, we just let them go."

The course followed recommendations by the University of Massachusetts turfgrass extension service. "They said, 'Don't even bother.' By the time we considered doing something about them, they were almost done with their feeding cycle," Holder said.

The armyworms showed up in the roughs, on the eighth and 10th greens, and on the ninth and 11th tees. The course was hit by a surprise attack, according to Holder. "I've been in this business for about 13 years," he said, "and this is the first time I've ever seen them this far north.

"They were on our greens, but it didn't seem like they were actively feeding," Holder said. "There's not a lot of leaf to offer on golf greens. I have heard that some of the local hayfields got whacked by armyworms, though." ■

## Mike Scott

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Water availability looms as Scott's biggest challenge. "We're out in the middle of the country with our own septic and our own wells, so there's no chance of using efficient," he explained.



Mike Scott

"Our aquifer doesn't have that much water. There are some houses adjacent to the property and we're worried about running their wells dry."

### SEVEN-ACRE LAKE

He's meeting the problem with the excavation of a seven-acre lake, 12 feet deep, holding some 12 to 14 million gallons.

"We're negotiating with the state to let us take 9.5 million gallons out of the ground each month during June, July and August," Scott said. "For the rest of the year we'll try to skim from the creek. If we use our 9.5 million gallons in a certain month, and the creek is low, we'll have to use the pond – that's why we're making it so big.

"We want to have enough water allocated and in our pond to get us through the worst drought while we're growing in."

The par-72 course, when opened, will play from 7,100 yards down to 5,417, with four sets of tees. Half of the planned 275 members are already signed up. ■



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