



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. "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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Crist on liability

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apparatus, the facility's due care responsibility becomes greater.

The judge in the *Maussner* case put it this way: "All golf courses have a duty to post a sign that details what, if any, safety procedures are being utilized by the golf course to protect its patrons from lightning....If, however, a golf course chooses to utilize a particular safety feature, it owes a duty of reasonable care to its patrons to use it correctly."

Similar complexities are involved in the decision to make defibrillators available to assist in cardiac incidents on the golf course. On the one hand, it certainly seems like the enlightened and progressive thing to do. On the other hand, such well-intended, humanitarian efforts, if implemented incorrectly or inadequately, could increase liability exposure rather

than reduce it.

COMMON SENSE

Perhaps the best mix in fulfilling the duty of due care is a combination of concern, common sense and a good liability insurance program. Paramount should be concern for the customer's welfare and desire on the owner/operator's part to anticipate foreseeable risks and take reasonable preventive measures.

Avoiding liability claims is impossible, but a concern for safety, a good liability insurance program and the implementation of risk management policies will go a long way toward keeping things under control. ■

Gary M. Crist practices sports and entertainment law in Jupiter, Fla. Prior to establishing his own practice in 1994, he was general counsel to the PGA of America and associate general counsel to the PGA Tour.

Bryn Mawr

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Noted projects that contributed to the certification include: allowing non-play areas to grow naturally; adding several bluebird and wood duck houses; incorporating native prairie plants into the landscape; and decreasing pesticide usage.

"We have an integrated pest management scheme here now where we monitor turf conditions heavily," Bossert said. "We don't spray anything on a preventive basis."

A new irrigation system was installed in 1998 to water the layout more efficiently and a \$25,000 equipment wash pad was put in place the following year.

The superintendent credits his former assistant, Dan Augdahl and his assistant for the past two years, Bryan Widmer. "They really deserve a lot of the credit," he said. "They did all of the documentation work."

This fall, the facility will complete the final

Architects

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golfers more distance, it will be impossible for us to design courses that will be a challenge for more than a decade."

Research shows that many players drop out because they become discouraged, and Pascuzzo believes that the percentage would rise if courses had to be longer and more difficult to challenge the better players.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to design a course that all levels of players find interesting," he said. ■

stage of a four-year renovation plan. "The project is mostly new tees and bunkers," said Bossert. Architect Richard Jacobson, based in Libertyville, Ill., provided the design work for the renovation project. ■



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