IMAINTENANCER

BRIEFS

IGM PROMOTES FOUR

CHAMPIONS GATE, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance (IGM), has promoted four superintendents to regional positions. Both Paul Haines and Bill Seigle were promoted to regional superintendents within the state of Florida. In addition to their responsibilities at The Eagles GCC, Haines will oversee four other properties. Seigle, superintendent at Tiger Point GCC and north Florida regional superintendent, is responsible for overseeing four clubs in the Florida panhandle. Tyler Minamyer and Jeff Miller are regional superintendents representing East Coast markets for IGM. Minamyer is now IGM’s Mid-Atlantic regional superintendent, overseeing six clubs in the southern Virginia area. As IGM’s new Southeast regional superintendent, Miller oversees four properties while fulfilling his duties as superintendent at the Golfers’ Club at Fort McPherson (GA.).

HANKS JOINS VALLEYCREST

CALABASIS, Calif. — Larry A. Hanks has joined the team of ValleyCrest Golf Course Maintenance as business development manager for the Southeast/Gulf Coast region. In his new position, Hanks will be responsible for the acquisition of new maintenance contracts and spearheading industry awareness of ValleyCrest Golf throughout the area. In addition, he will support the efforts of ValleyCrest Golf superintendents and existing clients. Prior to joining the company, Hanks served as sales director for OneSource Landscape and Golf Services Inc.

MTF APPOINTS SMITH

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) has appointed Thomas M. Smith as its new executive director. Smith served the last year as the assistant executive director and has served nine years on the MTF’s board of directors. In his almost 30 years of industry-related experience Smith has worked in the golf industry and been a research and teaching assistant at Michigan State University.

Companies put new spin on organic fertilizer products

By A. OVERBECK and D. RICE

GLLEN BURNIE, Md. and NORTH AMHERST, Mass. — Two organic fertilizer manufacturers have formed new distribution ventures and dramatically expanded product offerings in an aggressive move increase their golf industry presence. Tim Davison, head of Davison Golf, has formed a new venture, Bio Basics LLC, to roll out a line of organic liquid and granular fertilizers and amendments nationwide. Davison Golf has been distributing organic fertilizer and other products in the Mid-Atlantic region since 1991. EcoOrganics Inc., a firm founded in 1990 by three professors at the University of Massachusetts to develop organic fertilizers, has teamed up with Soil Technologies Corp. to increase the distribution of its products in the Eastern U.S. Both companies offer unique fertilizer technology that could be the one practice that has led to the use of less nitrogen. Spraying low amounts of nitrogen, with the use of a soluble/liquid nitrogen, has become one of the most popular methods of fertilization over the past 10 years. This method, or “spoon-feeding” as it’s been called, is strictly limited to greens. Many courses

SuperIdeas

Farley’s ‘dead ringer’ keeps trees bases neat

One of the first things I did when I arrived at Teal Bend Golf Club was spray the tree bases for weeds. Nothing can bring down the looks of an otherwise tidy course than weeds and scraggly grass at the base of trees. In order to help my spray technician apply herbicide in a perfect circle of consistent size I fabricated a simple device. For lack of a better name I call it the ‘dead ringer.’ It simply consists of a steel hook and a piece of rope with a loop on the end. The steel hook is hooked around the tree and the end of the paint gun goes in the loop. Then all you do is pull the rope tight and pull the trigger as you walk around the tree, painting a perfect circle. You just have to decide how large of a diameter you prefer around your tree bases.

Continued on page 8

Continued on page 8

Continued on page 8
Organic fertilizer makers expand
Continued from page 6
change the way courses use organic products.
In addition to its customized line of Bio Basics liquid fertilizer and ZeoPro soil amendment, Bio Basics has teamed up with Purdue Agricycle Inc. to take pasteurized dry poultry waste (DPW) and turn it into golf course grade fertilizer.

"What comes out of these chickens is incredible," said Davisson. "They are feeding chickens the same things we feed turf. The analysis correlates almost directly with the ratios that we look for in the tissue analysis in our liquid program."

Bio Basics makes a straight DPW product and also combines it with air-ground carbons and sugars to enhance nutrient uptake and growth. The Enhanced DPW can also be mixed with synthetic fertilizer to provide higher nutrient analysis.

On the liquid side, Bio Basics offers leaf tissue analysis so superintendents know exactly which nutrients the turf is getting.

Rick Holanda, superintendent at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown, Pa., which is holding this year's Senior PGA Championship, uses both the DPW and the liquid fertilizer products.

"The DPW is a good granular product for roughs, bunker banks and green surrounds. I use it in the spring and fall," said Holanda. "I have been using the liquid product for several years, however. The turf tissue analysis allows you to control the nutrients in your greens. Every 14 days I take a look and see what is being over-applied or what is deficient, then I tweak the next application."

Davisson said Bio Basics is in the process of signing five distributors this year and will eventually have 15 to 20 distributors across the country.

DEVELOPING HIGH NITROGEN ORGANIC FERTILIZER
EcoOrganics is taking a similar approach to market by expanding distribution, but it has come up with a high-nitrogen organic fertilizer that it said could be used 100 percent on greens.

The EcoOrganics product line is based on soy trypicase broth, which is used in laboratories to grow bacteria.

"Tripticase broth is 90 percent isolated soy protein," said Dr. Bill Torello, vice president of marketing for EcoOrganics and an associate professor of plant and soil sciences at the University of Massachusetts. "They're not recyclable waste products, they are food- and animal-grade proteins, very safe and very clean."

"Our premier product is a 15-2-0. That's a very strong blend. There is 15 percent organic nitrogen here. It's not a bridge product. There is no soluble in it, no urea - it is 100 percent organic," added Torello.

The product has also been shown to increase microbial activity in the soil profile, releasing another form of natural fertilizer material.

The fertilizer is available as a wettable powder for spray applications and can be used as the sole source of nitrogen for greens fertilization programs. According to Torello, on-course testing has shown excellent results at application rates between 1/24 to 1/4 of a pound per 1,000 square feet.

EcoOrganics has also developed a greens-grade granular 11-2-3 product, which has the consistency of sand. It can also be used on turf, lawns, roughs and tees.

"Classically, the problem with organics is that they are low in nutrient content, particularly nitrogen," said Torello. "With the advent of this product, you can have the 100 percent organic management of greens."

ValleyCrest
Continued from page 6
been an important element in the redesign strategy and in improving the overall look and agronomy standards," said Arthur Jeffords, President of Lighthouse Golf Group, which manages the facility. "We are excited about the facility's potential as we proceed with plans to integrate the golf course amenities with those of the proposed 100-room Hawthorn Suites hotel/conference center on adjacent land."

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