

Student interns: learning on the green



Top, Gary Hillier from Catawba Valley Technical Institute in Hickory, N.C., mows. Bottom right, Lincoln (foreground) stands with William Kirby (at the wheel) and from the left, Carl Walsh, John Baniak, Michael Mooneyham and Hillier. Bottom, Lincoln and assistant superintendent Charles Hutchens watch Mooneyham cut a cup.



Student internship programs are an effective way of upgrading golf course maintenance programs, according to Harry Lincoln, golf course superintendent for the Boca Raton Hotel and Club course and the prestigious Broken Sound golf course in Boca Raton, Florida.

Maintenance of the two 18-hole courses is a year 'round program for Lincoln's staff of 50 who must keep the 235 acres in optimum playing condition seven days a week.

Lincoln, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Georgia with studies in ornamental horticulture, business and engineering, believes that the presence of student interns can benefit both student and employer.

"I participated in two student internship programs when I was in school which were invaluable to me and to my employer," notes Lincoln. "The program gave me an opportunity to use all golf course equipment and to apply all the different procedures I had learned in the classroom."

"The programs were so profitable to me and to my employers that I was determined to establish a similar program on my courses."

Lincoln's three-month student internship program, held last summer, was attended by seven students representing schools in North Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania and even one from as far as South Africa.

Unlike many new golf maintenance employees, the students required lit-

Continues on page 8



Interns from page 7

the training and supervision. They were highly motivated to work long hours in the hot South Florida summer sun, applying their classroom knowledge to their assigned tasks.

"In addition, the presence of students on the golf course was a subtle way of providing continuing education for my staff," notes Lincoln. "The students fresh out of the classroom were familiar with many of the latest technical developments in the golf maintenance field and were quite eager to share this information with my staff."

Golf course maintenance has now become a science and an important factor to consider when seeking qualified maintenance personnel, says Lincoln.

Each type of turf grass has different fertilization and irrigation requirements, explains Lincoln. Soil conditioning, plant diseases and their control, fertigation and new techniques of planting are among the technical factors to consider in maintaining a golf course. "Student interns

offer golf superintendents an effective means of imparting these new developments to the permanent maintenance staff," he says.

Students who participate in Lincoln's internship program can look forward to working on two of South Florida's most prestigious and scenic golf courses.

The 18-hole Broken Sound course was designed by noted golf course architect Joe Lee. The par 72 course, set on 140 acres, is the focal point of the Arvida Park of Commerce, an 850-acre light industrial park. Lincoln's maintenance staff, assisted this summer by the student interns, is also responsible for the landscape maintenance of the park. Membership is restricted to 350, with 100 reserved for the Park's business residents.

In designing the course, Lee was especially concerned with retaining, where practical, the approximately 3,000 maple trees on the course, probably the largest stand of maples in South Florida.

In addition, the course also features

live oak, red bay, pine, ficus, pond apple, Ilex, palms and sabal palms set on rolling, winding fairways not usually found on Florida golf courses.

The Boca Raton Hotel and Club owned and operated by Arvida Corporation provides the setting for the 18-hole Red Lawrence designed course, an especially busy facility designed for Hotel guests and club members.

A consistent award-winner as a premier resort, the Boca Raton Hotel and Club has the distinction of being the only hotel in Florida to win, in a single year, both the Five-Diamond Award from the American Automobile Association and a Mobil Travel Guide Five Star rating. The latter has been awarded to the Hotel for 14 consecutive years.

"Maintaining this course is especially challenging," notes Lincoln, "since we are catering primarily to resort guests who have a limited amount of vacation time and must use the course whenever they want. The courses must therefore be in perfect playing condition every day," he says.



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