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Education up

Management Development Seminar - Carden Park 26 April 1999

As I indicated in my column last month, BIGGA will be presenting a FREE seminar, on The Golf Course Manager as a Leader and Motivator, at Carden Park on Monday 26 April 1999. Open to all greenkeepers, the Seminar will be led by Thomas Maloney, Senior Extension Associate in Human Resources at Cornell University with Duncan McGilvray providing the Course Managers point-of-view.

Full details of the Seminar content will be sent to all delegates. The Seminar, which will take place in the Clubhouse at Carden Park, will start at 12.45 and is expected to finish by 4.30. The Seminar is limited to 50 delegates so book your place now by phoning myself or Sami on 01347 833800. Delegates should note that smart dress is required ie no jeans, trainers, tee-shirts etc.

Groundwater Regulations

Anyone who disposes of listed substances (including material which contains these substances) eg pesticides, onto land or into land should apply for an authorisation from their local Environment Agency Office if they want to continue with that disposal. Applications made before 7 April 1999 will be deemed granted until fully determined by the Agency and disposal may continue. Applications submitted on or after 7 April 1999 will need to be considered and a formal authorisation issued before any disposal can take place.

The substances to be controlled fall into two lists:

Authorisation is only required for

List 1.

These substances are the most toxic and must be prevented from entering ground water. They include pesticides, sheep dip, solvents, hydrocarbons, mercury, cadmium and cyanide.

List 2.

These substances are less dangerous but if disposed of in large amounts they could be harmful to ground water. They include some heavy metals and ammonia (which is present in sewage effluent, phosphorus and its compounds).

the disposal of substances onto or into land. Where pesticide washings are sprayed back onto crops (in accordance with the label requirements) then an authorisation is not required.

An authorisation is not required if disposal is already covered by an existing waste management licence.

After March 1999, it will be illegal to dispose of any listed substance, to land, without authorisation.

For further information on the Groundwater Regulations, in England and Wales telephone 0645 333111 and you will be connected to your local Environment Agency Office. In Scotland contact the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on 0131 4497296.

TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition

Nominations for the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition are pouring in to BIGGA HOUSE and entry forms are being sent to all those nominated. Remember, that all entries must be returned by 28 May 99. Please note: This competition is restricted to mainland Great Britain only.

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Ken Richardson gives an update on forthcoming educational activities

date

TORO Student of the Year Competition

The deadline is fast approaching for entries to this year's Student of the Year Competition. Have you been asked to enter? Is your college/training provider submitting an entry? This could be your chance to become the Student of the Year, win the TORO Scholarship and visit the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans.

Computer Training

I have had many requests for information on computer training over the past few months. All Section Secretaries have been asked to coordinate their Section requirements and let me know numbers and locations where we can arrange section based courses.

Contact your Section Secretary if you want to learn about computers and computing. Watch this column for more details.

The Learning Experience 2000

Planning for the Learning Experience 2000 in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products is well under way and the outline plan for the National Education Conference, Workshops and Seminar Programme is taking shape. There is, however, chance for you to have a say on who you would like to hear, what subjects you would like included and what entertainment you would like to see at the Banquet.

If you have any suggestions then please contact Sami or me at HQ.

The Millennium Bug

Do you own a computer? Do you use a computer at work? Do you have a computer managed irrigation system? Do you have any equipment that contains embedded processors?

If the answer to any or all of the above questions is yes then you could be affected by the Millennium Bug.

Most people have heard of the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem but do not appreciate how it could affect electronic equipment. The problem is all to do with how computers and embedded processors store dates. Since the 'birth' of microcomputers, most computers have stored the year in two digits eg 10/03/99. This was done for two main reasons. Firstly, storing two digits instead of four saves on storage space and, secondly, no one really thought about what was going to happen when the two digits changed to 00. The Millennium is approaching fast and you need to check if the BUG could affect you. Watch out for more details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

My apologies to Wessex Software for misspelling the name of their course management software in the 'Second Byte' article in the February edition of Greenkeeper International. The correct spelling is QQUEST Maintenance Management Software.



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