

BRIEFS



HONORS DONORS

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — The Honors Course has given \$5,000 toward the new pesticide-exposure study being sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The study will examine deaths among superintendents over the past 23 years to determine if there have been any unusually high rates of cancer or other diseases that could be linked to pesticide exposure.

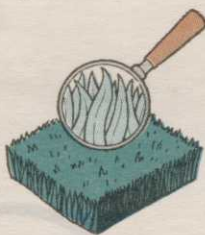
HIERS MOVES ON

NAPLES, Fla. — Tim Hiers, CGCS, superintendent at John's Island West Inc. in Vero Beach for eight years, has assumed the position of superintendent at Collier's Reserve, a facility under construction here. Before working at the 54-hole Johns Island West, Hiers was at 36-hole Quail Ridge in Boynton Beach for four years and Suntree in Melbourne for five years. He is a 1976 graduate of Lake City Community College. Collier's Reserve is being designed by Art Hills and built by Central Florida Turf.



NTEP FIELD DAY SCHEDULED

BELTSVILLE, Md. — The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) will conduct a turfgrass research field day at its research plots at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West on Aug. 5. The 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. program will include discussion and display of NTEP tests on Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, fineleaf fescue, bentgrass, Bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass, and zoysiagrass/cool-season grass mixtures. Experts will also speak wear tolerance; endophyte-enhanced grasses; low maintenance performance of tall fescue; Kentucky bluegrass and zoysiagrass; growth rates and management of tall fescue cultivars; organic fertilizer use on turfgrass; and other turfgrass topics.



ELM TREES AVAILABLE

HARRISVILLE, N.H. — Golf course superintendents may tap into the Elm Research Institute's Liberty elm program by contacting the institute here. Superintendents nationwide may call 800-FOR-ELMS, according to Assistant Director Yvonne Spalthoff. Participants buy 100 or more one- to two-foot saplings.

Death stalks the forests and fairways of U.S.

By MARK LESLIE

You look out in the forests, and it's devastating," Winged Foot Golf Club superintendent Bob Alonzi lamented after he lost his famous American elm tree to disease this winter. America's golf courses — indeed, its forests — are under attack by diseases for which scientists nationwide are trying to discover cures and treatments.

The "ash yellows" disease is killing white and green ash from

Nova Scotia, Canada, to the Missouri River Valley. The dogwood anthracnose fungus has destroyed an estimated half of all the dogwoods in Pennsylvania and affected 9.5 million acres, primarily in the Appalachian Mountains from Virginia southward. And Dutch elm disease has made the United States a graveyard of American elm trees.

These are the stories of the dogwood and ash trees, and the battle being waged in laboratories and in forests to save them.

Fungus ravages nation's dogwood

"The carnage is unbelievable," Virginia Tech's Dr. R. Jay Stipes said of dogwood anthracnose fungus, which has ravaged populations of the native American flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*.

Stipes called the fungus vicious and voracious, adding that when it strikes, it causes lesions and large brown spots with purple borders on the leaves. It then spreads to branches and trunks, causing cankers and eventually killing the tree.

It is more prevalent at high elevations — areas where high disease pressure and conducive conditions are the highest. Dogwood trees are dying by the millions in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, said Stipes, a plant pathologist at the Blacksburg, Va., campus.

"It's our third Trojan horse," he added, eluding to the fact that, like Dutch elm disease and chestnut blight, dogwood anthracnose came to America on imported trees — in this case, the Oriental dogwood, *Cornus kousa*.

"The dogwoods are about half dead in Pennsylvania," said Stipes.

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Dogwood anthracnose causes major, and obvious, growth problems to dogwood trees, starting on the leaves and spreading to branches and trunks.

Photo courtesy of Dr. R. Jay Stipes

Yellows disease destroys ash trees

Dr. Wayne Sinclair, Cornell University professor of plant pathology, said ash yellows has probably been around for 40 years, although the kind of organism that causes it was unknown as a group of plant pathogens until 1967.

"We only recently learned about diseases in that group because we haven't had that much time," he said. "Also, the symptoms of ash yellows are often subtle and, in most affected trees, not expressed well enough for diagnosis in the field."

"Very few people can recognize the disease. Diagnostic procedures involving laboratory work are usually necessary."

If an ash tree shows "die-back" of branches, there is some chance ash yellows is involved, Sinclair said. "In the Northeast, there is a good chance of that."

White ash grows from Nova Scotia to the Great Lakes and south to Kentucky. Green ash has a much wider range: throughout the Eastern half of the United States and Eastern Canada. It is one of the major forest species in the inland portion of the Mississippi River delta.

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Tour of Duty

MARK ESODA
Atlanta Country Club
Marietta, Ga.
PGA's BellSouth Classic
May 6-9, CBS



Esoda, 34, is in his fourth year at Atlanta CC. Previously the University of Georgia alum spent time at several Peach State layouts, including Dunwoody Country Club, Hidden Hills CC in Stone Mountain and Ansley Golf Club in Atlanta. Ansley is a nine-hole city course that underwent extensive renovation during Esoda's tenure.

Things to look for: No major renovations on the course proper have taken place in the past year. Esoda's crew has concentrated on the periphery — mulching and landscaping back in the tree line. "Everyone should notice what a wet year we've had," Esoda said. Last year saw precipitation levels 17 inches above normal. Standing water has resulted in shorter root growth

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DOUG FISHER
TPC at Las Colinas
Irving, Texas
GTE Byron Nelson Classic
May 13-16, ABC

Fisher, 30, started his college career as a forestry major. But a freshman internship at Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock, Colo., under the tutelage of then-superintendent Phil Wycoff, convinced Fisher his future was in turf rather than trees. Since graduating with a four-year degree in landscape horticulture from Colorado State University, Fisher has worked as assistant superintendent at Castle Pines, Green Hills CC in Millbrae, Calif., and The Pinery CC in Parker, Colo. He came to Las Colinas two years ago as construction coordinator and is now in charge of the TPC course.

Things to look for: Water features are the main additions, Fisher said. A drainage ditch has been transformed into a waterfall



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TIM LONG
Barton Creek Country Club
Austin, Texas
Srs. Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf
May 3-9, ABC



Long, 34, oversees all 54 holes at Barton Creek. The tournament will be played over the Tom Fazio layout with the Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw course available next door and the Arnold Palmer track 20 miles down the road. Long came to Barton Creek eight years ago after stints at La Quinta Hotel Golf & Tennis Resort in Palm Springs, Calif., and Mission CC in Odessa, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy specializing in turfgrass management.

Things to look for: The 2nd, 8th and 13th greens have been nearly doubled in size to approximately 7,000 square feet apiece. Several tees have also been enlarged. Water is the focus on the Fazio

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Tour of Duty

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Long

layout where the blue liquid comes into play on 12 holes. The 9th and 16th are particularly picturesque, with the 9th having been captured in watercolor and released by the New York Audubon Society as an example of how golf courses can complement the environment. Barton Creek received a National Environmental Stewardship Award.

Made-for-TV preparations: Aside from some additional striping, "there aren't many details we do for the tournament that we don't do for regular play," Long noted. Long normally overseeds the hybrid Bermudagrass fairways and roughs with ryegrass, but didn't do so this year. "Things are already pretty well greened up," he said in early April. The past two years have been among the four wettest ever recorded. "It's made weed control more critical, but it really hasn't impacted the course," he said.

Fisher

and lake that fronts the 17th green with an exiting stream that laps the edges of the 3rd green. New tees have been added at the two holes. Other renovations include a 4,000-square-foot expansion of the 5th green, additional spectator mounds and 300 new trees. A 15-inch diameter red oak planted on the corner of the 18th fairway turned the easily cuttable dogleg into a truly difficult finishing hole.

Made-for-TV preparations: To maximize color for the cameras, approximately 1,000 mums will be planted in tee boxes on the 11th, 13th, 14th and 17th holes, Fisher said. Directional fairway mowing will highlight course contours while cross-cutting landing areas will yield the tightest, firmest lies possible. Greens rollers are being used for the first time to increase putting speeds. Fisher estimates Stimpmeter readings will be in the 10 to 10.5 range, compared to 9.5 last year.

Esoda

and some disease, particularly spring dead spot and cool-weather brown patch on the greens. "The only thing we're not prepared for is good weather," Esoda joked.

Made-for-TV preparations: Getting the dormant Bermudagrass green in time for the television cameras will be the major challenge, Esoda said. Iron, water soluble fertilizers and paint will be applied in occasionally generous proportions to achieve the desired color. The green complexes around the bentgrass putting surfaces on 11 and 13 have seen heavy traffic and require particular attention, he noted.

MAINTENANCE

Growing Georgia GCSA expands scope of programs

To meet the demands of growing membership, the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association has expanded its programs.

In addition to the two Spray Technician Seminars, held Feb. 15 and 22, a third is now set for June 28 at The Landings in Savannah.

Also new are two golf course construction tours — Maple Ridge Golf Club in Columbus, on May 3, and Oak Grove Island Golf Club in Brunswick on May 10. Both tours are sponsored by Mike Young Designs.

Add to the list the May 25 Member/Guest Golf Tournament at the Standard Club in

Duluth, Ga.; the GGCSA Superintendent/Ladies Golf Outing on June 14 at St. Ives Country Club, Duluth; and a golf outing at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Ga.

The GGCSA Summer Conference arrives Aug. 1-3, at the Augusta Raddison Hotel. Sunday night will find members touring the new golf course maintenance building at Augusta National Golf Club, in addition to treating their palate at a buffet barbecue afterward.

Monday, Aug. 2, features education, golf at West Lake Country Club and an evening

riverboat cruise with a prime rib dinner. Tuesday brings the conference to a close with educational speakers.

Oct. 4 brings the Superintendent/Vendor Tournament at Great Waters in Greensboro, with the GGCSA Annual Meeting Nov. 7-9, at Kiawah Island Resort in South Carolina. Golf will be held Sunday and Monday, with elections and education on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 8 and 9.

For further information on these and other events, or for membership information, contact Karen White, executive director, at 706-769-4076.

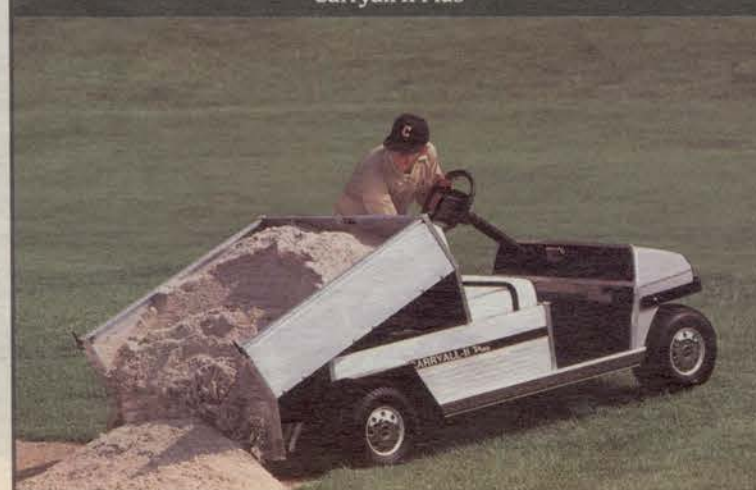
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*As reported by the Center for Golf Course Management, a subsidiary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

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