

BRIEFS



HAHN, ARCHITECTS TO TALK

DELHI, N.Y. — Oak Hill Country Club superintendent Joe Hahn and golf course architects Geoffrey Cornish and Craig Schreiner will speak at a Golf Course

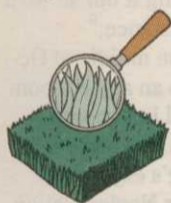


Joe Hahn

Design/Construction Seminar at State University of New York - Delhi, Aug. 16. Sponsored by the New York State Turfgrass Association in cooperation with area golf course superintendents organizations, the seminar will be highlighted by dedication of the completed turfgrass education building at SUNY Delhi. Hahn will speak on regrassing the old greens at Oak Hill, while Cornish will discuss contemporary design trends and Schreiner will talk on design and the environment.

NEW YORK TURF EXPO READIED

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Former NFL referee Dr. Jim Tunney, who works with many Fortune 500 companies teaching skills needed to take a team to the next level, will deliver the keynote address at the New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) annual



Turf and Grounds Exposition here, Nov. 8-11. A 300-booth trade show will be held Nov. 9-10. More information is available from NYSTA at P.O. Box 612, Latham, N.Y.; telephone 518-783-1229.

RICKERT MOVES ON TO N.J.

MEDFORD, N.J. — Bruce Rickert has left the City of Brotherly Love for Medford, where he is head superintendent at Medford Village Country Club. He had been superintendent at Torresdale-Frankford Country Club, and before that was assistant superintendent at Huntington Valley Country Club.

STATE AGENCY HONORS FABRIZIO

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The Department of Health and Environmental Control has named Michael K. Fabrizio, superintendent at Wild Dunes Resort, one of the first recipients of its Clean Water Award. The award, given to 14 people statewide, recognizes Fabrizio's commitment to water quality protection here. He has been an active member in the state Nonpoint Source (NPS) Water Pollution Program. He was also awarded a certificate of appreciation for his volunteer service to the East Cooper NPS Project.



Michael Fabrizio

Winter simply kills Southeastern courses

By MARK LESLIE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Golf course superintendents are taking different tacks in bringing their courses back to life after a devastating winter kill crippled or killed their Bermudagrass. Their options: sod/sprig Bermudagrass or replace their stands with zoysiagrass.

Most courses are not expected to fully recover until August or September.

"It's pretty major," said Patrick O'Brien, director of the Southeast Region of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. "Tennessee was probably the hardest hit area, along with the western Carolinas and Kentucky. Atlanta was hit pretty hard. I was at Nags Head, N.C., right on the Atlantic where temperatures are usually moderate, and it was devastated."

The major culprit was a fateful, three-day period in mid-January. Superintendent Jerry Lemons of Old Hickory Country Club in Hermitage said that on Jan. 11 it was 59 degrees. "We had two



'Anyone who had poor drainage and cut their Bermudagrass at tee height lost it.'

— Jerry Lemons

inches of rain, and in 24 hours it was minus-2 degrees. It stayed that way for 72 hours. That knocked it [Bermudagrass] out — killed it. Anyone who had poor drainage and cut their Bermudagrass at tee height lost it."

It remained cold for almost two weeks. Then, many areas endured an ice storm Jan. 17. That blanket of ice stayed on the ground for four or five days, driving the cold deep into the soil and

Continued on page 23

THE OLD WORLD VISITS THE NEW

The Americanization of Patrick O'Fee

By ALEXA AINSWORTH

WELCHES, Ore. — Irishman Patrick O'Fee has discovered that, in America, golf is more than a way of life — it is a business. That's why he's here, apprenticing under Superintendent Tony Lasher at The Resort at the Mountain.

A native of Bangor, Northern Ireland, O'Fee is working here as part of an exchange through Experience International. A 31-year-old turf management graduate from his native Greenmount College, he came to America looking for experience in pesticide use, and was surprised by the active golf industry.

"There is a lot more money in the golf course industry here than there is at home. It is a business!" said O'Fee. "At home they are a lot more reticent to invest — more conservative."

O'Fee has grasped the idea of an American "golf industry," with its course-per-day development mentality and for-profit management style. According to O'Fee, the golf industry in Ireland is about to boom. Northern Irish farmers are converting their land, he said, as the population of approximately 1.5 million proposes building 40 golf courses over the next five years.

The golf industry has a large future in the Emerald Isle and O'Fee wants to be prepared for it.



Patrick O'Fee, left, of Bangor, Northern Ireland, with American host Tony Lasher at The Resort at the Mountain.

"Americans are much further ahead in turf management techniques and treat it much more scientifically than we do in Ireland," said O'Fee. "Americans are professional in everything from machinery maintenance to man management."

People here show a greater willingness to invest in equip-

Continued on page 21

GCSAA continues metamorphosis

By HAL PHILLIPS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The legacy of Arthur Andersen lives on.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has continued its restructuring effort with the creation of three new departments here at association headquarters: Chapter Relations, Technical Information Services and Career Development.

These new departments reflect the impact of last year's Arthur Andersen study, which thoroughly evaluated the business and outreach systems at GCSAA. The study's recommendations have sent shock waves



Steve Mona

Continued on page 21

State gives bucks to boost Clemson research

By MARK LESLIE

CLEMSON, S.C. — Recognizing the turf industry ignites South Carolina's economy, the state Legislature has allocated \$530,000 a year to help expand Clemson University's turfgrass program.

"It's exciting to get new money in this kind of economy," said Dr. John Kelly, chairman of the Horticulture Department, adding that another \$379,000 was approved for the state university's ornamental horticulture program. "All across the country, university budgets have been cut. The Legislature was sending a clear message: When it comes to economic development-type activity, turf is a huge trigger in South Carolina."

A recent survey found the turfgrass/golf course industry is worth about \$640 million a year to the South Carolina economy. The state sports 339 golf courses.

Recognizing the significance of environmental stewardship to the turf industry, Kelly said, "Our intent in getting the funding was to address environmental problems faced by that industry and to expand the programming around solving those

'The Legislature was sending a clear message: When it comes to economic development-type activity, turf is a huge trigger in South Carolina.'

— Dr. John Kelly

problems through research and public service, or Extension programs."

The South Carolina Turfgrass Foundation, primarily composed of superintendents, was a key player in lobbying for the funds.

Clemson had asked for \$913,000, and the House and Senate had agreed upon \$780,000 until a major waste site clean-up forced across-the-board cuts.

Officials are rethinking the plan based on \$913,000, and Kelly said, "Still, we will be able to do quite a bit." The university is committed to not tying all the money up in salaries, he said.

A portion "will remain in program enhancement so the existing faculty will have

Continued on page 21