

BRIEFS



WOOD REIGNS IN SOUTH TEXAS

Michael Wood of South Shore Harbour CC in League City has been elected president of South Texas GCSA. Vice president is Don Cole of Greatwood Golf Club in Sugarland, and secretary/treasurer is Mike Burriss of Bay Oaks CC in Clear Lake. Newly elected directors are Randy Broyles of Westwood CC in Houston, Mike Link of The Woodlands in Conroe, Ric Kehres of River Oaks CC in Houston and affiliate representative Bill Wade, representing Goldwaithe's of Texas in Houston.

MULLEN IOWA'S PRESIDENT

DES MOINES, IOWA — Ron Mullen, superintendent at Crow Valley Country Club in Bettendorf, is the new president of the Iowa GCSA. He was elected at the 60th annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference, at which Larry Hill of Indianola CC was named Superintendent of the Year. Dan Smith of Carroll Municipal GC and former IGCSA Executive Secretary Sherry Tegtmeier were presented Distinguished Service Awards, while Dennis Jones of Waverly GC was named top assistant superintendent.

LAKE PROTECTION IN KANSAS

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Office of Science and Support has produced two brochures concerning lake protection in Kansas. Available to the public, the brochures address the needs of people interested in water resources, lake association members and local entities that are near lakes. They are available from Cathy Kinder at 913-296-5565.

YEAR OF THE ELM

HARRISVILLE, N.H. — The Elm Research Institute has declared 1994 The Year of the American Liberty Elm and is promoting Johnny Elmseed, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Adopt-a-Street and municipal membership programs. The ERI hopes to have 1 million American Liberty elms planted by the year 2000. Superintendents interested in obtaining this disease-resistant elm may contact the ERI in Harrisville; telephone 603-827-3048.

BAZAN EARNS SCHOLARSHIP

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Scott Thomas Bazan, a student at The Ohio State University here, has been awarded Best Sand Corp.'s annual turfgrass management scholarship, which covers a year's tuition and book costs. Bazan, who hails from Medina, Ohio, has worked on the crew at Fairlawn Country Club in Akron and intends to pursue a career as a golf course superintendent. He was honored at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation luncheon.



Scott Thomas Bazan

First and Foremost

Collier's breaks new ground with Audubon

By MARK LESLIE

NORTH NAPLES, Fla. — Collier's Reserve Country Club has become the first Audubon Signature Sanctuary in the country, setting the pace for this offshoot of the New York Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Program.

To qualify for the Signature Sanctuary designation, a development must get the Audubon involved before construction. Developers sign a contract, agreeing to adopt environmental guidelines for construction and to adhere to certain standards afterward, such as minimums for water and electricity use, garbage, and impact on the site's ecology.

While another seven projects are under construction under the Signature Sanctuary program, Collier's superintendent Tim Hiers said: "It's a little scary being first. Everybody will see what we've done, so they have a launching pad. And, because we're first, we're going to be watched closely by superintendents, developers, Ron [Dodson, president of New York Audubon], and other environmentalists who will be looking for holes in the program."

Saying that six of the 50 to 60 developers that have inquired about the program have joined, Dodson expects that "getting one or two open will increase the amount of participation."

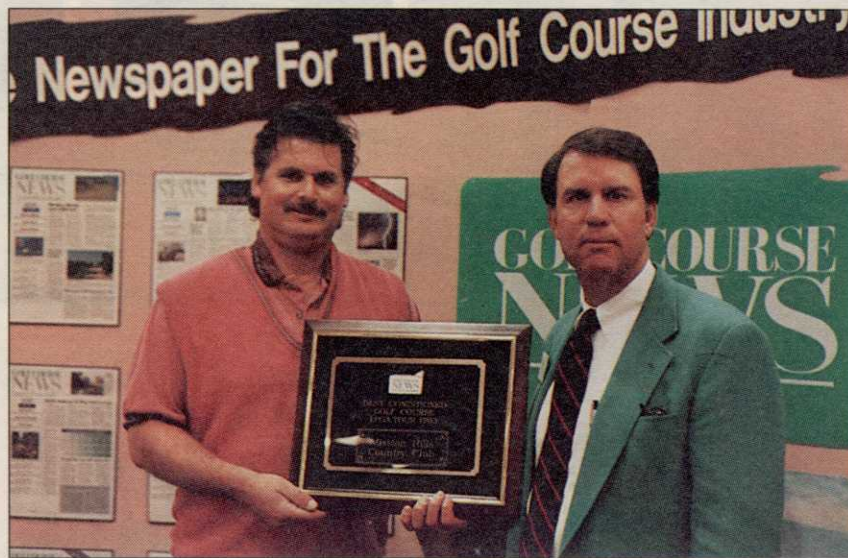
In various stages of development under the Signature Sanctuary program are Summerfield in Stuart, Fla.; Greens-of-Potnets in Delaware; Boulder Ridge in San Jose, Calif.; Ocean Trails in Los Angeles; Pine Ridge in Baltimore; Granite Bay near Sacramento, Calif.; and Grand Island Golf Club near Albany, Ga.

"People are concerned we are going to dictate architecture or

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The Arthur Hills-designed Collier's Reserve Country Club set the pace for the New York Audubon's Signature Sanctuary program.



ON TOP OF THE JOB

Golf Course News publisher Charles von Brecht, right, presents Mission Hills Country Club Director of Maintenance David Johnson the award for Best Maintained Course on the LPGA Tour. Tour players overwhelmingly chose Mission Hills for the honor in balloting conducted by GCN.

TGIF proves it can make it on its own

By MARK LESLIE

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Turfgrass Information Foundation (TGIF) membership has doubled and participation has grown 30 percent since the mandate for its self-sufficiency was handed down last winter by the U.S. Golf Association Green Section.

"I'm very, very optimistic. These are the right kinds of numbers. That's the kind of response and interest we needed from the industry," said Peter Cookingham, director of the Turfgrass Information Center, based here at Michigan State University. The USGA had underwritten the costs since the start-up of TGIF, the world's largest turfgrass-related library.

Now, Cookingham said, "It's a matter of sustaining that momentum, and of delivering

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Gold Rush of golf: Getting the good students

By MARK LESLIE

There's a gold rush going on in the golf industry — and the gold is good turfgrass students to intern at courses. Living conditions, pay, and even job duties are being upgraded nationwide as superintendents position their golf courses to attract the best students available.

Superintendents anxious to get turf-wise employees are eyeing improved housing, in particular.

"It's [new housing] happening, and more and more people are thinking about it," said Bob Brame, agronomist with the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Section. "If you're looking at getting students from any distance, you almost have to have housing."

"To get good employees, especially

college students, on a golf course is pretty tough nowadays," said Dr. Michael Kenna, director of research for the Green Section. "Turf students are required to do an internship. But they try to find a job where they won't go broke paying for housing and be left with no money to pay next fall's college bills."

Of the facilities that offer housing to employees, Greenwich (Conn.) Country Club boasts the Mother of All Dormitories — a new two-story structure able to host 45 at one time.

While one in 10 clubs in his Ritzly Fairfield County has some facilities for staff, Greenwich superintendent Greg said: "We've taken it to a different level."

The \$1.1 million building, completed in October 1992, "absolutely has helped

attract people. We use it as a selling tool," he said.

Wojick's houses three interns in his building, which consists of suites that have two rooms and a full bath, and another set of dorm-type rooms with community baths. Others on his crew live elsewhere on the property.

While Greenwich Country Club might have the ultimate facility, others have taken the housing plunge, too, and seriously.

His apartment complex "simplifies the whole process," said Bruce Cadenelli, superintendent at Caves Valley Golf Course in Finksburg, Md.

Cadenelli typically sends letters to a half dozen turfgrass programs from Nov. 15-Dec. 15, and "by Christmas-time I'm

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Collier's Reserve the pacesetter in N.Y. Audubon's Signature Program

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The New York Audubon may be the only organization in the world working with developers in sustainability programs, while other groups stop with printed material. Compared to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, this program costs a lot more up front, but the payback is certain, Hiers said. "It easily cost us \$200,000. But before people get intimidated by that, it will cost a lot less to maintain," he said. "You use less water, electricity, fertilizer, pesticides. It's a more maintainable golf course. Payback for us will be about four years."



Tim Hiers

'It easily cost us \$200,000. But before people get intimidated by that, it will cost a lot less to maintain.'

— Tim Hiers

conditioners can run lower; using air conditioners with a higher energy efficiency rating; installing water-saving faucets; and recycling aluminum, green glass, brown glass and paper.

"Instead of cutting down a tree and burying it, you leave it standing as a snag for eagles and ospreys, hawks and owls, woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers," Hiers said. "Your whole focus is totally different. But the amazing part of this is, it actually makes the golf course look better and it's less expensive. It's better for the habitat and for the animals and birds."

Native vegetation replaced grass in certain areas of the Art Hills-designed track, he said.

And while it costs more to plant, after the first six months of keeping the weeds out, the natives use no water, electricity, fertilizer, pesticides, or labor.

"That is forever," Hiers said. "The most expensive thing to maintain on a golf course is what you have to care for by hand — with Flymos, weed eaters and other small specialty equipment. Those are also the most expensive pieces of equipment to maintain and the most dangerous to operate."

"What we've done is not necessarily all new. The top superintendents have been doing them for 20 years. But we've taken points A, B, C, D, E and F and put them all together in one package."

Hiers plans to set up an environmental educational center for visitors, nature trails for guided tours for schoolchildren, water conservation booklets for the club's 228 homeowners, and slide shows on the club's environment for its members.

Hiers, who came from ecology-friendly John's Island West in Vero Beach, said part of his motivation for joining the Signature program was to prove that golf courses are not environmental villains.

Dodson's office is located at 46 Rarick Road, Selkirk, N.Y. 12158; telephone 518-767-9051.

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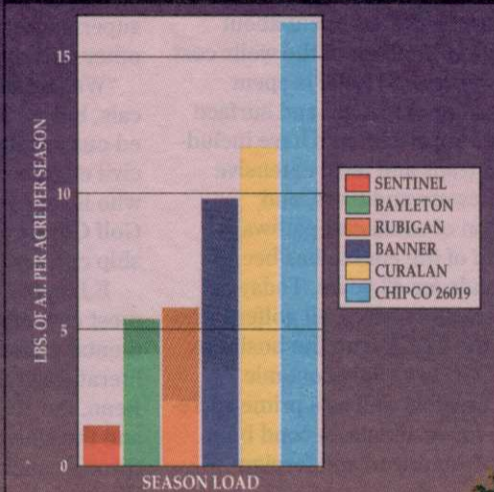


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Penn State

Continued from previous page improved the project. "Part of the interesting thing was to watch these teams work together and watch the leadership develop," says Stearns. "We saw lots of cooperation as well as lots of friendly competition. There was this overall determination within the class that the job had to be done right."

Help also originated from outside the campus. A stone mason volunteered time with the students, and Rushe said, "Various contractors in the area lent them hand tools — a great gesture."