

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 Goldwaithes' 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."

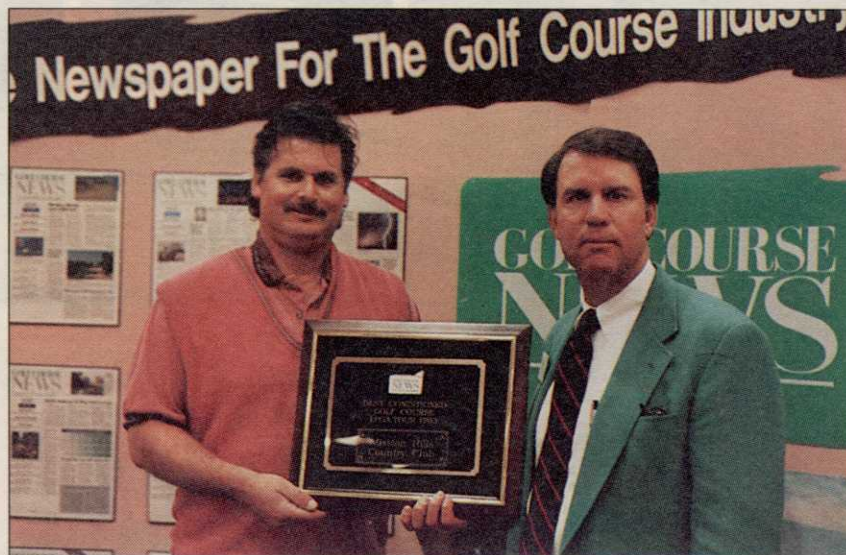
In various stages of development under the Signature Sanctuary program are Summerfield in Stuart, Fla.; Greens-of-Potnets in Delaware; Boulder Ridge in San Jose, Calif.; Ocean Trails in Los Angeles; Pine Ridge in Baltimore; Granite Bay near Sacramento, Calif.; and Grand Island Golf Club near Albany,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

"People are concerned we are going to dictate architecture or

Continued on page 19



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

Continued on page 17

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

Continued on page 21

Passing grade on TGIF report card

Continued from page 15

on some things we've wanted to but haven't done yet."

First among the new services, he said, will be a printed index — by author and subject — of all the information in TGIF. Cookingham hopes to publish it every six months, beginning at mid-year.

A major improvement was the addition in December of Internet, which Cookingham called "the mother of all computer networks."

An international network which

grew from origins within the U.S. Defense Department, Internet now has life of its own in defense, research and development, universities, national research laboratories and foreign governments.

"The benefit will show quickly for universities and overseas users [of TGIF] — the universities because most of them have access to Internet through their campus networks; the international users for whom telephones tend to be problematic sometimes because of

good and bad connections," Cookingham said.

"For the average superintendent, Internet provides another way to get in [access TGIF]. Long-distance carriers provide access to Internet. Most public network systems, like Progeny and America On-line, have indicated they intend to provide a gateway to Internet for those services."

Students at TGIF-member universities now can access TGIF without paying for log-on time or telephone connections.

Danny Quast, superintendent at Medinah (Ill.) Country Club and

chairman of TGIF's external advisory council, said: "We will serve a lot of purposes over the years, but the most important could be making it available to turfgrass students."

Quast sees "endless possibilities" to the uses for TGIF. "The flexibility is there," he said. "MCI thinks it's worth billions for the 'super-highway' and Internet is it right now. I'd like to see it expand so manufacturers could contribute information on equipment but not advertising."

"It can also be personalized for organizations like Responsible

Industry for a Sound Environment and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America."

In fact, a proposal on TGIF went before GCSAA board in Dallas.

"Things are falling into place very nicely. I'm enthused about it," Quast said.

"I think anybody in society should see how important communications is to any business. This is in place and represents big investment by the USGA, and it's there for everybody. That's why I've worked so hard on it. I think it will grow and grow and be a useful service. We just have to iron out the lumps."

Coffman book A must-read

By MARK LESLIE

CHICAGO — Dr. Michael S. Coffman, who educated a few with his first book, *Environmentalism!*, should reach a nationwide audience with *Saviors of the Earth?*

Released in January by Northfield Publishing of Chicago, *Saviors of the Earth?* strikes a powerful chord against extremist views that have been so often repeated that much of America believes them:

The apocalyptic cry has rallied environmentalist forces on such issues of acid rain, global warming, destruction of the ozone.

Coffman says that while the environmental movement calls for increased public support, million-dollar programs, and tighter government regulations, its real goals are not solutions but total restructuring of democracy to fall in line with the environmentalist doctrine. This doctrine is based on a biocentric world view where nature-is-god and human rights are made subservient to Mother Earth.

From the poorly informed Vice President Al Gore to ultra-environmentalists like Earth First! who proclaim humans are a cancer, Coffman strips off the veneer and lays the lies naked.

It's shocking what the government can accomplish when just a handful of these folks are put into high public office. Like Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Assistant Secretary George Frampton, who are, respectively, former chairman of the League of Conservation Voters and past president of the Wilderness Society.

There is much, much more in this fascinating "must reading" for those in the golf industry.

Coffman, who taught forest ecology and forest community dynamics for 10 years at Michigan Technological University, is now president of Environmental Perspectives, Inc., in Bangor, Maine, and speaks his message around the country.

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Saviors of the Earth?, \$11.99, 336 pages, paperback, available from Northfield Publishing, 215 W. Locust St., Chicago, Ill. 60610; telephone 800-678-8001.



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