

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."

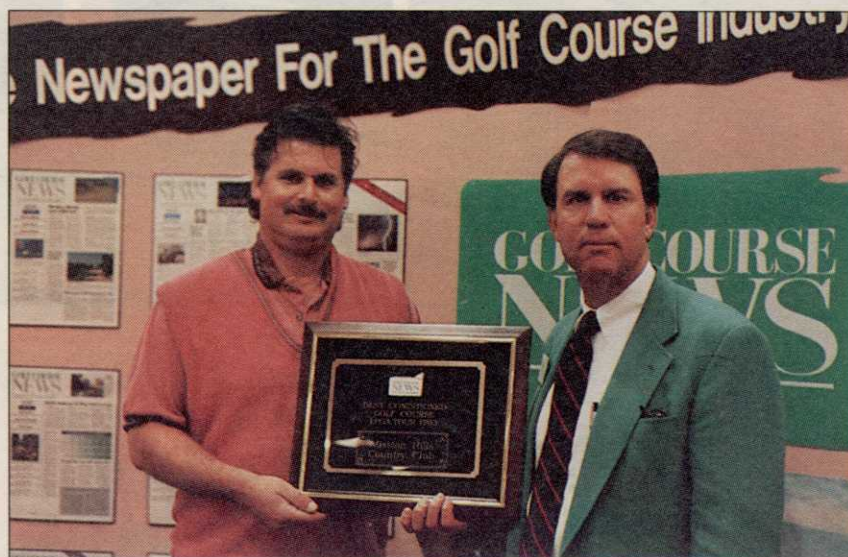
In various stages of development under the Signature Sanctuary program are Summerfield in Stuart, Fla.; Greens-of-Potnets in Delaware; Boulder Ridge in San Jose, Calif.; Ocean Trails in Los Angeles; Pine Ridge in Baltimore; Granite Bay near Sacramento, Calif.; and Grand Island Golf Club near Albany,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

"People are concerned we are going to dictate architecture or

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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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Internships a win-win situation for courses, students

By MARK LESLIE

As turfgrass management becomes more technical and specialized, golf course superintendents are finding it increasingly important to have more knowledgeable crew members. And so they are pursuing agronomy students, offering positions on their crews in a win-win situation — the student intern gains experience and the superintendent gets a knowledgeable employee.

"Having a dependable core of folks who are going to understand more in-depth what turf maintenance is about, and what golfers want, is an asset," said Bob Brame, agronomist with the U.S. Golf Association's Mid-Atlantic Section.

Saying that most of his interns from "top-notch programs like Michigan, Iowa and Ohio State," Medinah (Ill.) Country Club superintendent Danny Quast said: "They already have four or five years working on a golf course. All the basic training has been done. Plus they come with a great attitude and they're excited about the job, conscientious, educated and experienced. That's a perfect formulation."

"We not only have the facilities to house people, which I think is key. We're making internships very valued positions instead of learn-as-you-go," said Greenwich (Conn.) Country Club superintendent Greg Wojick. "We're looking for the top one percent of students, enticing them with top pay, living quarters, bonus potential and responsibilities that are not typical for an intern."

Those responsibilities include pest monitoring and scouting, chemical applications, and manhour recordkeeping, inventory control, a full range of technical training, irrigation scheduling and other administrative duties.

"In the past, a lot of courses have thrown students out into low-level jobs and had them bite off as much as they could chew," Wojick said.

"We're giving them a lot of responsibility in the maintenance facility and then, when



Apartments in Greenwich (Conn.) Country Club's housing unit would rent for \$1,200 a month, says superintendent Greg Wojick.

appropriate, putting them out in the field," he said.

Having turfgrass students is "certainly an important improvement," said Bruce Cadenelli, superintendent at Caves Valley Golf Course in Finksburg, Md. "You have another pair of trained eyes — someone who is more enthusiastic and energetic."

"It's been difficult getting good people. I think when we do, it is in a small way,

paying back the profession, and it's win-win. The club gets good people to work and it's an opportunity for them to learn," he added.

"I've been in the business 30 years and seeing my interns go out and be a success is the most rewarding part of it," Quast said, adding that he has hired a number of them as superintendents at his three courses.

Attracting best interns: Major investment, big rewards

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filling up [job openings]."

One of Caves Valley's five maintenance buildings is a 1,200-square-foot structure. It contains a one-bedroom apartment for an assistant superintendent, and two college-style dorm rooms that share a livingroom and bath. A washer/dryer room is also included.

"The rooms are not luxurious but certainly adequate for the four-to-six-month period they [students] will be with us," Cadenelli said.

For the 1994 season Caves Valley has attracted one student each from the universities of Massachusetts and

Maryland, Penn State, Michigan State.

"It's not the Ritz," said Danny Quast of his dormitory at Medinah (Ill.) Country Club, "but it serves its purpose."

His 11 rooms include two set aside for interns, each room with two beds. Employees are served three meals a day seven days a week at the clubhouse dining room.

To keep up with the Greenwich Country Clubs, Caves Valleys and Medinachs, other courses must first find the cash. But, as the USGA's Brame put it: "The kick has been making the initial investment. Even if a course can rationalize building a facility, it still has to come up with the money."

Turf students garner GCSAA scholarships

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Joseph Livingston of Elk Point, S.D., an Iowa State University junior majoring in turfgrass management, received the Chester A. Mendenhall Award as the outstanding student in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) 1993 scholarship competition.

The award honors the late charter member of GCSAA.

Scholars are selected on the basis of academic excellence and potential to become leading professionals in golf course management and related fields.

Robert G. Marshall of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, a senior at Michigan State majoring in turfgrass management, received the Ambassador Award as the outstanding student from outside the United States.

Other winners and the schools they are attending are Michigan State University students Matthew J. Ashton of Lake Orion, Mich., and Mark Krick of Brighton, Mich.; Colorado State University students Jason Aerni of Roundup, Mont., and David L. Calder of Bemidji, Minn.; Penn State University students Stephen P. Edkin of Lebanon, Pa., Edward W. Gross of State College, Pa., and Gary L. Heath of King City, Mo.; North Carolina State University student Chris Hartwiger of Raleigh, N.C.; and University of Nebraska student Troy J. Merkel of Omaha, Neb.

Family pulls together

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small landing areas add to the course's appearance and playability, said Bobby. "It did and does cost a little more money to function and meet regulations," Bobby said. "But it's better than getting a \$1,500 to \$10,000 fine for not complying."

To cover expenses, the Bechdolts raised greens fees to \$32 and spent profits. They hope to replace their 40-year-old clubhouse, consolidate the maintenance yard into it, and repave driveway and parking areas. Within the next 10 years, they plan to add more of the easily cleanable, black fiberglass concrete paths. All will require environmental permits.

For now, however, the Bechdolts are battling with a bi-state environmental agency and the county over a proposed community plan for the town and a storm drainage project. Aspects of the community plan might require dangerously narrowing the course and relocation of a green. The county is seeking easements on the course which would temporarily shut down two fairways and move a hole during excavation of an 18 to 20-foot ditch.

"We would like to see something done, but it will all be tied up in litigation," E.J. said. "Most frustrating is ignorance ... political answers that aren't cost effective."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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