

BRIEFS



MINDS MEET ON IPM

MARLBOROUGH, Mass. — "A Meeting of the Minds" is the title of an urban/suburban integrated pest management conference Oct. 13 at Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel. Focus is to highlight what has been developed and working in integrated pest management systems in the turf, landscape and ornaments and structural pest control industries. It will provide a forum for industry leaders as well as educational, environmental and governmental agency personnel to discuss matters of mutual concern surrounding the practice of pest control and integrated pest management.

DEROCCO ENTERS MAINE HALL OF FAME

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — Tony DeRocco, a native of Rocco Morice, Italy, who found happiness in Maine via an illustrious golf career capped by almost 30 years as a course superintendent, has been inducted into the Maine Golf Hall of Fame. DeRocco, 87, immigrated from Italy to Hastings, N.Y., in 1921. He caddied at Ardsley-On-The-Hudson, shagged for pro Tommy Harmon at Hudson River CC, and moved into the pro shop as club cleaner. Maine has claimed him the past 65 years. He became shop aide at Summit Spring CC in 1929, pro at Wilson Lake CC in 1934, and at Oakdale CC in 1953, returned to Summit as pro in 1963, then launched a successful stay as superintendent at Poland Spring CC in 1965. He retired as cart maintenance chief in 1993.



Tony DeRocco

METRO TURF FIELD DAY SET

The Westchester Country Club will host the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Associations annual



Professional Turfgrass Field Day on Oct. 18. A seminar co-sponsored with The Metropolitan Golf Association will coincide with the field day. The seminar will host Dave Oatis, director of the Northeast Region of the United States Golf Association, Green Section along with Dr. Noel Jackson, professor at the University of Rhode Island

W.VA. SUPERS RAISE \$14,000

The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association raised more than \$14,000 for the Scholarship and Research Fund at its annual turfgrass scholarship and fundraiser golf tournament at Wheeling Country Club. The record \$14,000 was raised to support the WVGCSA William C. Campbell Scholarship and Research Fund.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

'Iron' men unite to broaden education, training

By HAL PHILLIPS

WESTON, Mass. — Golf course mechanics associations are materializing across the nation, as technicians organize themselves to meet the ever-increasing challenge of innovation. As equipment continues to change and improve, mechanics need to keep up.

Organizations now exist in New Jersey, Chicago, the Carolinas, the Mid-Atlantic region and New England, with two in Florida.

The benefits are wide ranging. The New Jersey Golf Course Mechanics

Association, for example, has compiled an equipment users list which details, by make and model, the equipment used at each member course. Should a mechanic run into a problem with repair, he or she can quickly locate someone with the same machine who may provide the insight needed to minimize down-time.

"It's sophisticated. The average auto mechanic can't work on this stuff," said Stephen Lucas, the mechanic at Weston Golf Club here and president of the Golf Course Mechanics Association, which is centered in New England states but holds national aspirations.

"Considering the heights of cut we're working with, it's very precise work. You're doing irrigation, sign-making, repair, setting up job assignments. The mechanic is a unique individual.

"I would like to get together with as many [regional mechanic] associations as I can, so we can talk about eventually taking this thing nationwide. That's my dream."

Any hopes that the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) would adopt a "big-tent" attitude towards course mechanics died

Continued on page 15

MAKING INROADS WITH AUDUBON

Hiers exports pro-golf message to the masses

By MARK LESLIE

NAPLES, Fla. — Collier's Reserve Country Club superintendent Tim Hiers, who has delivered the message that golf courses are ecology-friendly to those inside and outside the golf industry, has been presented the first John James Audubon Steward Award.

"Tim is the perfect example of one of those people who was already moving in the right direction" when his club joined the New York Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, said John Santacrose, NYAS executive director. "And he's running with the new information we've given him. Hopefully, that will happen with more people."

Presenting the award, NYAS President Ron Dodson said Hiers led the Collier's Reserve course through the rigorous Signature Program process and the facility has become the international model for others to follow. The award, established earlier this year, represents "the highest recognition of leadership in the field of environmental responsibility."

Santacrose said Hiers' involvement in the Signature Program was "like a springboard for him."

Among his new procedures were hiring an Integrated Pest Management specialist, and involving the general public, to the extent that a number of people have helped revegetation projects at neighboring golf courses.

"Tim got a lot of people in Naples, Colliers County and all of Florida involved in the program, has done programs for school-children and things like that," Santacrose said.

Dodson also cited the family-owned Collier Enterprises, the developer of Collier's Reserve, for its "commitment to environmental excellence."

Surprised by the award because he knows "a lot of others who are just as deserving," Hiers said: "I'm glad they have awards like this because superintendents don't get recognized for what they do. It's amazing. You have people in other organizations that don't do nearly as much and, yet, get huge recognition. Meanwhile,

Continued on page 14



John Miller with his bluebird print that the New York Audubon Society presented him for completing certification in the Cooperative Sanctuary Program at Hindman Golf Course. The print will hang in the pro shop.

Devotion to wildlife, golf moves Miller's muni to the forefront

By MARK LESLIE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Here is a man who loves wildlife and golf courses. Most of all, he loves wildlife on golf courses. Hence, John Miller, the city's golf course superintendent, has earned recognition as one of the first Environmental Steward Award winners by gaining full certification for one of his three municipal golf courses in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP).

"I don't think there's anything more beautiful than a golf course early in the morning when the sun's first coming up," Miller said. "The only thing more beautiful is if there's a bunch

Continued on page 14

Delhi dedicates new education center

DELHI, N.Y. — More than 100 representatives of the turf industry joined faculty and staff from the State University College of Technology at Delhi, Aug. 16, to dedicate the college's new Turf Education Center here.

The building, which opened to students Aug. 29, is an example of the industry investing in its future, according to Mary Ellen Duncan, Delhi College president. More than \$85,000 toward the \$320,000 educational center was provided through donations from the industry.

Lead gifts included \$33,000 from the New York State Turfgrass Association and \$25,000 from Ransomes America Corp. Also contributing were the Central New York, Finger Lake, Hudson Valley, Long Island, Metropolitan and

Northeastern golf course superintendents associations.

The remaining construction costs were paid by the College Association at Delhi Inc., the not-for-profit auxiliary services corporation that owns and operates the Delhi College Golf Course.

The building illustrates how the college can be entrepreneurial in developing needed academic facilities, Duncan said. "State funds were not available for this project so we turned to other sources and they responded enthusiastically," she said. "We also believe that the strong industry support this project generated is indicative of the high regard Delhi College has earned throughout the turf profession."

Continued on page 16



New York State Turfgrass Association President John Liburdi Jr. speaks at dedication ceremonies.

Hiers spreads golf's message

Continued from page 13

there are superintendents who have been doing it for years and are continuing to enhance and fine-tune their skills...

"I'm encouraged that we're seeing more and more people in our profession taking the message to the streets," he added. "You will see more superintendents talking to school children, public officials, Rotary Clubs and telling

them the benefits [of golf courses]. Otherwise, they really are not going to hear it, and that has been borne out so far. They have basically heard only one side of the story."

...

Meanwhile, Hiers and fellow certified superintendent Robert Painter of La Rinconada Country Club in Las Gatos, Calif., have earned certificates in the Integrated Plant Management specialization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Environmental Management Program.

Munis unusual, but wanted, in Sanctuary Program

Continued from page 13

of birds singing out there. There's nothing like it."

A number of courses around the country have joined ACSP, but only 23 have gained full certification, completing programs in environmental planning; public involvement and education; wildlife and habitat management; water-quality management; and Integrated Pest Management.

The only other municipal tracks are Breckenridge (Colo.) Golf

Club, under superintendent Jack Pendleton, and Village Links of Glen Ellyn (Ill.), under superintendent Chris Pekarek. Now that Miller's 18-hole Hindman Park Golf Course has won certification, he intends to do the same for his other 45 holes — 27 at Rebsamen Golf Course and 18 at War Memorial Golf Course. Rebsamen is in the ACSP now, and War Memorial — in the heart of downtown Little Rock surrounded by freeways and

hospitals — will be registered in 1995, he said.

The Sanctuary Program "is economical as well as environmentally correct," Miller said. "It's been a real joy to me."

Saying he has always been an environmentalist, Miller added that he uses no insecticides and few herbicides and fungicides.

"I'm at an advantage because I have Bermudagrass greens," which require fewer pesticides to survive, he said.

In 1993, Miller was one of only 14 superintendents in the country chosen for the first Environmental Steward Awards. He was cited for creating a strong focus on wildlife by maintaining a lake and its islands in an almost natural state, and attracting many species of waterfowl, birds and other wildlife.

"I've always loved birds and wildlife on golf courses. When John [N.Y. Audubon Executive Director Santacrose] spoke on the program in Little Rock, I got some money and signed right up."

Miller spends \$800 a year for bird seed and has counted 50 varieties of birds on his course. "We take the best care of the purple martins," he said, adding that his crew built six different kinds of bird houses — 24 in all.

Foxes, beavers, muskrats, deer and a lot of black and white squirrels also roam the property.

Santacrose said the Sanctuary Program is "structured so we can involve cemeteries, schools, parks, golf, resorts, corporations and businesses."

Earning certification is a lengthy process — 3-1/2 years in Miller's case. This all with a mere 13-person crew for 63 holes that host 200,000 rounds of golf a year.

"It's not easy to do," Miller said. "There's a lot of paperwork. The manual is the fun part. In my case, it is good therapy for stress."

Audubon video done

WEST BEND, Wis. — Video production firm EPIC of Wisconsin has produced a video to inform organizations about the requirements and benefits of achieving Signature Award status from the New York Audubon Society.

The video features interviews and wildlife footage shot at Signature Award-winning Collier's Reserve Golf Club in Naples, Fla.

EPIC produces a video magazine, *Golf & Environment*, and recently developed and brought to market a successful series of training videos for superintendents and their staffs.

Under the Signature Program, the NY Audubon Society works with landowners in the development stages, to devise workable standards for landscape design, wildlife conservation, energy efficiency, and water and waste management, NY Audubon Society president Ron Dodson said.

You know it takes precise control to master a game of inches.

That includes spraying your course. Because

precise control of pesticides is crucial for effectiveness, safety and, ultimately, superb playability.

Introducing the new Toro Injector Pro™ for our Multi Pro™ 1100 vehicle. It's an advanced applicator that keeps chemicals and water separate until the exact moment

before the mixture is injected into the spray booms.

And the Injector Pro Controller automatically maintains your predetermined rate of application, regardless of terrain or vehicle speed. Efficiently, economically, safely.

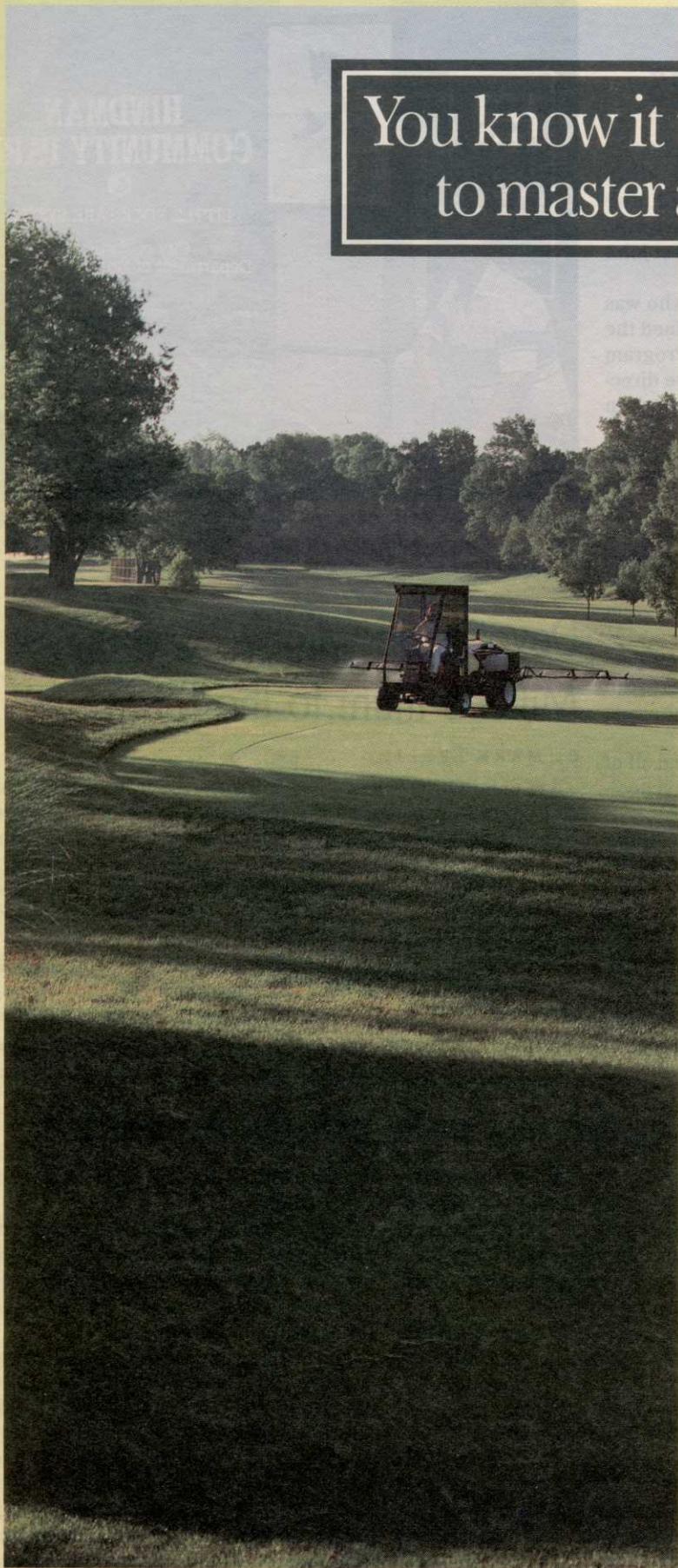
It exemplifies Toro's leadership in spraying technology. And explains why our longtime partnership with golf course superintendents has been so successful.

The right chemistry.

TORO

Helping You Put Quality Into Play.™

For more details, contact your Toro Distributor.
1-800-803-8676, ext. 152



© 1993 The Toro Company. The Toro Company, 8111 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420. "Toro", "Injector Pro" and "Multi Pro" are registered trademarks of The Toro Company.