

BRIEFS



CHRISTIANS: OUTLOOK GOOD

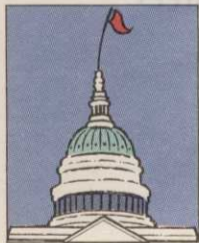
The job market will remain strong for this fall's 125 students of Iowa State University's turf management and horticulture programs, professor Nick Christians said during the August meeting of the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association. "There appears to be a downturn in business and engineering jobs and those students are coming to us," the ISU educator said. The IGCSA announced an Oct. 20 deadline for the return of scholarship applications. Last year, the organization awarded \$4,000 to six students. For more information contact 319-378-9203.

FOCUS ON STRESS MANAGEMENT

Turfgrass stress management will be the topic at three separate seminars sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association and its local chapters. The sessions will be held Oct. 12 in Billings, Mont.; Oct. 27 in Portland, Maine; and Jan. 11 in Charlotte, N.C. The instructor is Dr. Joseph DiPaola, formerly of North Carolina State University and currently a senior technical support specialist for a major turf and ornamental products manufacturer. For more information contact 800-472-7878.

BIODIVERSITY TREATY VOTE DELAYED

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Its switchboard swamped by a reported 1 million phone calls over three days, the U.S. Senate voted in mid-August to postpone a vote on the international Convention on Biological Diversity. Many from the golf industry responded to a call to block ratification of the treaty, according to Dr. Michael S. Coffman, who spearheaded the effort. Emanating from the 1992 Earth Summit, the treaty was not signed by then-President George Bush, but has since been signed by President Bill Clinton. The most extraordinary aspect of the Biodiversity Treaty, Coffman said, "is that it is already being implemented in the United States, even before it has been ratified by the Senate."



MAINE FUND-RAISER

ARUNDEL, Maine — The Maine Golf Superintendents Association's annual golf tournament to raise money for scholarships for students studying turfgrass culturing and to support turfgrass research will be held at Cape Arundel Golf Club here, Sept. 20. Further information is available from the MGCSA office at 207-781-7878.

WYNSTONE, MUIRFIELD LEAD THE WAY...

Turf-saving urethane spikes winning converts nationwide

By MARK LESLIE

In this high-technology era, golf course superintendents have water-injecting aerators, weather satellites, computerized irrigation systems and floating mower decks. They have deep-tine aerifiers, turf groomers and even grasses that can withstand a flood of effluent. But some greenskeepers feel the greatest advancement is a product made for players: Softspikes for golf shoes.

"In 20 years this is the best thing I've seen in the areas of golf balls, clubs and maintenance," said John Malloy, former superintendent at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, Ill., who is now growing in the Jack Nicklaus-designed Belpath Golf and Country Club in Eden

Prairie, Minn. "It's something everybody could use and save a lot of wear and tear."

When Scioto Country Club in Columbus, Ohio, bought Softspikes for its members, the spikes' popularity "leapt and grew. We had a tremendous response," said superintendent Mark Yoder.

Agronomically, financially, and in terms of wear and tear on the golf course, the clubhouse and equipment, Softspikes are winning converts by the droves.

Four high-profile clubs — Wynstone first, then Scioto, Pine Valley Golf Club in Clementon, N.J., and Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio — have led the way, mandating that the urethane Softspikes be worn on their courses.

"In this area it has caught on at a lot of other clubs," said Yoder, adding: "All the guests get new Softspikes for no charge. They're geared up in the locker room to change the spikes quickly. If the golfers want their old spikes put back on, they'll do that, too. But no one does, they are so much more comfortable."

"What we're trying to do in the end," said Malloy, "is improve the condition of golf courses. This is one thing a player can do himself without costing [the golf course] an agonomic price tag."

The plusses are many, according to Malloy and Yoder.

- "It will save a club \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year just in damage to a course's carts and bridges and carpeting in the

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Members of the Pine Valley Country Club maintenance crew relax during last year's annual barbecue.

**Event: Party at Fort Wayne's Pine Valley
Object: Show appreciation to crew**

By PETER BLAIS

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Party on Fort Wayne.

That's the call heard at Pine Valley Country Club in early August when a group of 25 or so members get together, toss in \$100 apiece and throw a mid-season bash for superintendent Steve Mueller's grounds crew.

"It's a way of saying thanks for all the hard work they do to keep the course in shape," said course member Jim Reifenberg.

This year's 4th annual celebration was held Monday, Aug. 1, a day the course is normally closed for maintenance.

Organizers combined course and crew members into teams and staged a Florida

Scrambles tournament. Chipping and putting contests followed.

During the hamburger and hot dog barbecue that afternoon, crew members on the winning teams received cash prizes based on their team's performance during the tournament and skills contests.

The affair was topped off by a raffle during which every crew member received between \$40 and \$200.

"I've worked at three other courses and I've never seen anything like this," Mueller said. "It's a very friendly club. The course members talk to the crew and get to know them very well."

Long-time course member Hughie Johnston first proposed the party as a way

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Lab changes will propel EPA into future

From Staff Reports

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Carol Browner plans to move expeditiously to implement laboratory plans she believes "will shape the agency's science program for many years to come."

Responding to recommendations made by a Steering Committee, Browner is poised to move EPA "to the cutting edge of government science." In a memorandum to EPA employees, she said she wants to ensure that "the implementation process focuses on issues such as diversity, empowerment, and a shifting of resources from supervisory and administrative tasks

to scientific and technical work, wherever possible."

Browner's decision comes on the heels of her demand that the EPA improve its peer-review policy — a beleaguered set of procedures that have led to claims the EPA is "held hostage" to uneven science.

Declaring a Nov. 1 deadline, Browner has called on implementation groups to report to her with specific action plans. They are to address Steering Committee recommendations on mission and management — which Browner concurs with — including:

- Designating four national laboratories

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Atlantic supers build research green in Truro

By MARK LESLIE

TRURO, Nova Scotia, Canada — You walk before you run. So the Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association has built an experimental green before it dives into a full-fledged turfgrass research institution.

"Basically, our long-range plans are to have a turfgrass research center" at Nova Scotia Agricultural College, said Blake Palmer. The superintendent at Rockwood Park Golf Course in St. John, New Brunswick, Palmer is chairman of the newly formed Atlantic Turfgrass Research Foundation (ATRF) and a past president of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute at the University of Guelph in Ontario does the bulk of turfgrass research in Canada, but "their growing conditions are not like ours in Atlantic Canada," Palmer said, an ex-board member of the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation, which funds Guelph research. "You have to grow grass here to understand how difficult it is. We get everything but the kitchen sink thrown at us in the wintertime."

ATRF members hope to rectify the research gulf.

One step in that direction is being taken by the Department of Environment and Department of Agriculture, which are conducting a joint \$230,000 research project dealing with integrated pest management.

Eight or nine golf courses in Nova Scotia are working with Department of Environment plant pathologist Linda Rankin in the three-year project, now in its second year.

The research green at Nova

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