

BRIEFS



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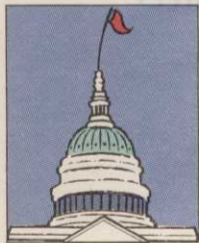
The job market will remain strong for this fall's 125 students of Iowa State University's turf management and horticulture programs, professor Nick Christians said during the August meeting of the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association. "There appears to be a downturn in business and engineering 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 Berrypath 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 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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Tour of Duty

DOUG JOLDERSMA

Tanglewood Park
Clemmons, N.C.
Vantage Senior Championship
Sept. 20-Oct. 2, ESPN

Doug Joldersma, 33, was born in the Detroit area but he's made the South his home. After graduating from Lake City (Fla.) Community College with an associate's degree in golf course operations ('84), Joldersma headed a construction and renovation project at Bidega (Ga.) Country Club. From there, he worked as head superintendent at Litchfield Country Club and The River Club in Pawleys Island, S.C. He arrived at the Robert Trent Jones-designed Tanglewood complex in 1986. This will be his 8th Vantage Championship. Joldersma is responsible for all 54 of Tanglewood's holes, plus all the grounds.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Joldersma has Tifway 419 on fairways and Penncross bentgrass on the greens. And after the winter kill suffered along the East Coast this year, he feels Tanglewood just missed a major turf catastrophe.

"Within an hour of here, they got really hammered," he explained. "We were lucky. We did get a significant amount of winter kill. No sprigging or row planting. Just sodding. We had to do 80 percent of our tees and a few spots on fairways, plus high-traffic areas around the greens.

"We'll probably oversee for the tournament. It's coming in rather high, so we've had to scalp it."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "I would say the rye is definitely being done for the TV... We also do a lot of mum work: five to six thousand on several tees.

"And we'll stripe. We've been told not to." Joldersma continues to be amazed by players' complaints over striping, the argument being, some balls catch the grain and roll further.

"I cannot believe that," Joldersma scoffed. "That's insane."

BRIAN MORRIS

Silverado Country Club
Napa, Calif.
The Senior TransAmerica
Oct. 6-9, ESPN

Brian Morris, 41, was born a Southern Californian, but he's moved north and doesn't plan to move back. "Oh yeah," he declared with a laugh. "My parents have a hard time getting me down there to visit." A graduate of the Cal-Poly Pomona turf program in 1978, Morris worked as an assistant at Calabassas Park, west of L.A. near Thousand Oaks. He took his first head superintendent's job at Candlewood Country Club in Whittier before taking the assistant's post at Silverado in 1980. Six months later he was top dog at the

Wine Country club. The TransAmerica has been held at 36-hole Silverado since 1989, so tournament prep is no great trial for Morris anymore. The tournament is played at Silverado's South Course, a Robert Trent Jones II product, rumored to be his first solo track.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: "We really don't do anything out of the ordinary," said Morris. "We don't do anything special. We try to maintain all year round, then step up our frequency of cut and tighten things up for the tournament.

"The biggest challenge we've had, prior to the tournament, has been poor soil conditions. We've done extensive top-dressing of the fairways. Very rocky soil. The water wouldn't penetrate and the roots wouldn't grow down. We've lost lots of grass.

JIM JOHNSON

The Rail Golf Club
Sherman Ill.
LPGA State Farm Rail Classic
Sept. 3-5, ESPN

Jim Johnson and The Rail Golf Club are nearly inseparable. The 42-year-old Johnson first worked at the Robert Trent Jones design during high school, building tees, digging lakes and generally moving dirt. Off he went to Penn State, where he would earn his turf management degree in 1977. However, a year before his graduation, The Rail hired him as superintendent. "While I was going to school, the superintendent here was terminated," Johnson explained. "I knew where I was heading and they asked me whether I would consider coming back after graduation." He did, and he hasn't left since. "I grew up in this area, been here all my life. My wife's family has been here all their lives. I grew up with the owner's son. And they've treated me well. And I love what I do."

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Two years ago, The Rail embarked on an ambitious bunker renovation, a thorough rehab of all



Jim Johnson

82 traps. "We started on them a year beforehand and finished six days before last year's tournament," Johnson said. "With a year of settling in, I think you'll see a significant difference this year, aesthetically [sod facings] and with regard to playing quality."

Johnson said the old bunkers experienced chronic drainage problems. "Now we pump zero water," he said. "We've also just installed a new Rain Bird Maxi 5 irrigation system. No more dry areas from poor coverage."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "Last year was our first year for TV," said Johnson, "and we really didn't do anything differently. We painted the cups and the lightweight fairway mowers did a great job. We do stripe the fairways, but that's something we do through the whole growing season. And when we saw the helicopter shots they used to preview the tournament, the fairways looked fantastic."

On our worst fairways we've accumulated 4 inches of sand to grow the roots."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "We haven't gotten into putting on the big show, putting on the glitz," said Morris. "We're more into trying to refine our tournament playing conditions than dress the course up with flowers."

The various tours have asked superintendents not to stripe the fairways vertically, believing some balls roll further with the grain. Has the Senior Tour talked to Morris?

"Indirectly," he said. "They haven't come out and said, 'Do not stripe.' But they have said, 'Mow at an angle so the roll of ball is fair.' They were pleased to see us mowing diagonally."

Research green to provide help for Atlantic supers

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Scotia Agricultural College is a second step. The college has provided an area "to construct our green and carry out research. It's also cooperating in providing students to care for it. If we can come up with research money, we could probably reach our objective to get people on a full-time basis," he said.

Area superintendents and golf-industry suppliers helped build the 4,000-square-foot experimental green, which was seeded with bentgrass in early July.

The third step toward the ATRF goals is bolstering the turf management program at Nova Scotia Agricultural College. The school has a one-week course in turfgrass management, but expects to enhance that program, Palmer said.

The ATRF has already begun raising money to support its efforts, conducting a tournament at Amherst (Nova Scotia) Country Club in August.

Pine Valley members extend annual thanks

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of recognizing the crew's efforts.

"Hughie would be out there walking the course at 5:30 a.m. every day," Mueller remembered. "He saw how hard the staff worked and wanted to let them know how much the members appreciated their efforts."

Said Johnston, a friend of the late golf writer and Golf Hall of Famer Herb Graffis: "He [Graffis] was instrumental in getting the name changed from greenkeeper to superintendent. We visited a lot in his later years and he left a soft spot in my heart for the guys that keep America beautiful."

Mueller believes the recognition afforded his crew has helped him recruit and hold competent staff at Pine Valley.

"A lot of these guys make close to minimum wage, so the extra money is a nice bonus," Mueller said. "We have people who have worked at other clubs who mentioned [during their interview] that they had heard about the party."

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