

All aboard! Travel agent specializes in turf industry

BY TERRY BUCHEN

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Robin Hamilton, owner of Turf Travel, specializing in service to the turfgrass industry, is the wife of William F. Hamilton, director of golf and grounds maintenance at Sherwood Country Club here.

"Being a professional travel agent, I started booking travel needs for golf course superintendent friends of my husbands, and, the rest is history," Robin explained. "I have superintendent clients all over the country and I specialize in bookings for turf conferences, GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America)

seminars, university conferences and personal travel needs as well.

"I have each superintendent fill out a personal preference profile which includes their height, weight, date of birth, airline preference, airline club memberships, frequent flyer numbers, seat preference, passport information, special meals, smoking/non-smoking preference, car-rental preference, hotel preference, hotel club memberships, credit card numbers, etc. So I can customize each superintendent's needs."

Each superintendent will have access to a 24-hour, toll-free telephone number and

international desk if problems occur after business hours. Additionally, complimentary overnight document delivery is provided. Hamilton can be reached at: 1-800-877-1943 or 805-496-7174; faxed at 805-374-9519 FAX; or digitally paged at 805-446-7113.

"I also offer negotiated rates for many conventions and tours, including the GCSAA International Conference & Show," Robin said. "In my spare time, I contribute articles for newsletters for the Southern California GCSA and the San Diego GCSA because I love working with superintendents!"

Chester Valley GC Pa.'s 1st certified Audubon facility

MALVERN, Pa. — Chester Valley Golf Club is the first golf course in Pennsylvania to achieve designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

The club's efforts to enhance wildlife habitat have been rewarded, as wildlife of all kinds have returned to the course — some to visit, some to stay. Golfers frequently see bluebirds and tree swallows that nest in the nesting boxes the club has provided, and red tailed hawks and kestrels hunt in the naturalized areas interspersed throughout the course.

"We feel that nature on our golf course, as well as all open space, must be respected. Our goal is for Chester Valley to be as highly regarded by wildlife as it is by golfers," said Victoria Laubach, horticulturist at the club.

TPC honors bestowed

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and Show. The runner-up award for best maintenance operation was presented to Richard Green of TPC at Eagle Trace; the Landscape Operations Award to TPC at Sawgrass superintendent Fred Klauk and Lee Rowe, his assistant in charge of landscaping; and the Most Improved Operation of the Year Award to Jerry Ducker at TPC at Southwind, "a hands-down winner," Roth said.

The PGA Tour also recognized Mike Giuffre of TPC of Michigan, Ted Hunker of TPC of River Highlands and Jim Dyer of Country Club of Jacksonville for maintaining perfect safety records for the entire year — Giuffre and Hunker for the second year in a row.

Miller and his TPC at Summerlin crew won their award based on excellence in course conditioning for the members and two PGA tournaments; personnel training; safety; budget and equipment management; and innovation in operational improvements. A new criteria — environmental effort — was added this year, and Summerlin gained certification in January as a member of the Cooperative Sanctuary Program of the Audubon Society of New York.

Miller called his Pennlinks bentgrass greens "the best in the Vegas area and one of the best for Tour events."

A former Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo student in ornamental horticulture who worked for 10 years for Sunrise Co. golf courses before joining Summerlin, Miller cited the TPC network as making his job easier. "It allows us a lot of input and advice from the Tour — Cal Roth and fellow superintendents," he said. "From that aspect it's good because it brings more of a team approach to the management of a course rather than just one individual."



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