

BRIEFS



NATURE'S CHOICE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Nature's Choice is the theme of the 1995 Southwest Horticultural Trade Show at Phoenix Civic Plaza here, Sept. 7-8. The Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will present educational sessions on the overall topic Turf Stress Management. More information is available from the Arizona Nursery Association at 1430 W. Broadway, Suite A125, Tempe, Ariz. 85282; 602-966-1610.

NORTH OF THE BORDER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) will hold its 47th Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre here, March 2-5. More information is available from Andrea Franks at CGSA, 5580 Explorer Dr., Suite 509, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4Y1; 905-602-8873.

BLEIER HIGHLIGHTS N.Y. CONCLAVE

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Rocky Bleier, former Pittsburgh Steeler, will headline the four-day annual educational conference and trade show cosponsored by the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) and Cornell University. The keynote is scheduled for Nov. 8, at 9 a.m. As an added feature, pesticide recertification credits from several states and continuing education credits for national associations are available for conference attendance. For more information contact the NYSTA at 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

CONTAINMENT SYSTEM DESIGN

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Published by Advanstar Communications, "Containment System Design: Chemical Storage, Mixing and Recycling" by Fredric R. Haskett contains information that will allow operators to design and construct an affordable, viable and safe facility to store, handle, mix and recycle pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals. It explains how to prepare for the scrutiny of government regulators and comply with new regulations; explores the legal implications of noncompliance; and discusses the cost of recycling finished product residues versus the cost of having them disposed of by an outside agency. Containment System Design costs \$74.95. Copies can be ordered by calling 1-800-598-6008.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Wildlife studies complement one another

Audubon investigating from the point of view of sustainable resources

By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — In fortuitous timing for an industry seeking wisdom about golf's environmental impact, the Audubon Society of New York (ASNY) is undertaking a wildlife study that dovetails with the U.S. Golf Association's (USGA) Wildlife Links program overseen by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"This came about at a fortunate time because I was in the process of instituting the Audubon Center for Sustainable Resource Management (ACSRM)," said ASNY President Ron Dodson.

Wildlife Links and ACSR

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The impact of golf courses on deer and other wildlife is the subject of more intense study.

USGA-backed Wildlife Links using a more broad-brush approach

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The first fruits of the U.S. Golf Association-sponsored Wildlife Links Program will be two publications providing golf course superintendents hands-on information "to make their facilities more environmentally in-tune," according to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

Undergoing a name change from Nature Links because of a near-conflict with another group's program, Wildlife Links was birthed to promote courses as friendly homes for wildlife and to attract support from environ

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Experts urge aggressive defense vs. Lyme disease

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Despite more than a decade of public awareness, the number of reported Lyme disease cases remains high, and some experts are now recommending a more aggressive approach for controlling the ticks that carry this potentially debilitating disease.

Many medical health-care experts and university extension offices now urge homeowners in high-risk areas to treat their lawns and lawn peripheries with an insecticide to reduce populations of the ticks which vector this disease. The primary vector of Lyme disease is the deer tick, also known as the black-legged tick.

Although ticks are most commonly found in wooded, overgrown and weedy areas, many Lyme disease victims are bitten by ticks in their own yards, and the use of protective clothing and insect repellent alone have not been successful in checking the spread of the disease. In 1994, more than 10,000 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in the United States, according to the national Centers For Disease Control (CDC). More than 57,000 cases of Lyme disease have been reported since recording of these cases first began (1982-1993).

In high-risk areas, such as the Northeast coastal states, North Central states

and parts of the West Coast, an application of a commonly used home insecticide can help reduce deer tick nymphs and adults in home lawns and lawn peripheries by up to 95 percent.

Although symptoms are sometimes absent, Lyme disease is usually initially characterized by the presence of a bull's-eye shaped rash at the site of the tick bite, followed by fever, headache, fatigue and pain in the muscles and joints. Although it is treatable with antibiotics, if left untreated, the disease may result in double vision, chronic arthritis, meningitis, hearing loss, cardiac problems, memory loss

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No Dutch treat for elm lovers

By DAVID M. ROSE

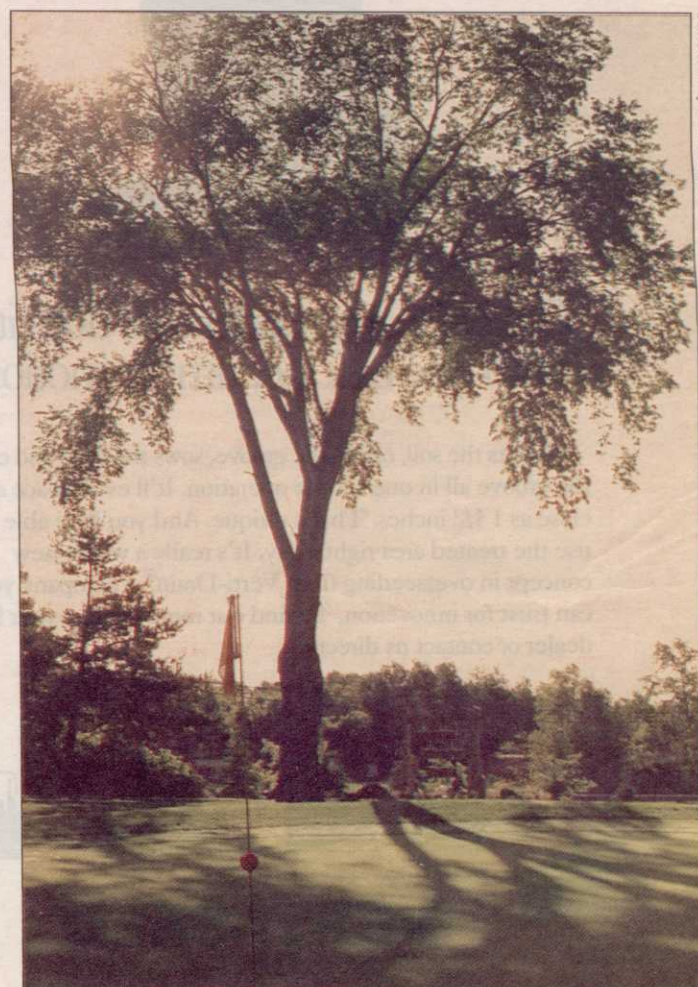
GROSSE POINTE FARMS, Mich. — In the early part of this century, golfers teeing off here at the Country Club of Detroit enjoyed the shade and splendor of more than 3,000 stately American elms. Today, all but 300 are gone, victims of the deadly Dutch elm disease. Sadly, the situation in Detroit is by no means unique.

Introduced to the United States in shipments of contaminated logs in the 1920s, *Ceratocystis ulmi*, the fungus that causes Dutch elm disease, has reduced the North American elm population by 50 to 80 percent over the last 75 years. But while there is still no sure-fire cure for Dutch elm disease, newly developed fungicides and disease-resistant elm varieties are beginning to turn the tide.

To understand the options for dealing with Dutch elm disease, it is necessary to understand the life cycle of the fungus. Fungal spores are carried to the tree by the elm bark beetle, which feeds on tender new shoots and bark. Once inside, the fungus invades the xylem, the water-carrying vessels of the tree. As the fungus proliferates, the xylem becomes blocked, resulting in wilting, yellowed leaves, and death.

For superintendents hoping to vanquish Dutch elm disease, the approaches are basically three: kill the bark beetle, kill the fungus itself, or plant elms that are less susceptible to the fungus' lethal effects. The most common means of controlling bark beetles is treatment with the pesticide Methoxychlor. The Elm Research Institute (ERI) of Harrisville, N.H., a non-profit institution dedicated to the preservation of the American elm, recommends trees be sprayed prior to leaf emergence each year. By heading off the annual influx of hungry bark beetles, according to ERI,

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Elm trees like this one used to be much more bountiful on America's golf courses.

Photo courtesy of Elm Research Institute

USGA links up with agencies

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mental organizations. It grew out of USGA-funded research by Clemson University at Kiawah Island from 1991-93 that showed courses could indeed enhance wildlife.

The USGA has designated \$100,000 a year for the next three years for Wildlife Links, and the destination of those funds is being decided by a committee headed by Peter Stangel of the Fish and Wildlife Foundation and consisting of representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Audubon Society of New York (ASNY) and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We decided to begin with publications," Snow said, "because they'd be tangible, you could put your hands on them, and they're badly needed. People are calling from all over the country with questions. These will be a source of answers."

One of the publications will focus on developing habitat for birds, specifying what type and how much land, what materials are needed to attract certain species. "This can be relevant for construction and existing courses," Snow said. "For instance, if you knew it would take 10 solid acres of forest for a certain bird, you could plan for that."

The second publication will concern how to enhance wetland areas. "Wetland here meaning ponds, streams and lakes as well as swampy areas," he said. "It will detail factors like kinds of vegetation that should be planted and the perimeter area around a pond to attract wildlife of different sorts; what kinds of plants you can add along the edge of the water to increase fish habitat or certain species of amphibians and reptiles; that sort of information."

Requests for proposals are expected to be sent out in mid-August. The advisory committee will evaluate the responses and decide which bidder to accept.

It will take a few months to write and publish, Snow said.

"These will be for superintendents and others like architects and consultants involved in getting permits for new construction. Anyone participating in the Audubon programs will want to have these," he said.

Long-range projects under Wildlife Links will be determined partly by how much is left after paying for the publications.

"We're working with Clemson and will probably fund a project with them," Snow said, adding that Clemson's golf course that is under construction will likely be a source of wildlife study.

An important factor to Wildlife Links, Snow added, is the involvement other wildlife specialists beyond ASNY — from government agencies and

other organizations.

"They're excited about it and so are we," he said. "We think it's important to broaden our scope of participation."

The USGA is "fully supportive of what they're (ASNY) doing" with its wildlife studies through its Audubon center for Sustainable Resource Management. "They're complementing what we're doing. They will cover a lot of things not covered in our program. And Wildlife Links is geared toward providing resource information helping superintendents go forward with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

History and lore of Riviera GC is topic

"The Riviera Golf Course: A Triumph in Design," a new UCLA Extension seminar analyzing the work of golf course designer George C. Thomas Jr., will take place Friday, Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m., at UCLA Extension on the Third Street Promenade, 1338 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. The fee is \$85.

This evening of golf history and lore takes place just prior to the start of the 1995 PGA Championship at Riviera Country Club. Scheduled guest speakers and panel members include golf course designers Tom Fazio and Dave Thomas, 1995 PGA Championship Gen-

eral Chairman Dick Caruso, and, from The Riviera staff, General Manager Peter Pino, Bill Baker, director of golf maintenance, and Historian Geoff Shakelford.

Rounding out the program are Bel-Air Country Club golf pro Ed Marrins, Los Angeles Country Club General Manager Jim Brewer, Los Angeles times sports writer Jim Murray, sports commentator Ben Wright, and landscape architects Tom Lockett and Alexis Slafer, head of the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program.

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