

BRIEFS



TOURNEY TO ENDOW DUICH FUND

OAKMONT, Pa. — Oakmont Country Club will host the inaugural benefit golf tournament for the Joseph M. Duich Turfgrass Endowment at Pennsylvania State University on Oct. 9. The endowment was started through the efforts of Dr. Duich and other professors in the turf project at the university. Interest from the endowment will fund projects crucial to continuing turfgrass research, teaching and extension, according to Oakmont superintendent Mark Kuhns, who is chairman of the tournament. More information is available from Kuhns at 412-828-5567.



Dr. Joe Duich

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The governor of Nevada has signed a law redefining "golf cart" for the purpose of properly registering motor vehicles. Under the legislation, "golf cart" is defined as 1) having no fewer than three wheels in contact with the ground; and, 2) designed to carry golf equipment and not more than four persons, including the driver. According to the National Club Association newsletter, vehicles meeting those criteria do not have to be registered as long as they remain on golf courses and designated areas and are operated during daylight hours.

FAZIO TABBED FOR OLD TOM MORRIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Course architect Tom Fazio will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the GCSAA's international conference and show here next Feb. 10. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game. GCSAA President Gary T. Grigg cited Fazio's "commitment to the game and to his community — especially all the personal time he devotes to the Boys and Girls Cubs — is a great example of the spirit that Old Tom brought to golf."



Tom Fazio

CONFERENCES COMBINED

BOSTON — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is joining forces with the Massachusetts Turf and Lawngrass Association to sponsor the Massachusetts Turf Conference in future years. The conference will move from Springfield to the Marriott Copley Plaza Hotel here, beginning next Jan. 15-17.

GCSAA reaching out to educate through Audubon School Program

By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has committed to sponsor the Audubon Society of New York's School Program, involving superintendents in educating their local schoolchildren concerning the environment, according to New York Audubon Executive Director John Santacrose.

Just as the U.S. Golf Association in effect adopted the Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, the GCSAA will be involved in the evolution and expansion of the School Program, said GCSAA Executive Director Steve Mona. The GCSAA board of directors voted in June to support the program.

"Over the next six months or so we

will get a lot of input from teachers and our members," said GCSAA Communications Director Pat Jones. "There is a menu of options for the superintendent to be involved. Most important is overall sponsorship of the program. We will do something good for the schools of this country and continue to support the Audubon movement. It's the right thing to do.

"It even gives us a stronger interest in helping to support and promote the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. As more courses get involved in that program, that will likely increase participation in our program. The two are indirectly tied."

GCSAA officials expect to get the

Continued on next page



Golf courses like Anaheim Hills illustrate clean environment in California.

Calif. EPA: Air, water significantly better

By PETER BLAIS

Before anyone tells you the California environment is going to hell in a hand basket and golf is among the devil's legions leading the way, check out these statistics generated by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency's first "Environmental Indicators Report" lists the impressive gains in cleaner air, less solid waste, improved water quality and significant reductions in the volumes of chemicals released into the environment.

The golf industry has contributed significantly to the clean up of the Golden State's environment, said David

Flaxbeard, head superintendent of Oakmont Country Club in Glendale and immediate past president of the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSA).

"Superintendents are much more aware about the environment than they were 10 or 15 years ago and we are communicating that knowledge to club owners and members," Flaxbeard said. "When I told my members that our underground storage tanks (USTs) were apparently leaking, they were out of the ground and new ones in within a couple months. Everyone is more aware of how golf can help

Continued on page 15

Grass carp legislation falls short of supers' hopes

By PETER BLAIS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Water may be good for fish, but a watered-down legislative bill is of little use to the sterile grass carp or golf courses, according to the president of the California Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Peter Bowman and other supporters of the grass carp, or white amur as it is also called, had hoped the state Senate would approve a bill allowing use of the exotic, weed-eating fish in any golf

course pond not draining into the Sacramento or San Joaquin rivers, the state's two major watersheds north of Los Angeles.

The grass carp, which reaches weights of 80 pounds or more, eats massive quantities of weeds and algae. More than half the states have approved golf course use of the fish as an environmentally friendly alternative to herbicide use.

"Grass carp can be sterilized so that they won't breed," said Bowman, who



Pioneering research getting to the bottom of putting greens

By KIMBERLY ERUSHA

FAR HILLS, N.J. — As a result of the myriad technological changes, the United States Golf Association's (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee will solicit pre-proposals for research projects concerning the construction and maintenance of golf course greens.

The committee made the decision during its meeting in Oklahoma City in May. Ten to twelve grants of \$20,000 per year for up to five years will be awarded to universities or non-profit research institutions.

After extensive investigation, the USGA first introduced its Specifications for a Method of Putting Green Construction in 1960. The method utilized sand as the principal component of the root-zone mix to provide adequate drainage and resistance to compaction, and incorporated a perched water table in the profile to provide a reservoir of moisture for use by the turf. When constructed and maintained properly, USGA greens have provided good results for more than three decades in most regions of this nation and the world.

But the game of golf has changed. The number of rounds played on courses continues to climb. Golfers continue to demand closer mowing and perfection in playing conditions. New grasses have been developed that have different maintenance requirements. Maintenance technology continues to improve and advance. And the environmental impact of maintenance practices has come under increased scrutiny.

During the past 10 to 15 years, changes have occurred regarding the way greens are maintained, and an increasing number of new products and technologies has been

Continued on page 17

is head superintendent at Merced Hills Golf Club. "The sterilization is successful in more than 99 percent."

But it was that 1 percent of unsuccessful sterilizations that spooked lawmakers.

Fearing the possibility that fertile fish could somehow find their way into the rivers — where they could mate and produce offspring that would threaten the ecosystem of other fish — the Senate recently approved a revised bill that

Continued on next page

USGA seeking green research

Continued from page 13

developed for these purposes. For example, a wide array of organic and inorganic soil amendments has been introduced; new construction methods have been proposed; more golf courses use recycled or alternative water sources for irrigation; and construction costs have risen dramatically, threatening to limit the growth of the game.

The Turfgrass Research Committee has identified the goal of this new research effort: Identify the best combinations of construction, grow-in procedures, and post-construction maintenance practices that prevent long-term problems, reduce environmental impacts, and produce high-quality playing surfaces.

Preference will be given to research studies addressing issues related to hydrology and microbiology of greens built to USGA recommendations and to alternative methods. Projects incorporating disciplines such as soil physics, soil chemistry, soil microbiology, turfgrass physiology, and turfgrass pathology will be necessary to achieve the research goals.

These research studies will also give due consideration to environmental issues, and to the use of alternative water sources for golf course irrigation. Organic and inorganic soil amendments also need evaluation to determine, on the basis of sound scientific information, how they fit into construction methods.

Providing a quality putting surface is both an art and a science. A critical period in the life of a new putting green is from the time of seeding and springing to opening day. As the saying goes, time is money and, unfortunately, this time frame is often shortened and the turf growth accelerated to meet the deadline of opening day. This research will help define grow-in guidelines such as evaluating the impact of accelerated grow-in and possibly develop criteria for determining when a green is ready for play.

Proper care after the green is opened for play helps provide a quality putting surface. Potential research will investigate the effects of construction and cultural practices on the long-term performance of the green and the changes in the rootzone properties of a green over time.

All inquiries and questions about these research pre-proposals should be addressed to Dr. Michael P. Kenna, Director of USGA Green Section Research. Dr. Kenna may be contacted at P.O. Box 2227, Stillwater, OK 74076; or by telephone at 405-743-3900 or facsimile 405-743-3920.

Kimberly Erusha, PhD., is director of education and manager of technical communications at the United States Golf Association Green Section in Far Hills, N.J.

Luikens leaves Woodlands, forms comprehensive golf service

HOUSTON — Richard Luikens, former director of golf course maintenance for The Woodlands Resort and Country Club here, has formed Richard Luikens Golf Services (RLGS).

RLGS was formed to provide sound, simple agronomic advice for successful and affordable golf course maintenance; to coordinate golf course construction and renovation projects; and to assist golf product manufacturers in introducing new products into the golf course industry, accord-

ing to Luikens.

During his 20 years in golf, Luikens has been involved with both privately and corporately owned facilities, maintaining and building courses for country club members, resort guests, daily-fee players, and the most demanding golfers of all — PGA Tour players.

While employed at The Woodlands, 54 holes of golf were built, including the TPC at The Woodlands (site of the Shell Houston Open for the past 11 years) and

the Palmer and North courses.

All three have been ranked in the state's top 50.

Previously, Luikens coordinated construction of Lochinvar Golf Club, a Jack Nicklaus-designed course here.

He has also been involved in developing several golf course products.

Chipco 26019, a turfgrass fungicide manufactured by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co., and Barricade, a turfgrass pre-

emergent herbicide produced by Sandoz Agro. Inc., were tested before their release extensively on golf turf areas under Luikens' supervision.

Prototype work on one of the initial lightweight fairway mowing tractors, the Jacobsen LF-100, also took place on turfgrass facilities under his direction.

Luikens also assisted developers of the Dura-Rake and the U.S. Golf Hole Target.

Luikens is available at 713-364-6255 or 409-539-2947.

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