

GOODSHALL JOINS PINMARK

DALLAS—Scott Myers, vice president of PinMark Corp., has selected John Godshall as director of software product development. PinMark has developed a satellite-based, cart-mounted electronic yardage and golf information system. Features include graphics of each hole, two-way communication and course monitoring.

Vermeer founder named to Construction Equipment Hall of Fame

PELLA, Iowa — Vermeer Manufacturing founder Gary Vermeer, whose inventions have helped shape the construction equipment industry since 1948, was inducted into the Construction Equipment Industry Hall of Fame March 19, during the ConExpo/ConAgg equipment convention in Las Vegas.

Now the chairman emeritus of Vermeer Manufacturing, Vermeer's first invention was a mechanical wagon hoist designed

to speed up the task of unloading grain. To keep up with the demand, he built a 2,400-square-foot factory to start what is now one of the most successful family-owned equipment companies in the world. Through the

years, Vermeer manufactured several more industry firsts, including a PTO-driven hammer mill and the PTO-driven tilling ma-



Gary Vermeer

chine that grew into today's line of hydrostatic utility trenchers.

In the 1950s, Vermeer helped build the tree-care market with the invention of the stump cutter which allowed one person to remove a stump in minutes. The innovation of the first mechanical tree spade gave the industry a machine that could dig, transport, and transplant trees providing

homeowners instant shade.

Vermeer's most well-known invention was the large round baler in 1971. After learning that a friend was getting out of the cow-calf business due to the labor-intensive task of putting up hay to feed cattle, Vermeer designed a hay baler that would roll a bale of hay up to 2,000 pounds. Vermeer's large round baler is still considered one of the most revolutionary inventions in modern farming.



Sod industry

Continued from page 53

faces and erodable areas, then it's up to the owner to decide what else is sodded, according to Don Roberts, general manager of Southern Turf Nurseries/Warren's Group.

"Seeding is probably a lesser cost, if you hit it right and it germinates," Roberts said. "But we've found that, with the rains we're apt to have here in the Southeast, you can have an entire seed bed washed away."

"Sodding really decreases the risk element involved out there," agreed Jeff Hartstine, president of Central Florida Turf, a course construction firm active in the Southeast. "It costs more, but you offset that because you can open sooner. They do the math."

"New courses are definitely sodding more, and you have to consider renovations. There have been many more remodeling jobs of late. They sod a lot."

Unfortunately for golf courses in the Southeast, this winter's severe weather will likely result in some involuntary replacement sodding. Superintendents are expecting a great deal of winter kill — another factor in sod farmers anticipating low inventories this spring.

"I think you can check the records, and this is the worst winter we've had in 12 years, to my knowledge," said Butch Gill of Turf Merchants, Inc. "Severe winter kill is definitely contributing to the replacement sod market. Jacksonville usually has about 500 chill hours per year. This year, we're already at 900 chill hours."

According to Dr. Joe DiPaola of Novartis (formerly Ciba and Sandoz), Bermudagrass testing has shown the turf to be susceptible to injury at temperatures of only 23 to 18 F.

"Superintendents need to check their soil- and air-temperature records and see if the temperature at crown height reached below 23F," DiPaola told USGA's Patrick O'Brien. "Damage will show first in areas that are shaded or poorly drained. Low potassium or an imbalance between N & K [nitrogen and potassium] will also increase the likelihood of low-temperature injury."

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