

BRIEFS



**ALTER REPLACES STARLING AT PENN**

BELLEFONTE, Pa. — Dr. Theodore R. Alter, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, has been named interim dean of the college. Alter succeeds the retiring James L. Starling, interim dean and professor of agronomy who had served in that capacity since January. Alter will serve in the post for one year or until a new dean is hired.

**RUTGERS FIELD DAY PLANNED**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The 31st Field Day turfgrass seminar and exposition will be held at the Rutgers University golf course/stadium complex



on Oct. 8, 1996. After a three-year hiatus due to stadium and bubble construction, the 1996 Field Day committee under the direction of Joe Kennedy has prepared an "Emporium of Turf Related Delights." The event will be hosted by Mike Mongon. The expo will feature traditional equipment demonstrations and boots along with guest speakers, stadium tours and door prizes.

**TPI SETS RECORD STRAIGHT**

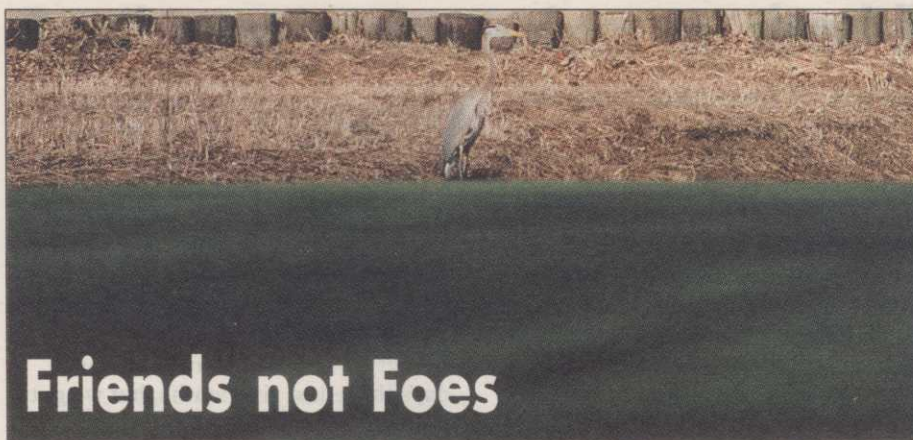
ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) has published "TurfgrassFacts" fact sheets spelling out what it terms "anti-turfgrass statements" and dispels them with "The Real Grass Facts." The TPI fact sheets tackle such topics as exaggerated pesticide fears, whether turfgrass is a wasteful water hog, whether lawns are a waste of time and money, and grass clippings in landfills. TPI can be reached at 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008; telephone 800-405-8873.

**IRRIGATION ASSN. SETS CONCLAVE**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The Irrigation Association's 17th annual International Irrigation Exposition and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Technical Conference will be held from Nov. 3-6 at the San Antonio Convention Center. The Irrigation Association's exposition will be held Nov. 3-5 and feature North American and international companies. The ASAE Technical Conference will run from Nov. 4-6. The three-day schedule of sessions and speakers will cover current topics in evapotranspiration and irrigation in the farming and turfgrass fields.



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**Friends not Foes**

Sand Creek Country Club attracts and sustains a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

**Superintendents devise innovative new ways to push wildlife envelope**

By MARK LESLIE

CASTING aside the "chemical revolution" of the past, golf course superintendents have taken a long trek toward heightened environmental awareness, adding innovative twists of their own to the standard Audubon fare.

Witness Director of Grounds Don Ewoldt of Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Ind., who started a Junior Conservation Society among his club members' children.

Or, John Netwal of Glynn's Creek Golf Club in a county park in Long

Grove, Iowa, who takes interested campers on a tour of his course, then gives them bird boxes to place in their own backyards.

Or, Hank Kerfoot of Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., who with his wife this fall will instruct K-12 teachers about the outdoors and wildlife in a new program called Project Learning Tree.

"I farmed for 35 years and have been in this business for 15," said Ewoldt, "and I'll tell you: Golf courses are the least of our problems. I look back and cringe at what I did [on the farm]. So many homeowners are causing much more problems than golf course managers. Granted, we manage a lot more property, but we're doing it right."

Continued on page 24



**First soil labs certified**

By MARK LESLIE

NEW KNOXVILLE, Ohio — Stepping away from a history wrought with contrasting methods and interpretations, soil laboratories are moving to standardize performance and enhance their reliability in testing root-zone mixes used in greens construction.

Brookside Laboratories, Inc. here and Thomas Turf Services in College Station, Texas, have become the first soil-testing labs accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (AALA). The accreditation program was spearheaded by the U.S. Golf Association, whose greens-construction recommendations are recognized as the industry standard.

"Different results from different labs affected everybody's reputation," said USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow. "Accreditation tightens the standard all around and the whole industry will be served by it."

"Also, from a liability standpoint, it will help if you have a good quality-control program in place and are being tested regularly."

Continued on page 19

**Norman stakes claim in Bermudagrass market**

By HAL PHILLIPS

SOUTH LAKE LAND, Fla. — With more than 400 golf course openings projected for 1996, September's opening of The Club at Eaglebrook here shouldn't cause too much of a stir... Right?

Wrong. The Club at Eaglebrook, designed by Ron Garl, is the first course in the United States to have 18 holes of GN-1, the new fairway Bermudagrass strain marketed by Greg Norman Turf Co.

Several other GN-1 projects are in various stages of development. Sugarloaf, the Norman-designed course outside Atlanta

and future home of the Bell South Classic, will feature GN-1, as will Real Mar, another Norman design under construction in Puerto Rico. Also, The Medalist Club — a Norman/Pete Dye collaboration in Hobe Sound, Fla. — has two holes grassed with the new Bermuda.

However, Eaglebrook will be the first fully operational golf course featuring the hybrid Bermuda on all 18 fairways. Consequently, warm-climate superintendents, architects and sod growers across the country are eager to see how the new grass fares.

"It looks fantastic," reported Eaglebrook

superintendent Bob Wagner in mid-July. "I've had three superintendent jobs... and they've all been grow-ins. And this stuff [GN-1] grows like wildfire. It's green as can be and it's very aggressive. We started sprigging April 16 and by the end of May it was completely covered."

"Time will tell and it's hard to predict what extra things I might have to do. But everything I've seen so far has been real encouraging."

GN-1 is the first commercial release

Continued on page 23

**DuPont design improves grounds crew's morale**

By MARK LESLIE

LANDENBERG, Pa. — When DuPont Country Club determined its maintenance facility would be "world-class and compete among the best," some say it went one better: It became the best.

"We feel it has done good things for the morale of the crew as well as their professionalism," said Earl Shafer, head superintendent at the 54-hole club. "It's a source of pride. It sets a tone. And when you have visitors, it shows your professionalism. It's not an old-barn, out-in-the-woods operation."

No, indeed. Dupont CC's maintenance structure met and exceeded its needs so fully that Shafer said, "The only problem is, we are running out of phone capacity and could use a larger cable." That's because some of the folks in the clubhouse took a fancy to extra space in the two-story building and moved in their operations.

But they didn't move in before Shafer accomplished his purposes. Namely:

- Individual offices — of "sufficient size to be private" — for Shafer, his three golf course superintendents, a landscape



DuPont Country Club's table lift greatly improves safety and working conditions.



SHOP TALK

coordinator and an administrator responsible for the workforce and safety programs.

Shafer and the superintendents had all shared an office of about 4 by 10 feet, he said.

- A lunch room that seats 50 people. "That's our peak," he said. "We wanted a lunch room that would be comfortable and clean. And we have snack and soda machines, a television, and refrigerators to store lunches. We were eating in the shop and you can't — and shouldn't — do that."

Continued on page 17

# Superintendents pioneer actions to enhance wildlife

Continued from page 15

"Was I surprised to find superintendents were environmentalists?" asked Marla Briggs, staff ecologist at Audubon International who works with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ASCP) for Golf Courses. "Definitely. A friend said golf courses are pretty much biological deserts. And when I started here, I was hooked into that stereotype. But I've been here three years and it's been great."

Briggs, who owns a master's degree in environmental studies, said she found superintendents were working extensively with Integrated Pest Management, but few were enhancing wildlife.

"Therefore, this opens up a new world to them," she said. "That is the most satisfying part of my job, to talk to superintendents and hear them get excited."

Netwal, Ewoldt and Kerfoot are among the ASCP members who accepted the mantle of environmental stewardship and aggressively taken their message to the public.

"I relish the opportunity to show people the course," said Netwal. "When I first started here some of my toughest customers were the park rangers. But I asked their advice on some things, allowed them to participate and now they are among my biggest promoters. One said to me that in our whole system I probably do more in conserving things than [the rangers] combined. That's a high compliment."

"Most people in our industry work closely with nature," said Kerfoot. "When I first started 15 years ago, the chemical revolution was going on. They looked to chemicals to cure problems. For various reasons everybody's taking a closer look at the environment, looking for friendly chemicals and reducing their use. It makes me proud."

"Turf management is so much more sophisticated than farming," said Tom



Hank Kerfoot and wife Mary, an environmental education teacher, speak to schoolchildren at Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, N.C.



*'We invited all the local environmental groups to ask them what we should do to make them happy... They were awed at what we were doing.'*

— Don Ewoldt, director of grounds  
Sand Creek Country Club

Mead, a former superintendent at Crystal Downs who is now a design associate with Tom Doak at Renaissance Design in Traverse City, Mich. "Superintendents on a whole are more tuned in to the environment than people in other fields."

That environmental awareness, he said, "has become mainstream and broad in the industry in the last three to five years."

With that widening has come more wide-ranging initiatives. To wit, Netwal at Glens Creek has:

- made it a primary cause to pass out bluebird boxes to visitors, including 60 superintendents who held a chapter

meeting there last spring. Each box contains information on mounting, placing, maintaining and monitoring it.

- built several shallow ponds for wildlife purposes, including one as an Eagle Scouts project.

- appears occasionally on a local television station's Earth Alert segment, "getting the word out about the positive things going on in golf."

Backed by strong support from General Manager Jerry Mobley, Ewoldt and superintendent Phil Lau at Sand Creek:

- initiated a Junior Conservation Society which, among other things, involves youths in Fantastic Tuesdays

— a time set aside for such activities as taking nature walks and building birdhouses, then monitoring them.

- signed up six of the eight area schools for AI's Adopt-a-School Program in which Ewoldt helps the schools improve wildlife habitat on their grounds. "We have a lot of fun with it," he said. "The kids do, too. I'm getting high schoolers monitoring the houses. Right now we're doing a lot of planning. We've got teachers interested and schools registered. They're talking about wildflower gardens and other projects like that."

- plan, starting in October, to carry out a stabilization project along about 3,700 feet of creek bank troubled by erosion. Now that the creek has been dredged, crews will build steps out of the banks and use netting and plant materials to stabilize them. "We will also build ripples and little dams and pools to encourage steelhead trout upstream," Ewoldt said.

- set up an informational billboard and display table in the clubhouse and had two books on Sand Creek and ACSP hardbound for the club's library.

At Carmel Country Club, Kerfoot:

- alongside his wife and environmental education teacher Mary, will work with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service on Project Learning Tree this fall. School teachers, Scout and 4-H leaders — "anyone involved with outdoor education and natural resources" — will be taught about wildlife.

- is exploring working with the National Quail Society (NQS) on a planting project to sustain a quail environment. The NQS will then transplant quail to the property.

- is working with the local power company on a long-range vegetative planting plan along its power lines.

Meanwhile, recycling has become a community-help project at Carmel

Continued on next page

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## GC at Newcastle is given env'l excellence award

SEATTLE, Wash. — The Golf Club at Newcastle, an upscale 36-hole public/private facility being built on a former coal mine, was one of five projects around the country to be recognized with an award for excellence in environmental health from the National Association of County and Health Officials (NACHO).

The 350-acre, \$40 million project was cited as an outstanding example of cooperation and innovative use of a former landfill.

The Golf Club at Newcastle, which will feature an 18-hole daily-fee course and an 18-hole private course, is being developed by the Bellevue, Wash.-based Oki developments.

The first of the two courses, both of which are being designed by golf course architect Robert Cupp, will open in 1997. Fred Couples assisted Cupp in the planning of the courses.



*'I keep running into people on a daily basis who say the golf course is great, but this wildlife really makes it special.'*

— John Netwal  
Glynn's Creek Golf Course

## Supers aggressive in environmentalism

Continued from previous page

Country Club and Sand Creek. Proceeds from Carmel's recycled materials are given to the nearby Carolina Raptor Center that helps injured birds, while Sand Creek's proceeds are donated to schools for environmental projects.

"We've got an aggressive recycling program," Kerfoot said. "We try to recycle everything and put as little as we can in the dumpster. We're learning new ways all the time. We return flower pots to the distributor—a nursery. We've started taking on clubhouse materials as well. They are preparing to do a renovation and we felt they should find out how to recycle before they built. It involves a tremendous volume of things."

Ewoldt sees that grass clippings and compost are given to the golf course

community homeowners for flower gardens.

Ewoldt and Kerfoot took their message to the masses by hosting environmental symposiums, inviting such activists as the Sierra Club. The events have paid dividends.

"We invited all the local environmental groups to ask them what we should do to make them happy, so we could still develop the land and make money and provide an area for recreation," Ewoldt said. "We had a real amicable meeting... They were awed at what we were doing."

"I spoke at Sierra Club meeting on water quality as it pertains to golf courses," Kerfoot said. "They were really good. I've been up front with them since I first invited them out here. Every problem they could point out, I had



Golf course superintendent John Netwal, third from left, with Eagle Scouts who constructed a shallow pond for wildlife purposes.

already identified and had a plan for."

The educational tide may be turning, they agreed.

"I felt it was important the way the industry is going, the pressure put on us, the heightened public awareness of environmental issues, to show that golf courses can fit in a park system like this," Netwal said. "I believe I have the

documentation to support my claim. I keep running into people on a daily basis who say the golf course is great, but this wildlife really makes it special.

"I will keep working to get the word out," he added. "People sometimes have to hear it twice, three, four times before they say, 'That golf course out there is maybe all right.'"

## Delhi honors industry supporters as it opens dual-purpose course

DELHI, N.Y. — More than 250 golfers and others joined in the grand opening, July 22-23, of the expanded Delhi College Golf Course which will serve as a classroom for the school's turfgrass program as well as other things.

The course, which now features a full 18-hole layout, "is an outstanding community and educational resource," said Mary Ellen Duncan, Delhi College president.

July 22 was Community Appreciation Day and brought together those instrumental in developing the original nine holes with those who played key roles developing the back nine.

William Kensela, who served as Delhi president from 1955 to 1973, was the driving force behind the golf course. "He did an outstanding job rallying community support for the project," Duncan said. As a result, more than 180 local residents pledged financial support to get the golf course started in 1963 and many others have been instrumental in the course's growth since then.

To recognize their roles, Duncan dedicated the first hole to the Founders of the Delhi College Golf Course. Lynn Abarno, Kensela's daughter, represented the Golf Course Founders.

Fund-raising was also a critical part of developing the back nine.

"The course is a partnership between the community, the turf industry and the Delhi College Foundation," Duncan said. "State tax dollars are not used to support the course."

Key contributors honored July 22 were the Clark Companies of Delhi, the Delaware National Bank of Delhi, and Louis and Mildred Resnick of Ellenville.

The Clark Companies, who build golf courses and athletic facilities, served as general contractor for the back nine. But its role went much further, Duncan said, adding: "This has been a labor of love for Scott Clark and he has dedicated the full resources of the Clark Companies to this

project. We are deeply indebted to them for their expertise and support and will dedicate the 14th hole in honor of the Clark Companies."

Delaware National Bank of Delhi sees the course as "a major resource for the area and has donated \$25,000 to fund-raising efforts," Duncan said. The 10th hole will be dedicated in honor of the bank.

The Resnicks donated \$25,000, and the 18th hole will be dedicated to them.

Officials noted that the course expansion is tied to its role as an educational resource.

"Delhi is committed to being a national

leader in preparing students for careers as golf course superintendents," Duncan said. "This project represents another step toward that goal. The 18-hole course allows us to give students the complete, hands-on training the industry demands."

It is also the reason the industry threw its support behind fund-raising efforts. The college's Turf Management Advisory Council was a driving force behind the course expansion. Since then, nearly 50 businesses and industries have pledged more than \$250,000 in financial or in-kind support to the project.

Officials saluted their "confidence in the Delhi approach to golf education," Duncan said, and pledged to return their investment by providing the industry with "the highly skilled professionals they have come to expect from Delhi."

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) and S.V. Moffett Co. of West Henrietta were recognized.

"S.V. Moffett has been providing Delhi's turf and golf programs with top-of-the-line maintenance equipment for more than 10 years," said Dominic Morales, professor and chairman of Delhi's Plant Sciences Department. "Plus, Steve Moffett was instrumental in obtaining major donations toward the irrigation system and the other equipment used in the golf course expansion." The 15th hole was dedicated to Moffett.

NYSTA, Morales said, "gave the lead donation that led to construction of our new Turf Education Center. They also pledged \$25,000 to the golf course expansion." The 13th hole was dedicated to the association. The course opened for play on July 24.

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