

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



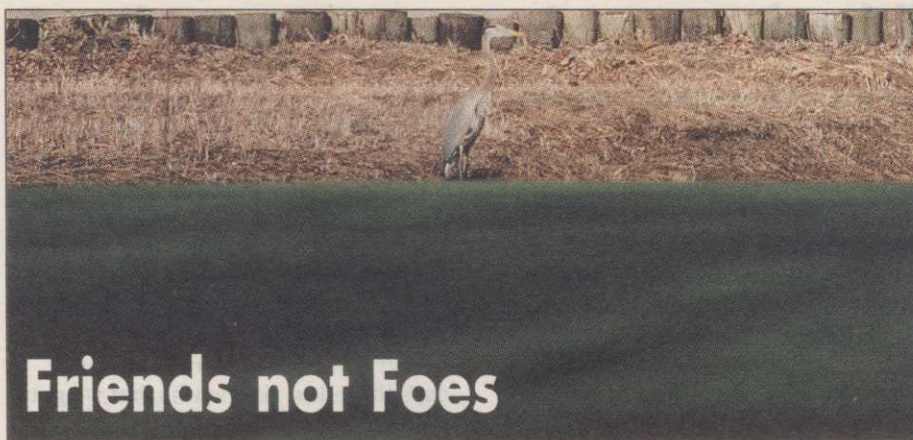
on Oct. 8, 1996. After a three-year hiatus due to stadium and bubble construction, the 1996 Field Day committee under the direction of Joe Kennedy has prepared an "Emporium of Turf Related Delights." The event will be hosted by Mike Mongon. The expo will feature traditional equipment demonstrations and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



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

New Bermudagrass puts Norman's emerging turf reputation on line

Continued from page 15

from Greg Norman Turf, a subsidiary of Great White Shark Enterprises. According to Norman's staff agronomist, David Barnes, GN-1 is the brain child of Australian Hugh Whiting, who had cultivated a field of GN-1 at Pacific Sod in San Diego as early as 1988. Whiting has since patented the strain.

When Dye and Norman were working on The Medalist, Norman asked Barnes to search for Bermudagrass alternatives.

There were only enough sprigs to grass two holes, but Norman and Barnes were so taken with the strain, they decided to market it nationwide under the name GN-1.

"In order to have a patent on something, you have to prove there are at least three things that set it apart from other products in the marketplace," explained Barnes. "The three things Whiting cited are: It thatched less in the same growing conditions, greener color and

better cold tolerance.

"We have a lot of confidence in this grass. We've been working with it for nearly two years and Pacific Sod has had it since 1988... We feel this grass is an improvement on the norm."

Of course the "norm" is 419, which has set the industry standard for more than 30 years. Don Roberts of Southern Turf Nurseries, which grows and produces 419, said he isn't terribly familiar with GN-1 but is keeping an open mind.

"We're eager to look at any new variety," said Roberts. "And if we find it stands the test of time, we'll be the first ones to sign and become a contract grower — if it truly is the next best grass, the future grass, let's say."

"I think the industry is ready for another grass that will do things better in certain environments."

What sets GN-1 apart? According to Wagner, its aggressive nature and green color do. Be-

fore sprigging in April, Wagner visited The Medalist Club where areas of GN-1 meet 419, making comparisons easy.

"Originally, the color of GN-1 was what I saw," said Wagner. "It's also more aggressive. It will take more edging, verticutting and top dressing to maintain it. Also, I think the leaf blade is a little coarser than 419. When sod was first coming in, you could see the leaf blade is a little wider, a little more purple. But David [Barnes] tells me that, when you start mowing it, it improves."

Barnes said Norman himself likes the new grass because the ball sits up better. Barnes also said GN-1 is not only a darker shade of green than 419, it is more tolerant to nematodes.

"And maybe most important," he added, "GN-1 is a pure strain, a new strain. We had 16 holes at the Medalist done with 419 and you could see all sorts of colors and seedhead formations. If you go back to 1962 [when 419 was introduced], there have been mutations over the years. With 419, you see a grass that is 30 years older."

The ultimate testimonial, however, won't be available until Eaglebrook opens its doors this fall. Early reports have been extremely positive, but all the players in this drama — Barnes, Garl and Wagner — realize their reputations are staked to the success of GN-1 and Eaglebrook. Wagner and assistant Steve Gano, who have worked side by side on the grow-in, know this better than anyone.

"Everything at this job I take personally," Wagner said. "So my job and recommendation on grass is important. So far I've been real impressed with it. But if something went wrong, it would probably be my [job]."

without the gamble.

coverage per square inch with fewer application breaks and more effective control of grassy and broadleaf weeds.

No other preemergent comes with Poly-S. Only Scotts can provide the superior performance of

patented Poly-S technology for controlled nutrient release with flexible release rates, higher nitrogen efficiency and a more predictable response. The result? You get more value from the fertilizer you apply, with overall improvement in turf quality while controlling weeds.

Formulation/application flexibility. Scotts makes it your way, providing a wide range of product rates and application scheduling choices. Scotts offers a preemergent formulation for almost every need — north to south — with varying rates of nitrogen and active ingredients.

There is a difference. The Scotts Difference. It's the difference between gambling and going with a sure thing — the only preemergent with over 11 years of field-proven performance. For more information contact your Scotts Tech Rep today. Or call 1-800-543-0006.



Professional Turf Products
...The Scotts Difference.

The Scotts Company • 14111 Scottslawn Road • Marysville, Ohio 43041 • Phone: (513) 644-0011 • Fax: (513) 644-7205

Beatrice CC 1st Audubon-certified course in Neb.

BEATRICE, Neb. — Beatrice Country Club is the first golf course in Nebraska and 69th in the nation to achieve designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"We began working towards complete certification in the fall of 1994," said Casey Crittenden of Beatrice Country Club. "Our members have been supportive of this program and without that support we would not have been able to establish our facility as an environmental leader."

Crittenden acknowledged the foresight of Bill Love, the course architect, and H&H Golf, the course contractors, for creating several areas around the property that were turned into natural settings for wildlife habitat.