

BRIEFS



**MATRIX PROPERTIES JOIN AUDUBON**

**JAMESBURG, N.J.** — Forsgate Country Club and its sister clubs Commonwealth National Golf Club of Horsham, Pa., and Ashbourne Country Club of Cheltenham, Pa., have joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS). Matrix-Stafford Hospitality, a management and consulting group based in Cranbury, manages all three clubs. The program will be coordinated by superintendents Bob Ribbans at Forsgate, Larry Schlippert at Commonwealth and Mark Yates at Ashbourne.

**GOLEMBIEWSKI GETS MUSSER AWARD**

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has named Ohio State University graduate student Robert C. Golembiewski the recipient of its 1997

Award of Excellence, which includes an \$8,500 scholarship toward Golembiewski's doctoral studies. A graduate of Michigan

State, with a master's degree in botany and plant pathology, he is working on a thesis titled "Characterization of creeping bentgrass using randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) markers."

**MSU GETS CRUMB RUBBER PATENT**

**DENVER, Colo.** — The US Patent Office on May 1 issued a major patent to Michigan State University for using crumb rubber as a turf top dressing. Its exclusive licensee, JaiTire Industries in Denver, has been marketing the product under the trade name of Crown III for two years through its national dealer network. The product has been installed at more than 500 locations across the country — including many high-profile golf courses, collegiate and prep athletic fields, and professional sports stadiums.

**NICKLAUS CITES SCOTT LEWIS**

**LAS VEGAS** — Scott Lewis, superintendent of golf course maintenance here at SouthShore Golf Club at Lake Las Vegas Resort, has been named the Nicklaus Superintendent of the Year. Lewis was selected from superintendents tending to 138 Nicklaus-designed courses, as well as those managed by the Nicklaus golf course maintenance company, Golf Turf. "The honor says a lot about Scott's talent and ability. It is nice to see him recognized by his peers. It also speaks volumes about the talents of his first-class staff," said Harry Turner, vice president of operations at Lake Las Vegas Resort.

**Nationwide test greens to yield results this year**

By MARK LESLIE

**FAR HILLS, N.J.** — Inspired by the old pie greens of the 1930s and '40s, three national organizations expect to plant test putting greens at 16 golf courses and have initial data readings by the end of the year.

"We're excited by this," said Jim Snow, national director of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, which is sponsoring the project along with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). "One of the things superintendents have wanted is data from variety trials that was gathered under golf course conditions. For whatever

reasons, even if they are cut daily, most sites are not maintained that way. They don't get the traffic you get on a green.

"There have been some prominent grasses over the years that looked great in tests but failed miserably under field conditions."

With \$15,000 in funding each, the participating golf courses will build practice greens, which will be used as test plots for bentgrasses or Bermudagrasses. As of mid-May, 17 bents and 12 Bermudas were expected to be included, although that number will change.



Four courses will test the Bermudas, a dozen will test bents, according to NTEP National Director Kevin Morris.

"We're trying to get the bentgrass greens built this summer and established this fall," Snow said. "We can begin taking data this fall regarding establishment rate and other things. Next year will be the first full year."

The Bermudagrass greens will be planted next spring.

Professors at nearby universities will be charged with keeping the data.

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A work crew performs its daily chores as the day (June 12) draws near for the long-awaited 1997 U.S. Open at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

**GETTING OPEN-READY**

**Latshaw faces compelling challenge at Congressional**

By MARK LESLIE

**BETHESDA, Md.** — When the U.S. Open begins on June 12 at Congressional Country Club here, it will mark the beginning of the end of the three longest years of Paul R. Latshaw's life.

"It will be a letdown, actually," said the Congressional superintendent. "It's been a three-year grind." For three years, every day has pointed toward 96 hours in 1997 when the venerable old course becomes the focal point of golf for the world.

Latshaw had tackled the rigors of maintaining Augusta National for Masters competitions in 1986-89 and of preparing Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club for PGA and U.S. Open events in 1978 and 1983. And his arrival at Congressional was akin to University of Kentucky coach Rick Pitino taking control of the woeful Boston Celtics last month. The golf world looked on in anticipation.

"These were the most publicized greens in the world," Latshaw said of Congressional's putting surfaces, which were in sad condition but for reasons no one could fathom.

"Everyone said, 'They're never going to make it; forget saving



Paul R. Latshaw

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**RECYCLING MADE EASY**

Wood chippers have a place on the golf course, especially where the club is dedicated to recycling. At Longaberger Golf Club in Hanover, Ohio, which will open in 1998, wood chips will be used for paper products. See On the Green article on page 23.



ON THE GREEN

**Texas A&M program a model for clubs considering Audubon**

**COLLEGE STATION, Texas** — A unique program at Texas A&M University is helping more than 70 courses in Texas, such as Champions Country Club, to pursue certification as wildlife sanctuaries under a program of the Audubon International and the United States Golf Association.

Lake Side Country Club in Houston is the first fully-certified course in Texas, according to Audubon ecologist Marla Briggs. Some 2,000 courses in the United States and Canada have paid a \$100 membership fee with the intent to pursue the program, and 95 have completed the strenuous, six-part program since its inception in 1991, she said.

But the unique boost in Texas, where long sunny days have sparked a passion for golf played on some 900 courses,

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## Texans spur research with \$200K grant

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Texas Turfgrass Association has donated \$200,000 to Texas A&M University's department of soil and crop sciences as part of the Texas Turfgrass Research, Education and Extension Endowment.

"The association is hoping that with this beginning money, others will see the need for the endowment at Texas A&M and will also make contributions," said

Texas Turfgrass Association Executive Director Shirley Duble of College Station. "We hope we provide the seed money that generates more."

Turfgrass in Texas is a \$4.13 billion industry, covering about 3.5 million acres, according to the association. Single-family households, the largest sector in terms of annual expenditures, spend almost \$2.6 billion a year on lawn

care and maintenance.

Research currently includes breeding, plant pathology, urban entomology, soil science, turfgrass physiology and management, weed control and development of other leading-edge programs and technologies, according to Dr. Richard White, turfgrass researcher for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The endowment also may fund scholarships and internships for student enrichment and may assist the Extension Ser-

vice in the development of timely technology transfer programs for all segments of the industry.

"The economic study by Texas A&M agricultural economists pointed to the size of the industry in Texas, and we don't think people were aware of how large it is," Duble said. "We hope that with more research and education people will learn how to plant the best types of grasses, how to take care of them and how to use fewer pesticides."

## UNTIL NOW, AN UNDULATING COURSE WAS AN ARCHITECT'S DREAM AND A MOWER'S NIGHTMARE.



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## Test greens readied

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Snow said these will be the first trials away from university sites for 50 years. "Frankly, what was there after Penncross [bentgrass]?" Snow asked. "There wasn't much else to test. Having a choice is a recent phenomenon."

On the pie greens of the 1930s and '40s, people tested a dozen to 15 mostly vegetatively propagated bentgrasses like Toronto, C-1 and C-19. But "they weren't designed for statistical analysis," Snow said.

The new plots will be replicated three times and randomly installed so they can be statistically analyzed, he said. The plan is for a five-year study.

The test greens will be constructed in Washington, Indiana, California, Arizona, Texas, Alabama, Illinois, Missouri, Florida, New York, Colorado, Virginia and Kentucky. Of the sixteen sites, 13 have been confirmed by the selection committee.

Contracts have been signed and agreed to at Fox Hollow at Lakewood in Lakewood, Colo.; North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill.; SCGA Members Club in Murrieta, Calif.; The Country Club of Birmingham in Birmingham, Ala.; The Missouri Bluffs in St. Charles, Mo.; Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y.; and Westwood Golf Course in Vienna, Va.

Six other courses have agreed to participate and are in the final stages of completing the contract. Discussions between the last three courses and the committee are ongoing and should wrap up within the next couple of weeks, said Jim Moore, director of the USGA's Construction Education Program.

"It's a great opportunity to show golfers the golf and scientific communities' commitment to golf and the environment," Moore said. "Plus it's a great combination effort between the USGA, GCSAA and NTEP. If this works, I can see us doing similar efforts on other matters in the future."

Moore is representing the USGA during the selection and construction phases. As it shifts into a research mode Dr. Michael Kenna, director of Green Section research, and NTEP will take over.