

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.

Continued on page 20



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

Continued on page 24



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.



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,

Continued on page 18

Texas A&M students perform Audubon preliminaries

Continued from page 17

comes from Texas A&M University turfgrass students who have teamed with turfgrass researcher Dr. Richard White to provide the first step toward certification. The group offers to conduct initial resource assessment surveys documenting the wildlife and plant species that already exist on the course.

"Texas A&M's turf students have been tops with this effort," Briggs said. "We've talked to some other universities about doing this, but Texas A&M has been the leader so far."

White said working with golf courses — where most turf majors hope to land jobs — is an excellent teaching tool.

The students know this is important for the environment, White said. "They see the golf course as a whole, not just the turf, and start thinking about ways to make it better," he added. "They get to begin applying principles they are learning in class."

Briggs said the wildlife sanctuary certification program begins with the resource inventory. From that, Audubon International writes a report on environmental planning specific to the particular golf course. Next, a workbook is provided to the golf course, with five segments: water quality management, water conservation, integrated pest management, wildlife and habitat management, and outreach and education. Full certification may take one to three years, depending on the environmental condition of the golf course when it begins, she said.

"A golf course can do all five at once or one or two at a time," Briggs said. "When they finish the workbook, we review and, if all is satisfactory, accept it for full certification."

The Texas A&M students begin the process by dividing into teams for photography, property/adjoining land use, plant inventory, wildlife inventory and superintendent information. White said that by working in teams — each with a leader and several members — the group can complete the resource assessment in a day.

"We put at least 100 man-hours in during one day," White said. That's something a golf course superintendent would find difficult to do given time commitments.

"I gave the students some pointers on where to find wildlife and native plants, but I would not have had time to do it myself," Joachim said.

Beginning the wildlife sanctuary certification program at Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas was one of Keith Ihm's first actions as golf course superintendent. Having the students available to

do the initial resource inventory allowed Ihms to concentrate on other duties in his new position without neglecting the important first step toward certification.

"Some people have the impression that we (at golf courses) spray with a lot of pesticides and waste water," Ihms said. "But we are doing what we can to change that."

Ihms said Bent Tree plans to

use the resource inventory completed by the Texas A&M students to help educate and inform their members and surrounding community about the wildlife that lives there. And, he has plans to have a local private school build nesting boxes for various species of birds that frequent the course.

White pointed out that an

open-door policy for increased wildlife populations can have drawbacks - bird droppings, divots in the turf from large mammals, or putting natural habitats in the wrong places, causing golfers to lose more balls or slowing play.

Ihms agreed. But he said Bent Tree has an environmental solution for much of that - the course contracts with a humane trapper to remove problem animals and relocate them on neighboring

ranches. The trapper also recently rescued and sent to a rehab facility some baby beavers that were homeless due to the heavy rains.

White said it is that kind of example students realize from working on the resource assessments.

"The exposure is great. This project has increased the students' awareness of environmental concerns and is something that they will carry with them through their careers," White noted.

Changing the Course.

New HERITAGE™ Fungicide. Changing the Course of Disease Control.

Now, golf course superintendents can change the course of turfgrass disease control with HERITAGE, a completely new fungicide with a novel mode of action.

HERITAGE will give your golf course round-the-clock protection against devastating diseases. With its powerful combination of preventative and curative activity and its high level of effectiveness against 18 of the toughest turf diseases, HERITAGE will make an outstanding difference in the quality and health of your turfgrass.

The active ingredient in HERITAGE is based on naturally occurring fungicides, called strobilurins, which are found in certain mushrooms.

HERITAGE has a novel mode of action which is different than any other fungicide now on the market.

It has both preventative and curative activity and is absorbed into the leaf blades and stems



as well as taken up by the roots. This ensures that your golf course is protected from the devastating effects of turfgrass diseases.

HERITAGE is the only fungicide available that controls both brown patch and Pythium, as well as take-all patch, summer patch, anthracnose and snow mold—an unprecedented advantage for the turf professional's disease program. HERITAGE is also effective against certain fungicide-resistant pathogens, making it an extremely useful tool in resistance management strategies.