

BRIEFS



STEELE NEW DEAN AT PENN STATE
 COLLEGE STATION, Pa. — Pennsylvania State University will have a new dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences on July 1 — Dr. Robert D. Steele. Steele has been associate dean for research in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and executive director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nationally known for his research in nutritional sciences, Steele was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the research division at UW-Madison.



HEART OF AMERICA EXPANDS SEMINAR

Following the success of its initial event, The Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association intends to continue the Heart of America GCSA Golf and Turf Seminar. Scheduled some time in November, the seminar will either remain a two-day event or expand to three days and will include a trade show. HAGCSA newsletter Editor Jeffrey Elmer reported that many members feel education should be the focus of the organization, and the seminar program will be an ambitious one.

Degree-carrying 2nd assistants a trend of '90s

By J. BARRY MOTHES

The steady supply of educated turfgrass graduates entering the job market year after year has led to more golf clubs and courses hiring degree-carrying second assistant superintendents, according to directors of some of the country's biggest and most highly-regarded college and university-based turfgrass programs.

"I think we've been seeing more and more head superintendents going with first and second assistants," said John "Trey" Rogers, an associate professor at Michigan State University. "They want more qualified people and for a few thousand dollars more [in salary] they can get an educated person as a second assistant. Their enthusiasm can make up for their lack of experience and they're worth it."

Rogers said 30 of the 40 2-year turfgrass graduates at Michigan State this year are headed for second assistants jobs. He pointed out there are real practical advantages for superintendents at clubs and courses who have a full-time second assistant superintendent.

"If you only have one assistant and you lose him, you're in trouble," said Rogers. "But if you have two assistants climbing the career ladder, you'll have a second ready to step in when the first leaves which brings some stability to the program."

The story for college and university turfgrass graduates hitting the pavement in 1997 seems to be much the same as in recent years — excellent opportunities at

Continued on page 27



Scott Martin, national coordinator of the Audubon Canada program, speaks to a visitor at Cranberry Resort Golf Course, the first golf course in the country to earn full Audubon accreditation.

Audubon advances with Canadian leader

By MARK LESLIE

COLLINGWOOD, Ontario, Canada — Audubon International (AI) has reached a milestone in its advancement around the globe with the addition here of a national coordinator of The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada.

When ecologist Scott Martin took charge of the fledgling organization in February it was, first, a learning exercise, and, second, a "test launching pad" for AI as it prepares to initiate organization in several other countries.

"We have been approached by entities in Portugal, Southeast Asia, Aus-

tria, Australia and France about setting up an operation there," said AI President Ron Dodson. "We felt we could not do justice in managing a global environmental program from [AI headquarters] Selkirk, N.Y. Canada is close enough that it can serve to teach us how best to spread Audubon programs on a global basis."

Martin, who has worked at parks throughout Ontario and holds degrees in natural sciences and outdoor recreation, parks and tourism from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, said: "The response has been very good. We will

Continued on page 33

Photo by Russell C. Kirk



EAGLEBROOKE OUT FRONT WITH GN-1

GN-1 Bermudagrass, from Greg Norman Turf, covers all the tees and fairways at The Club of Eaglebrooke in Lakeland, Fla. — the first facility to use the grass on all 18 holes when it opened in late 1996. "We're excited to have been the first golf course in the nation using this unique new grass, and are elated to see the TPC at Sugarloaf course [in Atlanta] and now the new Atlanta Braves stadium following our example," said Don Randall, Eaglebrooke's general manager/director of golf. The course was designed by Ron Garl of Lakeland This 18th green is guarded by water, sandtraps and rolling hills. The body of water in the foreground is 20-acre Lake Eaglebrooke, which comes into play on the 16th, 17th and 18th holes. Garl has also been busy in Costa Rica, among other places (see story page 1).

QA Christians presses on in Ulowa research efforts

Dr. Nick Christians of Iowa State University is an expert in developing naturally occurring herbicides for the turf industry. His major research has been on a byproduct of the corn wet-milling process, corn gluten meal (CGM), which has shown to be effective against 22 different weeds. Christians holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from Colorado State University and master's and doctorate degrees in agronomy from The Ohio State University.



Dr. Nick Christians

Golf Course News: What's the latest news on CGM?

Nick Christians: The major development was the EPA's decision that CGM no longer had to be registered as a pesticide. That opened the door for us to bring on new marketers. The companies and product names that have signed on include Safe Earth Lawn & Gardens, Corn Gluten Meal Weed Control; Rohde's Services Inc., GreenSense; Floyd Rogers, WeedFREE; Manning Agricultural Center Inc., ProPac; Grain Processing Co., Corn Gluten Meal Herbicide; Blue Seal Feeds, Safe 'N Simple; Walt's Organic Fertilizer, Wonderful Weed & Feed; Hardesty Organic Supply, Suppressa; Winton Graf [TBD]. We should be announcing more in a few weeks.

GCN: How has the product been accepted in the golf industry?
NC: The primary market, so far, has been lawn care because of

Continued on page 28

Audubon Canada gets coordinator

Continued from page 17

find the more we let people know that, yes, it's here, the money's staying in Canada, it's serviced by Canadian personnel with Canadian information, they will jump on board that much more."

With support from the Royal Canadian Golf Association, AI set up a Canadian program some time ago, but there had been no Canadian office or personnel. It was run entirely from the New York headquarters.

Martin expects the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System will become "an industry standard, like in the United States." Already, 11 percent of Canadian golf courses are signed up in the golf program, and progress is being made also in the programs for schools, business and corporate properties and individual backyards.

"We have 160 to 165 courses signed up," Martin said. "We just added eight last week. We're very close, percentage-wise, to the States already. The way things have been growing exponentially I think it will work here as well."

"We've been very lucky that a lot of people in Canada latched onto the program and took it upon themselves to get out and push it even though it was not yet a Canadian entity."

With that advance help, three Canadian courses have already earned full certification, fulfilling six categories. Cranberry Resort Golf Course in Collingwood pointed the way, followed by Oakdale Golf and Country Club in Downsview, Ontario, and Point Grey G&CC in Vancouver, B.C.

Martin was, in fact, a member of the advisory committee that oversaw the Audubon program at Cranberry Resort. His specialization in interpretation, combined with a background in biology, made Martin "a perfect fit" for the job, according to Dodson.

"From a point of view of certification requirements, programs and general objectives, Audubon Canada will be exactly the same as the U.S.," Dodson said. "However, we thought it best to serve our members with people familiar with their culture, rules and regulations. They will run their program as seen fit by Canadians and for Canadians."

"We will Canadianize the information as much as possible, and get the office set up and running smoothly," said Martin, who is presently a one-man staff. "By September we hope to have all the Canadian members fully serviced from this office and to find corporate sponsors so that we can hire additional staff."

The Canadian government's response to Audubon Canada? "Basically, we're getting people to voluntarily do things the government wishes they would do anyway," Martin said. "We're giving them recognition and credit for it and serving as a clearing house to set them on the right path. The response from the government is, they love it, they think it's fabulous. And they've helped out already with workshops and helping resource committees on different golf courses."

Canadian President Scenna takes dream one step further

By MARK LESLIE

MONTREAL — Italian immigrant Pelino Scenna, whose dream came true in December 1963 when he became a golf course superintendent, told Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) members "I've been involved in this industry for 41 years and I like it more now than ever before." Scenna was speaking as the new president of the CGSA during its International Turfgrass Conference and Show here in March.

He deflected praise, saying he has been "fortunate to be surrounded by a good staff all these years."

After immigrating to Canada in late 1956, Scenna got his first job at Brantford Country Club, the fourth-oldest course in Canada and near Toronto. After winning the superintendent job at Galt Country Club in 1963, he became involved in the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association,



Pelino Scenna

and in 1978 served as its president. "A very, very rewarding involvement," he called it.

After 21 years at Guelph, he left in 1985 to join Burlington (Ontario) Golf and Country Club, where he works today. He was first elected to the CGSA board in 1989 at the urging of Paul White of and Bobby Brewster.

"It has been the highest pleasure to serve the CGSA," he told his colleagues.

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