

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

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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

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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

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Q&A: Iowa's research paying off for ag, turfgrass

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the particle size. If you use it on greens it gets picked up in the catch baskets. It works well on taller grass and is just starting to catch on at golf courses.

I'd recommend a superintendent try a small amount first rather than totally convert to it right away.

Try it on the driving range. Put down a 4-by-8-foot sheet of plywood and then apply CGM around it. Take the plywood back up after the application. The plywood area will be your control area so you have something to compare.

The biggest barrier to golf course use is the granular form.

The next step is to convert it to a soluble form that can be sprayed on. But that's a multi-million-dollar leap.

We need to get someone willing to spend that money. I'm going to California to talk to some people about that.

GCN: What is the status of your work with growth regulators?

NC: Primo from Novartis is getting a lot of our attention right now.

It shows little phototoxicity, helps reduce clippings on fairways and could show some reduction of poa annua.

GCN: We understand you have some ongoing work on bentgrass greens. What can you

tell us about that?

NC: Again, we're looking at products that can control *poa annua*. Turf Enhancer from Scotts, Progress from Agrevo and Primo are the major ones we've studied.

We haven't come to any conclusions yet, except that all three show a lot of promise. We'll know more about the relative success of each in another year.

GCN: Are you receiving any U.S. Golf Association funding for your research?

NC: We recently completed a major project on pesticide movement through soil profiles. This has resulted in six published papers. We found that there can be movement and that pesticides could potentially reach ground water.

But we have the ability to control movement through proper turf management and reduce the risk. Control happens primarily through the watering program.

We tested movement after a heavy 1-inch rain and compared it to four evenly spaced 1/4-inch applications.

We saw a large reduction in the movement by applying water in smaller amounts at spaced intervals following a pesticide application and by not applying pesticides just before a heavy rainfall.

GCN: Does the USGA do a good job allocating its research dollars?

NC: Yes. I've been on the research committee and admired how the USGA funds a variety of subjects over such a large geographic area.

GCN: What will be the major advances in turfgrass management over the next 10 years?

NC: The Internet. It's such a great way to distribute information. I'm getting e-mail requests from superintendents more and more. In fact, we just added a site to access our latest research on corn gluten meal. The site: [www.hort.iastate.edu/hort then click on faculty, click on Christians, click on CGM].

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELECTS BOARD

The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association's 1997 board of directors has taken office. It includes Mike Brennan of Pine Creek Golf Course in Colorado Springs, Dave Brown of Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder, Jim Fitzgibbons of Meadows Golf Course in Littleton, John Hoofnagle of Calley Country Club in Aurora, Doug Jones of city of Grand Junction Golf Courses, Rick Robbins of irrigation consultant RRI Inc., George Stowell of Gunnison (Colo.) Golf Club, Lee Terry of Walkingstick Golf Club in Pueblo, Don Tolson Fox Hollow at Lakewood and Jim Wilkins of Westwoods Golf Course in Arvada.



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