

BRIEFS



ARGYLE CC NAMES BARRETT

SILVER SPRINGS, Md. — Mike Barrett has been appointed superintendent at Argyle Country Club here. He has been a member of the Argyle staff since February 1996 when he assumed the position of assistant superintendent. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture, Barrett has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Baltimore. He has extensive experience in turf management and was employed at Greenspring Valley Hunt Club and Cattail Creek Country Club prior to joining the Argyle staff.

GCSAA UNVEILS COLLEGE GUIDE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has released a publication providing a concise profile of turfgrass management programs offered by two- and four-year colleges and universities. The *GCSAA College Guide to the Golf Course Management Profession* is designed to help students select the program that best fits their needs. Copies may be ordered through the GCSAA Bookstore at 800-974-2722.



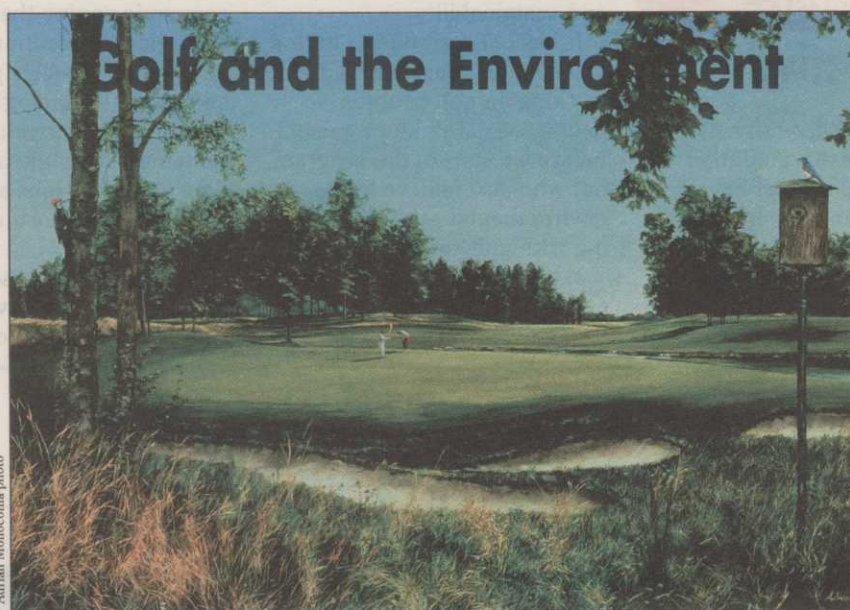
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FLORIDA CITES CAMPBELL

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) has honored Charlie Campbell with its coveted Wreath of Grass Award for outstanding contributions to the turfgrass industry. Campbell has more than 40 years experience in the turfgrass industry. He is currently a manufacturers representative at DowElanco. He has been an active member of the FTGA since 1986, serving on the FTGA board for six years and several committees including the Show and Membership committees in 1996-1997.

KILLINGTON JOINS AUDUBON

KILLINGTON, Vt. — Killington Golf Course has joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), a national program designed to help landowners preserve and enhance the environmental quality of their property. "It's a great program to make people aware the environment on the golf course," said superintendent Chris Voutas. "We're putting out bluebird and bat boxes and encouraging wildflower growth. We'll also cut down on water and pesticide usage."



Adrian Monocchia photo

The Honors Course in Ooltewah, Tenn. — a model of biodiversity.

Stand behind diversity of another kind

By RONALD G. DODSON

Diversity is a key to the success of life whether we speak of the diversity of opinions, cultures, or beliefs. Diversity challenges us to think, to confront our own perceptions and beliefs. But the challenge makes us stronger, more alert, and aware. The differences among humans combine to make us more complete as a species.

And that's what biological diversity is all about. Biological diversity is a key to the ultimate health and survival of the environment. But what exactly is biological diversity? Why is it so important, and what does it have to do with golf courses?

Biological diversity is the different forms of wildlife and vegetation we might see on a given piece of land. But the diversity of wildlife or the plantlife that we see is not always an accurate indicator of the biological diversity of a site.

What cannot be seen as easily are things like what the birds are eating and what's feeding the things that the birds are eating. Is there adequate habitat for these birds to reproduce genetically intact offspring? You have to think beyond the visible survey and beyond the particular site to truly understand the complexities of biological diversity.

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EPA places eight states in one-stop reporting system

MINNEAPOLIS — Gov. Arne H. Carlson has announced that Minnesota is one of eight states selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive grants of \$500,000 each for developing a system of "one-stop" reporting of environmental information. The grant was awarded to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The other states are Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico and Oregon.

"By accepting this grant, Minnesota is committed to being an active partner in the One Stop Reporting program and continuing our leadership in environmental reform," said Carlson.

EPA's grant program is designed to assist and encourage states to fully implement a comprehensive environmental reporting and data management system. The goals of the One Stop Reporting Program include reducing the record keeping and reporting burden of the regulated community; fostering geographic approaches to solving environmental problems; and providing the public easier access to environmental data and information.

In determining grant awards, EPA looked for states who had already made substantial investments in data management reforms over a period of years, and were willing to commit to reforms in the future.

"Minnesota is a natural fit for this grant because our agency already has several ongoing activities that are in line with the goals of the grant," said MPCA Commissioner Peder Larson. "This grant will support and encourage our work in reforming our environmental reporting and data management system, yet at the same time it gives us flexibility in how we do it."

Dicamba, 2,4-D study finds little soil, water impact

By MARK LESLIE

BELLE GLADE, Fla. — A two-year study of a U.S. Golf Association-specified golf green by University of Florida Profs. George Snyder and John Cisar has found that concentrations of the herbicides 2,4-D and dicamba were low in the thatch and soil and far below federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in percolate water.

"Dicamba and 2,4-D, particularly dicamba, are pretty mobile in sand soils, and most people don't want any in their drinking water," said Snyder, adding, "As far as I know, they are not of any health concern at the concentrations we observed."

Both of the phenoxy acid-type herbicides are widely used to control weeds in turfgrasses and general agriculture. They have been found frequently in surveys of pesticides and surface waters — and less commonly in ground water — and have therefore raised public concern. Although they have been studied frequently in agricultural settings, little research has been done on their persistence and mobility when applied to turfgrasses, especially high-sand-content USGA greens.

Snyder and Cisar, who presented their findings to the recent International Turfgrass Society meeting in Australia, reported that the average concentration



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BUILDING TEAM SPIRIT, RECOGNITION

A program created to incorporate a team spirit for its maintenance department at The Majestic at Lake Walden in Hartland, Mich., includes this sign. "The ultimate goal is that our guests rarely, if ever, see our maintenance workers as they play the course," said Managing Partner William J. Fountain. "Although this is nearly impossible, the sign at a major crossing has become a great public-relations tool. Our guests can visualize how many talented people we have on our maintenance team, and also see the large variety of tasks that need to be done to maintain our facility on a daily basis." Having The Majestic's maintenance team take pride and responsibility in a specific area, and making it known to guests "has proven to bring our entire facility to a new level," Fountain said.

American Golf honors Coste

American Golf Corp. has created an academic scholarship in memory of former Regional Superintendent Pete Coste, who died recently of a brain aneurysm.

"Pete Coste dedicated his life to golf and golf maintenance and he was instrumental in shaping the careers of many aspiring superintendents," said Dean Wochaski, director of maintenance for American Golf's Northeast Region. "This assistance will hopefully help our co-workers further their careers as superintendents with American Golf."

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To raise money for the scholarship fund, the first annual Pete Coste Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing took place at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course on Oct. 21. The \$1,000 scholarship recipients are Michael Mitts of Clearview Golf Course, Frank Carcaterra of Dyker Beach Golf Course and Richard Pietropola of Brigantine Golf Links. Anthony Hooks of South Shore Golf Course and Thomas Imperati of Van Cortlandt Golf Course will each receive awards of \$600. All five will continue in their positions as American Golf assistant superintendents while studying turf management.

Dicamba study

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of 2,4-D in percolate water over a two-month period following August 1993 and April 1994 applications was 2.6 and 1.2 parts per billion (ppb). The MCL for 2,4-D is 70 ppb.

The more mobile dicamba, they said, was discovered at concentrations of 2.5 ppb in 1994 and 1.7 in 1993. There are no

MCL levels for dicamba, although 70 ppb is the most limiting of several legal standards for it as well.

The researchers also studied residue of the herbicides in grass clippings and thatch and found little about which to be concerned. "Considerably more dicamba, and especially 2,4-D, was recovered in clippings following the application in 1993 than was recovered in the 1994 study," they reported. "Nevertheless, in both studies no more than 0.25 percent of the herbicide applied was recovered in the clippings, indicating that clippings are not a major pathway for the removal of these herbicides from treated turfgrass areas..

The measurements provide information about the safety of clippings used for various purposes, such as compost. Degradation of 2,4-D, for instance, has been found to be incomplete during municipal solid-waste composting.

In both years, peaks for concentrations of dicamba, and especially for 2,4-D, in soil and thatch were "clearly observable shortly after each of the two applications," the scientists said. "However, concentrations rapidly declined during the two weeks following each application, but still persisted at detectable levels for approximately two months."

The findings on thatch levels were in contrast to previous studies for organophosphates such as fonofos, isazophos, chlorpyrifos and isofenphos in which more than 80 percent of the pesticide was found in the thatch long after application.

From 40 to 90 percent of the detected dicamba and 2,4-D was found in the thatch. Although difference between the two was not great, a somewhat higher percentage of 2,4-D than dicamba generally resided in the thatch layer, Snyder and Cisar said.

"Shortly after each application, the percentage of 2,4-D and dicamba in the thatch was greatest, with somewhat lower thatch percentages, and therefore higher soil percentages, being observed several days after application," they reported.

In each study the herbicides were applied twice at one-week intervals, followed the next day by 9 millimeters of irrigation and by subsequent irrigations to maintain soil moisture. Although the dicamba application rate was 10 percent that of 2,4-D, the recovery of these materials in percolate water was of the same order of magnitude.

Snyder said he and Cisar are working on ways to reduce even these low levels of dicamba and 2,4-D concentration.

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