

MECHANICS CORNER

## Donors help Texas State tech program

By PETER BLAIS

WACO, Texas — Several companies recently made major donations to Texas State Technical College's (TSTC) new Golf Course & Turfgrass Equipment Technician Specialization program here.

The gifts are to help support the new associate degree program that trains graduates for positions as technicians at golf courses, parks, athletic fields and for lawn-care companies or equipment manufacturers.

Among the gifts are \$85,000 in mowing equipment from Master Turf-Ransomes

Inc. of Dallas, a north Texas distributor of Ransomes equipment. "The industry needs more technicians in the field for golf courses and outdoor power equipment," said company owner Paul Sims. "Manufacturers and distributors need to be more involved in helping train technicians or we'll be in trouble in the next few years."

Sims said the Ransomes equipment,

along with some John Deere materials, will be on loan to the school until next year.

Another major donation of \$45,000 of mowing equipment came from Jacobsen Textron Inc. of Racine, Wis.

"We have been participating in developing this two-year program at Texas State," said Tony Saiia, vice president of customer service at Jacobsen Textron. "We believe it's important for a couple of

reasons. We believe there is a shortage of technicians, whether they are working at golf courses or at equipment distributorships. We just want to help improve that situation. Attracting people to this career is important because it is a good career, there are benefits. You need good schools to prepare technicians for these jobs. We've helped Texas State develop a program that would be meaningful. Having the equipment there will help people know what the product is all about.

"Texas Tech has a unique situation where they have good labs and can take the equipment apart and run it and see how it operates. The equipment we have donated is a mix of new and used equipment, to see how the equipment operates and what type of repairs might be necessary to keep it operating properly."

Other donations included:

- \$1,500 of 419 Bermudagrass sprigs from Coastal Turf Inc. of Bay City, Texas.
- \$1,200 of 419 Bermudagrass from Milberger Turf Sales of Bay City.

"It's industry support like this that allows TSTC to establish new programs while upholding a long-standing tradition of providing up-to-date instruction on the latest equipment," said Golf Course & Turfgrass Management Department Chair Tinker Clift.

# There's more than fertilizer in this bag.



There's a total resource. One that can help you grow healthy, green turf with a strong root system and a solid base. Turf that's healthy and better able to fight disease, pests and everyday wear and tear. That resource is Terra. You'll find a complete, new line of Terra Professional Fertilizers — with primary, secondary, micronutrient and pesticide packages available. Plus, you can count on the support, service, assistance and expertise it takes to select and use the right

fertilizer. The product that will do the job for you. For fertilizers, turf seed, plant protection products and a whole lot more — work with Terra. You'll get more.



Terra Industries Inc.  
P.O. Box 6000  
Sioux City, Iowa 51102  
1-800-831-1002  
www.terraindustries.com

*Working with you.*



## Architects plan unique session at int'l conference

ANAHEIM, Calif. — How do you reshape a green or convert it to bentgrass? What is the best way to repair a worn bunker face or edge a cart path? What remodeling can be done in-house and when should an architect be called?

These and other key questions that perplex golf course superintendents, owners and managers will be addressed during the educational session of the American Society of Golf Course Architects during its seminar at the 69th annual GCSAA International Golf Course Conference here. The seminar will be held Friday, Feb. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m.

ASGCA President Alice Dye will moderate the session that will feature both informative presentations and interactive discussion groups. Seven members of the society — Craig Schreiner, Greg Muirhead, Bobby Weed, Vice President Bob Lohmann, Jan Beljan, Past President Don Knott and John Harbottle — will address a variety of topics relating to remodeling, renovation and restoration. Greens, tees, bunkers, grasses, and practice facilities will be covered.

Following these 10-minute presentations, the audience and members of the ASGCA will split into discussion groups that will include superintendents and architects from the same region of the country (or world for international attendees).

Joining the presenters will be other members of the society, including: Past Presidents Arthur Hills, Dick Nugent, Rees Jones, Bob Graves, Pete Dye and Ed Seay, as well as regular members Steve Forrest and Tom Fazio.

Because redesigning, renovating or restoring courses differs from one region to another, the session will give superintendents and architects a chance to discuss and learn from others who come from the same area.