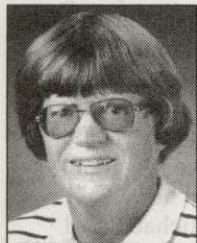


BRIEFS



METGCSA HONORS VITNUM

Dr. Patricia Vittum, program director of the Department of Entomology at the University of Massachusetts,



Dr. Pat Vittum

has been presented the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association's John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. Co-author of the *IPM Handbook for Golf Courses*,

Vittum is well-known for research into the hyperodes weevil. An affiliate of the UMass Cooperative Extension Service, she has been the pesticide coordinator and state liaison representative for the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program for Massachusetts in the 1990s.

HAMILTON JOINS TWINEAGLES

NAPLES, Fla. — John Hamilton has joined the Nicklaus-designed TwinEagles Golf & Country Club as an agronomist. Hamilton has more than 20 years experience. Before joining TwinEagles, he operated a turfgrass consulting service for three years to international golf course clients in China and Guam, and also served as an agronomist with Golden Bear International.

MILLETT ASSUMES MET PRESIDENCY

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Ridgeway Country Club superintendent Earl Millett has taken over the presidency of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MetGCSA). A graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Millett has been involved in the MetGCSA for 21 years, the New York State Turfgrass Association, and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, on whose board he serves. He has been at Ridgeway since 1980.

FERTILIZER INSTITUTE ON THE WEB

Washington, D.C.—The Fertilizer Institute has launched its internet web site and they implemented a new logo. The site, located at www.tfi.org on the world wide web, will contain general information about fertilizer for the public as well as specialized news about association activities for TFI members.

"We view the new web site as a means of extending the lines of communication with our membership and the general public," said TFI President Gary D. Meyers.

Golf course 'living lab' Cal State Poly's aim

By DOUG SAUNDERS

POMONA, Calif. — Dealing with society's trash is an issue that draws little attention from the public until a landfill needs to be created or closed down. After operating a 200-acre landfill on campus property since 1957 in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, California State Polytechnic University here hopes to close the landfill and build an 18-hole golf course that will serve as a living laboratory.

The landfill has served two purposes over the last four decades. It has been a repository for the tons of refuse from the growing LA metropolis, and has served as an outdoor lab for waste

management, environmental sciences, engineering, and agriculture.

"The landfill has been very beneficial to the university from not only an economic standpoint, but also as an educational tool," said Ed Barnes, executive director of the Land Lab and Asset Development for Cal Poly Pomona.

At some point landfills do reach capacity and the next question was how to best close this one down. Strict EPA guidelines specify the closure procedures for landfills. The university has decided that, in conjunction with closure and monitoring regulations, creating a golf course can continue to provide economic and educational

benefits into the future.

"Our desire," Barnes said, "is to build an 18-hole course that will generate income through greens fees, provide a recreational outlet for students, be of value to our athletic program, and give more opportunities for internships for our colleges of hotel and restaurant management, turfgrass management, landscape architecture, and bio-sciences."

Cal Poly recently selected Golf Dimensions, a golf course management firm based in Irvine, to help the university through the project's planning and construction phases. Golf Dimensions recently completed the

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NEW ENGLAND TURF CONFERENCE

Wake up to soil acidity tests, Hummel tells superintendents

By MARK LESLIE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Decrying the fact that many of them have no idea how acidic their soil is, Dr. Norm Hummel called on turfgrass managers to establish soil-testing programs "to define the best fertilizer regimes" for their properties.

Speaking at the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference here on March 4, the former Cornell University professor said: "As basic as it is, it's amazing to me how many people don't have an idea of what the pH of their golf course or athletic field is at."

A soil test can address soil acidity and liming requirements, pH reduction, soil phosphorus and potassium, secondary nutrients like calcium and magnesium, and soluble salts for those in coastal areas, said Hummel, who now operates Hummel & Co. in Trumansburg, N.Y.

Calling pH "one of the most basic soil fertility aspects," Hummel said the optimum reading for most cool-season grasses is in a range of 6 to 7.

"One of the reasons is that optimum nutrient availability is found within that slightly acidic range," he said. "When you get into higher pHs, many of the micronutrients are there but tied up in unavailable forms. When you get much below that, nutrients

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Sunlight assessment, other tools taking turf care into 21st century

By MARK LESLIE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Sunlight assessment and digital imaging — two new technologies that are pulling golf superintendents into the computer age — will also help them deal with the difficult task of course renovations, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section.

"Frankly, most of the people here have the equipment and capabilities to operate this technology," Dave Oatis, director of the Northeast Region, told the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference here.

Oatis hailed the sunlight-assessment technology developed by Arbor Com Inc. of Toronto area. Company owner Scott Robinson, an arborist from Toronto, developed this tool "and it is mind boggling what they can do with it," Oatis said.

Oatis cited the usefulness of digital imaging as "limited only by your imagination."

"On difficult sites with difficult memberships, and for particularly important trees, you can use [sunlight assessment] to document and quantify how many and which trees need to be removed" to save shaded turfgrass, Oatis said. "You need eight hours of sunlight for healthy turf."

The position of the sun as it rises differs by approximately 22

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston, Conn., is home to alltypes of birds, waterfowl and other creatures.

Aspetuck Valley fulfills Audubon requirements

WESTON, Conn. — Aspetuck Valley Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International.

"The membership is very proud that Aspetuck Valley is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course," said superintendent Steven Colangeli, who initiated the program at the club in 1996.

"It's a great feeling to know that a golf course can act as a recreation area for golf as well as a wildlife sanctuary. It's also nice to know that our daily maintenance practices and

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The policy game of golf

By RON DODSON

One of the major problems facing the golf industry today is whether governmental action is the most effective way to protect or restore the environment. Actually, it's a question of whether the public believes governmental action is the only way to protect or restore the environment. To golfers, superintendents and developers, this is an important question because governmental action impacts us all — individually and collectively.

Because the public's awareness of environmental issues and golf courses is at an all-time high, it's timely to take a

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Policy-making a politician maneuver

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brief look at who really makes policies and how they affect us. Although in this space we can't examine the detailed process of forming governmental policy, we can identify the basic ingredients and major actors in the policy-forming process.

Basically, policies are formed by people for people. There is really no such thing as "environmental policy." There is only "people policy."

The effect of any specific environmental policy is important mainly because of its effect on people. Policy decisions are rarely neutral. Usually somebody gains and somebody loses. In some cases everyone might gain, or everyone might lose as the result of a particular policy decision.

"Politics" is the process of forming governmental policy. All the activities we commonly associate with the term "politics" are carried on with the prime goal of influencing governmental policy. Campaigns and elections, for example, are mainly preliminaries to pick the players for the "policy game." "Governmental policy" is an enforceable decision or set of decisions that determines who gets what, when and how, and who pays for it.

The "what" is not restricted to material things, like a new sewage treatment plant, but may include concepts like freedom or justice or a "healthy" environment.

"Who" may be a single person, group, state, section of the country, or "the general public."

Most policy proposals are created for the "good of the public," or to "protect the public interest." But such proposals will ordinarily benefit one or a few groups more than the rest, and it will be these groups who are most active in supporting the proposal. These groups will sometimes attempt to concentrate public attention on the benefits and tend to ignore the overall "costs."

In society, forming policy is an on-going process in which no decision is truly final. However, the impact of environmental policy decisions may be greater than policy decisions in other areas. In some cases, the cost of reversing or changing a decision may be unacceptably high. We are not likely to destroy a multimillion-dollar project because of negative environmental repercussions identified after the construction.

And, in fact, some environmental policy decisions may be ecologically irreversible. We cannot take back the DDT that

has been deposited in the oceans. We cannot bring back a species that has become extinct.

In the United States, we solve most problems and resolve most conflicts without any action from the government. It is only when such resolutions become unsatisfactory to a politically aware and effective public that they become a matter of government agenda. Believe me, the public is carefully watching the golf industry.

Golfers, superintendents, course architects, developers, and anyone else who believes that properly sited, appropriately designed and environmentally managed golf courses represent a form of sustainable development must become involved in environmental stewardship to demonstrate their commitment. The future of the game of golf and the environment depends on setting high environmental standards for golf courses.

Ultimately, the public, through its governmental voice, may have a substantial impact on forming environmental policies for golf courses. On the other hand, forming policies for golf courses — setting standards for designing, building and maintaining them — can effectively be set by those who love the game of golf, but only if they take the initiative to establish and into action policies that are beneficial to both golf and the environment.

Aspetuck certified

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long-range projects are enhancing the environment as well as the wildlife in the area."

"Aspetuck Valley Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program," said Joellen Zeh, ACSS staff ecologist. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas."

Aspetuck Valley fulfilled requirements in environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, integrated pest management, water conservation and water-quality management.

La Cantera certified

Continued from previous page

dens at area elementary schools, said the golf club's education and outreach program gives him and his assistants an opportunity to spend time with children of all ages. He wants them to see both kinds of "birdies" on the golf course — both the kind that signal a great shot and the ones that rely on the land for their very existence.

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