

BRIEFS



GLORIOSO RECEIVES PTC SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Tim Glorioso of New Kensington, Pa., graduated from the Pennsylvania State University Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program in March and was chosen to receive the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Scholarship. After beginning his career at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, Glorioso worked his way up to superintendent at Hill Crest Country Club in Lower Burrell. He will return to Hill Crest as superintendent upon graduation.



University Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program in March and was chosen to receive the Pennsylvania

TURF, LANDSCAPE FIELD DAYS SET

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The Turfgrass Research Conference and Field Day and the Landscape Management Research Conference and Field Day will



update developments for landscape professionals, Sept. 15 and 16, at University of California — Riverside (UCR).

The events are organized by environmental horticulturist Dr. Victor Gibeault and Dennis Pittenger under the sponsorship of the University of California Cooperative Extension, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, and the Agricultural Operations unit at UCR. For further information and registration materials, contact Susana Velez at the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, 4106 Batchelor Hall, University of California, Riverside, Calif. 92521-0124; telephone 909-787-4430.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF PROMOTES

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf Maintenance has promoted Gregg Swanson to regional superintendent and named Mike Robson as course superintendent at Cross Creek Golf Club in Atlanta, Ga.; Stan Overton superintendent at Birkdale Golf Course in Huntersville, N.C.; and Brad Rook as superintendent at Silver Lakes CC in Helendale. Swanson will be responsible for overseeing golf course maintenance programs Canyon Lake Country Club (CC) in Lake Elsinore, Bernardo Heights CC in Rancho Bernardo and Silver Lakes CC in Helendale. A superintendent since 1988, Swanson has extensive experience in golf course operations, turf management and horticulture. From 1992-1995, he was a director of the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association and is a Class A member of GCSAA.

Michigan pioneers environmental self-audit

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program was officially launched June 25 at Michigan State University here, pioneering new ground for golf courses.

Golf turf representatives from throughout the state attended the first Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar to learn how to improve water quality, prevent pollution and increase compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Russell Harding and Michigan Department of Agriculture Deputy Director Keith Creagh provided opening comments and welcomed participants to this new partnership.

“As this groundbreaking initiative gains momentum, we expect to see increased levels of environmental protection and habitat enhancement statewide,” said Harding. “This effort holds tremen-

dous promise and will no doubt serve as a model for other states.”

The program is the first of its kind in the nation and is supported by Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Golf Association of Michigan, Michigan Golf Course Owners Association and environmental advocacy groups.

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Dwarf hybrid Bermudas need special regimen

By BRUCE SHANK

TIFTON, Ga. — The latest generation of dwarf hybrid Bermudagrasses is changing the way golf greens play and are maintained in warmer regions of the United States. And, according to Dr. Wayne Hanna of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station here, as with any quantum change in turfgrass management, superintendents face a learning curve with these Bermudagrasses.

Hanna, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Bermudagrass expert for two decades, is in the final stages of publishing a booklet on how to manage the new Bermudagrasses.

The advantage of the new Bermudas is their absence of seedheads and preference, not tolerance, for cutting heights below 5/32 inch. They also exhibit finer texture and higher density.

Because they are very aggressive and very dwarf, they are maintained to prevent predictable problems, such as thatch.

“You can only see the differences among the new Bermudagrasses at close mowing heights,” said Hanna, who developed the dwarf TifEagle. Only trials mowing the new Bermudagrass below 3/16 inch provide a true comparison of qualities. Test sites at 33 golf courses and universities enable superintendents to see the differences first-hand.

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS COUNTS

The prevention steps Hanna recommends are typical for many golf courses — grooming, top dressing, verticutting and aeration. The difference is frequency and consistency. While standard Bermudagrasses perform better at longer heights of cut, the new varieties don’t perform as intended when allowed to grow much above 1/8 inch.

Grooming (light verticutting with greensmowers) should be performed every week or two, followed by light top dressing, according to Hanna. More aggressive verticutting and top dressing should take place two to three times during the summer. Intervals between aerations should be shortened and cores removed.

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Terry Buchen photo



ON THE GREEN

Filling a truckster-mounted or towable sprayer with water is easier with this simple devise.

A snappy fill-'er-up

By TERRY BUCHEN

TIMONIUM, Md. — Pull-behind golf course sprayers and those mounted on a turf truckster come in a variety of sizes, the most popular in the 100- to 400-gallon range. No matter the size, they can take a long time filling — if your set-up is inefficient.

Douglas W. Petersan, superintendent at Baltimore Country Club here, uses a time-honored way that “fills up our sprayers in virtually no time at all,” he said.

He uses a simple but effective overhead piping system using 2-inch-diameter galvanized steel pipe with a 2-inch ball valve and a 2-inch-diameter canvas fire hose con-

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As we live & breathe: Golf courses as open space

By RON DODSON

As we live and breathe, could it be that golf courses provide some value to the environment? Part of the answer to that question can be found in the air around us. The quality of air depends on open space and, consequently, open space is an essential environmental management tool.

“Open space” is an area with a natural cover of soil, water and plants, where there is usually minimal or low-impact human activity and where legal restrictions limit the development of facilities or structures. There are a variety of different types of open space. We most often

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Colonial Acres joins world’s elite 135 fully certified

GLENMONT, N.Y. — Superintendent Patrick A. Blum, who said he learned from his superintendent father that golf courses can and should help to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources, has led Colonial Acres Golf Course to full certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

Colonial Acres Golf Course is the sixth course in the state and 135th course worldwide to receive the designation, for which a course must demonstrate a high degree of environmental quality in the areas of environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education,

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Superintendent Patrick Blum records the species of birds and other wildlife on Colonial Acres GC.

As we live and breathe

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think of parks.

Others are:

- "Resource open spaces," where land or water is devoted to some form of non-structural production activity. A forest, range lands, water-storage lakes or rivers are examples.

- "Utility open spaces," which include flood-control and drainage lands, and lands used as wildlife refuges, or reserved for urban development.

- "Corridor open spaces," where space is allocated for the movement of people and material from one point to another. Examples include right-of-ways such as highways and streets or railroads, and the areas associated with the terminals or interchange areas.

- "Green open spaces," where recreation or relatively non-structural uses are sought and where natural vegetation tends to dominate the area. These are national and urban parks, buffer areas, golf courses, and greenbelts that may be mixed with urban development.

Open space, in its natural or manipulated state, can have a varied and far-reaching effect on regional air quality. It is well documented that open spaces, particularly when planned as base soil or as bodies of water, can act as "sinks" for many air pollutants. Through the natural process, pollutants generated by urban land uses can be entrapped by these areas. From a planning point of view, open space has been used as a buffer to contain urban development and its resulting air pollution.

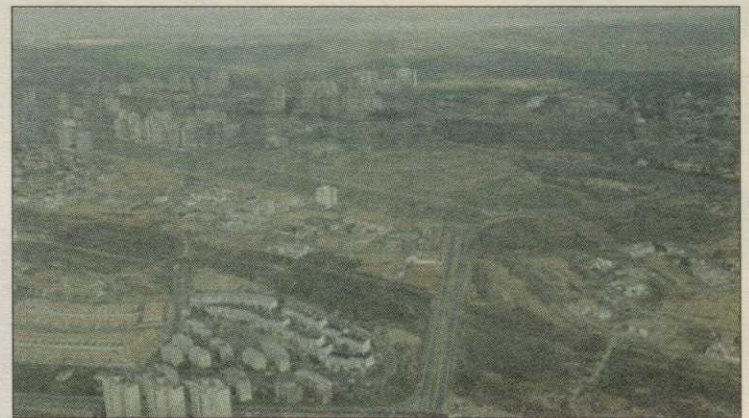
Perhaps more thought should be given to locating some golf courses to serve a role in helping regional air quality. This would result in looking for areas that could serve to form an important "link" in an urban

greenbelt, for example. This siting process could also benefit some forms of urban wildlife that need habitat corridors.

Properly sited, well designed and appropriately managed golf courses, particularly in urban and suburban areas, may help regional air quality more than they are presently given

credit for. The next time you are in an airplane flying into a major metropolitan area, look down. You will be amazed at the mosaic of the landscape and the prominence of golf courses in it.

They are frequently the only remaining "open spaces" on the landscape and, as such, can benefit air quality in areas heavily impacted by human development and activity.



It's obvious that green space is crucial for cities.



Colonial Acres

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integrated pest management, water conservation, and water-quality management.

In 1997, Colonial Acres Golf Course joined the Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

Almost one-third of Colonial Acres contains woodland, water and naturalized areas, some of which are within or in close proximity to playing areas. Nobody playing the course can miss the many bird houses, especially the 24-apartment purple martin "condo" rising above the 9th tee.

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