

## Mich. pioneers

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The unique aspect of the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program is that it provides golf courses with a mechanism to evaluate environmental management practices through a voluntary, self-assessment procedure.

"The Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program consolidates a number of environmental and wildlife initiatives into one model that has been developed specifically for golf courses," said MDA Director Dan Wyant. "By completing a three-step process, they obtain information and assistance to help improve fuel storage, protect well heads and better manage pesticide and fertilizer handling, application and storage. Over the next year the scope of the program will also include environmental-enhancement materials to promote water quality, wildlife habitat and native vegetation."

To become a program member, a golf course representative must first attend a Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar. At the seminar, the program is explained and the materials, consisting of seven modules, are distributed. Second, the modules must be taken back to the property and completed. Finally, a site visit from a Turf Stewardship Team is made where the modules are reviewed and an environmental action plan is developed with the golf course superintendent.

Golf courses must pay between \$75 and \$150 to attend the seminar and \$200 for a half-day site visit.

Approximately 50 courses throughout the state have taken the first step and attended a program seminar. They are currently completing the materials and will be developing an action plan to establish priorities for the next three years. Upon completion of the process, they will receive state, university and industry recognition and be awarded a certificate of achievement. There will be a second opportunity for golf properties to join the program as another Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship seminar will be scheduled for late fall.

As more people learn about the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program it is expected to grow. The program was recently featured in a July media event at the Tournament Players Club of Michigan in Dearborn. Directors from the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality, the dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the president of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

and the general manager of the TPC of Michigan discussed the merits of the program in conjunction with the Ford Seniors Tournament.

For more details on the program contact Debbie Spakoff Swartz at 517-353-3208 or Greg Lyman at 517-353-0860. They can also be reached via e-mail at [swartzd@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:swartzd@pilot.msu.edu) and [lyman@msue.msu.edu](mailto:lyman@msue.msu.edu), respectively.

## Morris succeeds Shearman as NTEP's executive director

BELTSVILLE, Md. — The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) has appointed Kevin Morris to the executive director position, the NTEP Policy Committee announced at its recent semi-annual meeting in Blacksburg, Va. Past executive director Dr. Robert Shearman was named special projects coordinator.

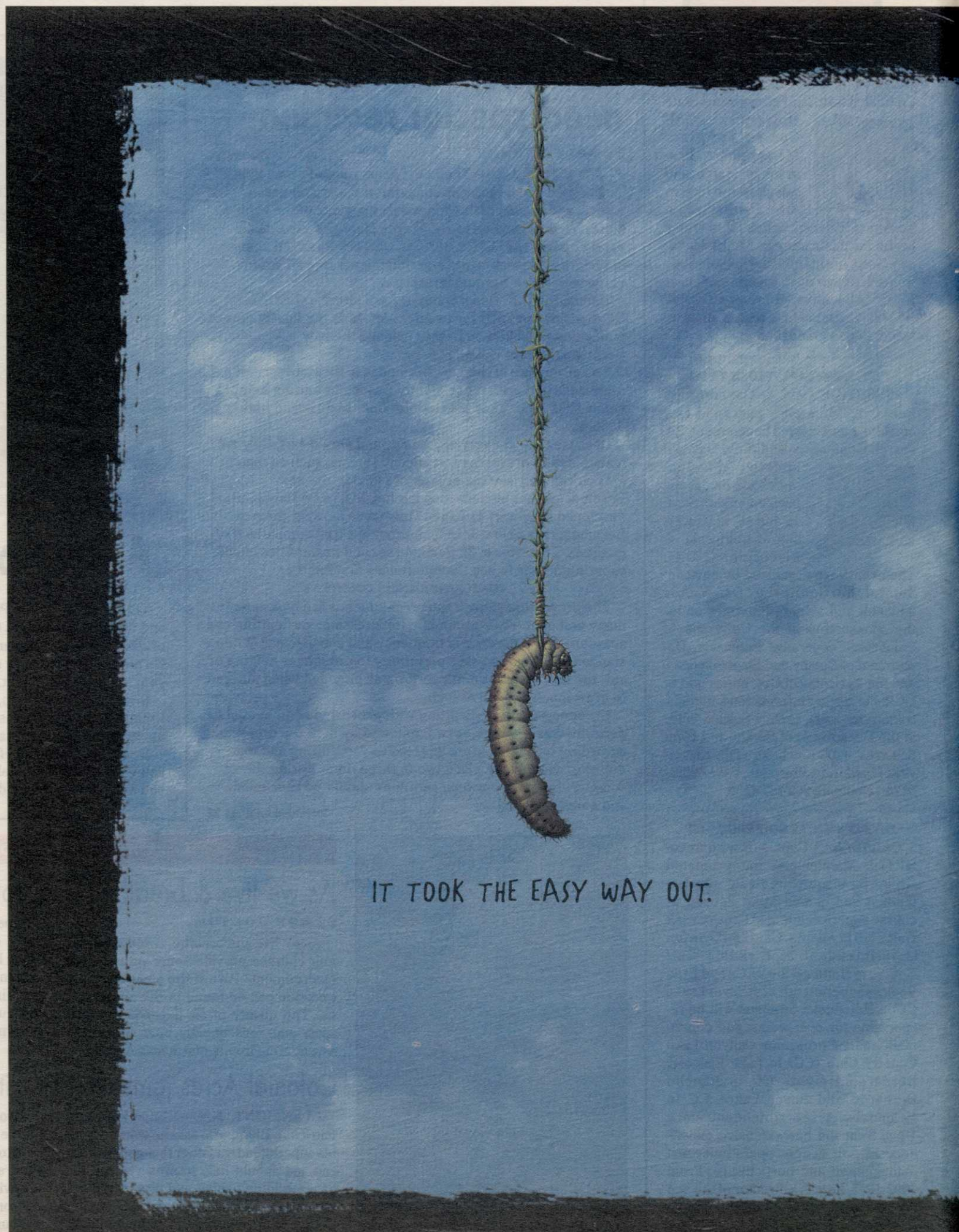
Morris has been employed by NTEP since Nov. 1, 1982, first as technical coordina-



Kevin Morris

tor, then national director and most recently as national program coordinator.

He is the first and longest-tenured employee at NTEP. As executive director, he coordinates national turfgrass tests in the United States and Canada; administers and manages NTEP facilities and personnel; and represents NTEP to local, regional, national and international turfgrass organizations.



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