

N.Y. assn. honors SUNY Delhi's Morales

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) awarded its 1997 Citation of Merit to Dominic Morales, Chairman of the Department of Plant Science at SUNY Delhi.

The Citation of Merit is awarded to a member of the turf industry who exemplifies the goals of the association. Among the qualities considered by the board in choosing a recipient are:

dedication to turfgrass research and education, involvement in and support of association activities, interest in promoting careers in the turfgrass industry, and the admiration and respect of peers and colleagues.

Morales was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at SUNY Delhi. He has appeared as a visiting

lecturer at the University of New Hampshire, NYSTA Conferences, Cornell's Turfgrass Management Short Course, and numerous industry organization meetings. Morales has coordinated and implemented a work study program for high school students interested in horticulture practices and gives presentations on career opportunities

in the green industry. He developed a Master Gardener Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County, and works with area schools to upgrade and develop maintenance programs for athletic fields.

Active in NYSTA, Morales has served on committees and is a recent appointee to the New York Greengrass board of directors.

He is a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Associated Landscape Contractors of America, International Society of Arboriculture, and New York State Nursery/Landscape Association.

Morales received his associate degree in ornamental horticulture from SUNY Farmingdale, his bachelor degree in plant science from the University of New Hampshire at Durham, and his masters in environmental horticulture from the University of Connecticut at Storrs. He has been instrumental in developing the curricula at Delhi, initiating an internship program and an industry advisory committee, increasing student scholarships, and a master plan for the Plant Science Valley Complex. This plan, which began in 1976, grew to include the Turf Education Center and the back nine of the Delhi Golf Course.

Using gadgets

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Since Ross's course is divided into Red, Green and Blue sections, the mowers are marked with a large vinyl dot the color of its section.

"You can spend a lot of money and buy the packs of letters and numbers at [the department store], in which case you have a lot of leftover letters you'll never use, or you can have exactly what you want made," Ross said. "We did all our gas and other signs made for a hundred dollars."

The cement and PVC pipe come in handy with CC of the Rockies' many bird houses. A member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System for Golf Courses, the course has a number of bird boxes that are removed during the winter time. Feeling that "nothing looks worse than crooked birdhouses," Ross had crews sink PVC sleeves in the ground and cement them so that they cannot get crooked. The sleeves are marked with flags during the winter snows and easy to spot in the spring when the bird boxes are reinstalled.

So, what place does a bicycle water bottle cage have on a golf course? "In the mountains, at 7,500 feet elevation, where we have tremendous sun intensity and 1-degree humidity, you have the symptoms for altitude sickness," Ross said. "One preventative measure is to keep hydrated. I tell all my crew when I hire them to keep a water bottle with them."

The collar stick was invented after many years of seeing collars lose their uniform width, Ross said.

"We just tapped the outside height adjusters, cut lengths of metal rod, threaded the rod into the adjusters, made a marker on the outside, and bingo — perfect collar widths every time," he said.

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