

BRIEFS



TURF WEB '98 ANNOUNCED

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association has announced the dates of Turf Web '98 Conference and Show. It will be held at the Tampa Convention Center, Sept. 16-19. Casino Night, an awards dinner, president's salute and other events are planned.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE NOMINATIONS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is accepting nominations for the 1999 Distinguished Service Award. Nominations are due by Sept. 1 on official forms, available from the association by calling 800-472-7878. The award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession.



DELHI, NYSTA PARTNER

DELHI, N.Y. — The State University of New York — Delhi and the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association, will present a golf course seminar with emphasis on new technology on Aug. 4. Turfgrass and equipment manager sessions will be included. To obtain a conference brochure or for more information, people may call NYSTA at 800-873-8873, 518-783-1229; fax 518-783-1258, or write NYSTA, P.O. Box 612, Latham, N.Y. 12110.

PA. STUDENTS GIVEN ALTERNATIVE

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State's two-year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program has worked out an articulation agreement with Penn College of Technology which allows all graduates of the turf program to complete an associate degree. The agreement allows any certificate program graduate to continue studies at the Williamsport campus. By completing two semesters and required classes, the student would be awarded an associate degree in landscape technology with an emphasis in turfgrass management. People may contact Rich Weilminister at Penn College at 717-320-8038, or George Hamilton at Penn State at 814-865-3007.



Iowa golf/ag alliance influencing policy

By MARK LESLIE

DES MOINES, Iowa — Combining monetary clout with "a huge grassroots force," the Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns (IaAEC) and Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI) are proving that the turfgrass and agriculture industries can be a political power at the Statehouse here.

In this hot bed of agriculture, legislators have been known to cry "Uncle" when barraged by calls from IaAEC and AAI members, who hail



Members see group as model for others

from the moneyed agribusiness as well as the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents, Professional Lawn Care and Sod Producers associations and various other turf managers.

Efforts in various states around the country to affect legislation through lobbyists have been few and generally ineffective. Asked if the IaAEC-AAI

effort could serve as a model for the industry in other states, alliance Executive Secretary Mona Rae Bond replied simply: "Absolutely."

Fort Dodge Country Club superintendent Dennis Watters, the IaAEC president from 1995 to 1997, said: "I think you have to look at it on a state-by-state basis. We're in a hot bed of agriculture here."

In Iowa's case, he said, "We needed a vehicle to pull together everybody who had the same concerns: to ensure we

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Making choices: It's an environmental 'watershed'

By RON DODSON

Have you ever heard the reference to "watershed" as a critical point that changes a particular course of action, like a decision that created a turning point in history?

That use of watershed comes from its definition: "a ridge of high land dividing two areas that are drained by different river systems, also called 'water parting'." A watershed may also refer to the region that drains into a river, river system, or other body of water. So, the golf industry needs to take a look at watersheds for two reasons.

First, the industry needs to understand the environmental importance of watersheds in order to make good economic and environmental decisions about developing and managing the land.

Secondly, it has reached a critical point in making land-management decisions where it must choose between the status quo of golf course development and maintenance, and that of sustainable development and management practices

In order to understand how important watersheds are, however, we need to know a little about ecology. An ecosystem is a community (of plants, or animals, or even human beings) together with its environment of soils, waters and other elements on which the organisms depend for sur-

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N.C. State prof starts studies to help Asians

By MARK LESLIE

RALEIGH, N.C. — Citing the absence of scientific information on turfgrass pests in Asia, an American professor has undertaken what he hopes will be the first of many studies to help golf course superintendents in that region.

"If we can show some success with this research, on future projects I hope there will be people standing in line saying they will help," said Dr. Rick Brandenburg, a turf entomologist at North Carolina State University here. "The time commitment is actually very small."

The research is needed for many pests because what is known in the United States can not always be extrapolated for use in Asia, according to Brandenburg, who discovered this fact on a trip to Singapore this spring.

His pioneering program targets the number-one pest in many Asian countries: the mole cricket. Some 25 superintendents in Hong Kong, The Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, China and Indonesia are sending mole crickets from their courses to Brandenburg.



Rick Brandenburg

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Matchmaker, matchmaker

Two GCSAA ex-presidents team in jobs search firm



Bruce Williams



Jerry Faubel

By MARK LESLIE

LOS ANGELES — Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Past President Bruce Williams has joined another former president, Jerry Faubel, adding a West Coast presence to Faubel's Executive Golf Search Inc.

Faubel first formed the "headhunting" company with famed course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Michigan State University Prof. Ken Payne in the early 1990s. Payne died in 1994 and Jones has retired, leaving Faubel running the company solo.

"Over the years, I've been involved in helping a number of superintendents find jobs that would be a good fit for them," Williams said. "Retiring from the GCSAA board allowed me the opportunity to spend my spare time in other activities. This was the perfect match for me."

Saying that he and Payne had hoped Williams would join them after proceeding through the GCSAA chairs, Faubel added: "We thought Bruce would be an excellent partner. All of a sudden he moves [from Chicago] to the West Coast and

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Maintenance at The Habitat at Valkaria encourages wildlife of all sorts.

The Habitat earns full certification

MALABAR, Fla. — The Habitat at Valkaria, owned by Brevard County and maintained by International Golf Maintenance (IGM), has earned full certification by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS).

"They're very good," said ACSS staff ecologist Joellen Zeh about IGM. "They have created a lot of habitat and protected a lot of habitat. They plan on creating a bald cypress wetland area ... and are putting a lot of effort into getting rid of exotic species and planting native vegetation on the property."

The Lakeland, Fla.-based IGM, she added, is "very committed to getting all the courses they manage to get certified."

To become fully certified, a property

must meet requirements in the areas of environmental planning, outreach and education, wildlife and habitat management, integrated pest management, water conservation and water-quality management.

"We try to create more habitat than already exists for a variety of native birds on the course," said The Habitat's superintendent Bob Marshall. "Along with the help of assistant superintendent Lyne Walker Page, we managed to achieve certification by limiting the use of chemicals and creating a safe environment for many of our endangered species of birds." These birds include the scrub jay, bald eagle and sand hill crane as well as cardinals and great blue herons.

practices, over-use of chemicals, poorly planned development, and soil erosion will not only affect the immediate area, but cause other significant problems throughout the entire length of the watershed.

So, what is the significance of watersheds for the golf industry? Environmentally, appropriately sited, well-designed, properly constructed and managed golf courses can have a major impact on maintaining the quality of a watershed — particularly in an urban or suburban area. In order to be both environmentally and economically sustainable, however, they must employ sustainable land-management practices and natural-resource conservation.

Understanding watersheds environmentally brings us to our "watershed" decision. The golf industry, and each of us personally, must decide to make a commitment to sustainability. We need to educate ourselves about the environment. For instance, we need to think about the impact of large, unsustainable building programs in a floodplain, or developments that adversely impact wetlands or significant wildlife habitats.

We need to think about our land-management techniques and water resources from a watershed perspective because it is the only economically and environmentally feasible way for any ecosystem to survive, including human ecosystems. It is up to each of us to ensure that we live, plan and develop today as if our future generations depend on it. They do.

Gainesville designated a certified sanctuary

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Gainesville Country Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS). Gainesville Country Club is the 19th golf course in Florida and the 137th in the world to receive this honor.

"After reading all of the guidelines for certification, I realized we were already doing much of what was required for full certification," said Gainesville superintendent Buddy Keens. In 1997, when he

registered the golf course as a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, he informed the membership of the project and several members came forward offering assistance.

"I was amazed at the amount of support I received from the members. I encourage all golf clubs to participate in this program," said Keens. The Gainesville Country Club Homeowner's Association was especially supportive, he explained, and donated a wooden sign announcing the certification.

Alaqua Lakes joins Audubon Sanctuary System

LONGWOOD, Fla. — The new Alaqua Lakes golf community here has been accepted as an Audubon International Signature Cooperative Sanctuary facility.

The community features the Tom Fazio-designed Alaqua Lakes Golf Course, which encompasses 170 acres of the property and which will open on Sept. 15. The 7,100-yard par-72 semi-private course will boast a teaching facility and golf academy.

"Alaqua Lakes is a pristine piece of property and we intend to make certain the golf course serves not only as a nurturing habitat for wildlife, birds and na-

tive or indigenous plants, but also as a role model for existing and future golf course developers in central Florida," said Michael Moser, club operations manager for the developer, Taylor Woodrow Communities.

"We're thrilled," said Tom Spence, land development manager for Taylor Woodrow. "The Audubon Signature Program is an important effort that promotes conservation measures which provide large-scale developers with a more environmentally sensitive approach to land management."

Making choices

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vival. The area or type of environment in which an organism or ecological community normally lives is habitat. Most of us probably understand the economic value of "terrestrial habitat," which includes grasslands, forests, croplands, and so on. But, how much do we know about "aquatic habitats" and their importance in the big environmental picture?

Aquatic systems include marshes, swamps, streams, lakes and man-made "impoundments" (like reservoirs). These systems have tremendous value in and of themselves. But, it's the relationship between the terrestrial and aquatic systems that provides stability and productivity to both the environment and economy.

Watersheds provide the foundation for understanding the relationship between the terrestrial and aquatic systems, as well as the environmental and economic systems. Watersheds are the natural drainage "networks" of a given area.

So, for example, the kind of agricultural activity, development, soil-conservation practices, and soil types for a large geographic area will affect the environment of a stream in which the watershed empties.

The entire watershed system is extremely important to the environment and the economy of all areas, including yours. Rich, organic materials in streams support living creatures that fill their slot in the food chain. Poor land-management

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