

BRIEFS



WILLIAM DANIEL CENTER DEDICATED

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — More than 200 Purdue alumni, friends of the Purdue Turf Program and Daniel family, and industry leaders attended the dedication of the Wm. H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic



Center on July 26. The center is a 22-acre research facility on the edge of Purdue University, adjacent to Kampen Golf Course.

It features research projects on many aspects of lawn, sports, and golf turf and a state-of-the-art educational facility complete with classrooms and labs. The Daniel Center is named in memory of Dr. Bill Daniel, long-time Purdue professor and one of the pioneers in the turf industry.

PA. TURF COUNCIL DONATES \$175K

COLLEGE STATION, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council has allocated \$175,000 to support the turfgrass science program in Pennsylvania State University's College of Agricultural Sciences. The council designated its support for agronomy, entomology and plant pathology. The department could use the funds for staff and research support for projects designed to solve problems relating to turfgrass pests and other cultural practices used in the turfgrass industry.

NYSTA SHOW ITS 50TH

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with Cornell University, will celebrate its 50th year at the annual Turf & Grounds Exposition, Nov. 9-11, at the OnCenter here. The conference theme is "Committed to Excellence: Plants, People, The Environment, and You." For more information, people may call NYSTA at 800-873-8873.



N.C. STUDENTS GET SCHOLARSHIPS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Seven North Carolina turf students were awarded monetary scholarships from the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina for the 1999-00 school year. North Carolina State University recipients are James Herns, Casey Reynolds and Matt Fagerness. Catawba Valley Community College recipients are Jerrett Blanton and Brian Plummer. Other recipients are Sandhills Community College's John Clevenger and Brunswick Community College's David Bullard.



Under the charge of Rob Hellstrom, right, Dundarave Golf Club was finished in one season. See story on Dundarave on page 12.



Photo by Peter Blais

Hellstrom: A man for one season

By PETER BLAIS

MONTREAL — Building a golf course in a single season is almost unheard of in snow-packed areas like Canada, the Northeast and Midwest United States. But Robbie Hellstrom, a former superintendent turned golf course consultant, may be changing those expectations.

The Montreal-based, 34-year-old owner of RJH Golf Course Management Services Inc. has turned the single-season trick at two recently built Canadian courses — Le Diable in Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, and Dundarave

Former superintendent builds courses in matter of months

Golf Course and Academy at the Brudenell River Resort on Prince Edward Island (PEI).

"Now that we've done it twice, we may have started a trend that will have to be continued," Hellstrom said.

Hellstrom's firm handles everything from course construction to golf event management. He recently coordinated the Molson's Export A Skins Game featuring John Daly, Fred Couples,

David Duval and Mike Wier at Mt. Tremblant. In addition to building and maintaining the two courses at Mt. Tremblant, he was project manager at Dundarave, the new Michael Hurdzan/Dana Fry design on PEI that opened this summer. Sugarloaf Golf Club in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, also recently hired Hellstrom as course consultant.

Hellstrom started RJH Golf Course Management Services in 1996, while still working for Intrawest, a major North American ski resort operator, at

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Bugged? Try dragonflies

By MARK LESLIE

CASCO, Maine — Superintendent Gerry White had loaded Point Sebago Golf Club with bat and bluebird houses and a purple martin hotel to fight his insect problems. So what else could be done?



ON THE GREEN

Ever hear of dragonflies? As naiads (nymphs) they prey on small aquatic invertebrates, while adults dine on midges, mosquitoes and other insects. The Audubon Society Field Guide to Insects and Spiders states: "Both naiads and adults are highly beneficial predators, destroying huge numbers of mosquitoes."



Gerry White places dragonfly naiads from a container into a pond at Point Sebago Golf Club.

Pursuing the idea planted by a golfer who observed the dragonflies naturally on his course, White set on a mission four years ago to enhance that population in the 10 ponds and various waterways of his 600-acre property. Play a round at Point Sebago today and golfers

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Digital mapping enters various course operations

By KEVIN P. CORBLEY

Unheard of on the golf course just a few years ago, digital mapping technologies are rapidly being integrated into virtually every aspect of course operations.

First, satellite-based GPS surveying was introduced to map irrigation system components, track golf car locations, and calculate yardage from player to pin. Now, superintendents are increasingly turning to another computerized map tool — known as GIS — to manage daily operations and course facilities.

Geographic information system, or GIS, technology has proven so successful at automating land and infrastructure management

FIRST OF 2 PARTS

functions in industries such as forestry, electric utilities and oil production that some firms are touting it as the future of golf course maintenance.

GroundLinkx LLC of Littleton, Colo., developer of the GroundLinkx GIS golf course management program, has formed a joint venture with IntraSearch Inc. of Denver, an aerial photography and digital mapping firm, to create fully integrated GIS software and digital map packages customized for individual golf courses. Packaged under the GroundLinkx name since 1994, the new integrated system also runs on a standard Pentium desktop computer.

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'Aerifier dolly' easily rolls around the shop

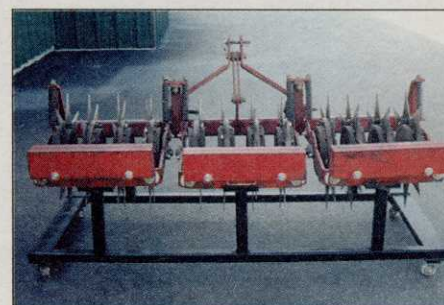
By TERRY BUCHEN

NAPLES, Fla. — Darren J. Davis, superintendent at the Olde Florida Golf Club, and equipment and shop manager Kim Ellis have designed and built an "aerifier dolly" to make their 3-point hitch-mounted aerifier much easier to move around the shop and make repairs, change aerifier tines, slicing blades, etc. without tying up tractor.



SHOP TALK

The frame and five-risers (two front;



Tractor implements can be installed on a three-point hitch easily with this mobile storage system.

three rear) are made of 2-by 2-inch by 1/4-inch square tubing. The 29-by 75-inch frame is lightweight, strong and versatile. The holder or bracket that

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Dragonflies forever

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don't get bugged by bugs.

Through the Audubon Society, White found a company that breeds dragonflies, basically to provide school biology classes. Since then, White has bought 1,000 dragonfly naiads (nymphs) each year and distributed them in his ponds and streams.

"It does not matter if it's running or stagnant water," White said. "But they do recommend naturally occurring standing water."

The naiads are shipped overnight in the springtime — 50 or 100 per container. They cost \$27 for 50, \$52 for 100 and \$468 for 1,000 naiads.

White said the naiads usually don't hatch into adults until the following spring because they are adjusting to their new environment. But, according to the Audubon Society Field Guide to Insects and Spiders, that varies from species to species.

The Green Darner, for instance, is found throughout North America and crawls out of the water in early spring or late summer to transform into an adult. The Green Darner transforms in May in New England but in October in Alabama. The 365 Widow emerges as adults in the late summer in the North but in April in the South.

'Aerifier dolly'

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the machine rests on is 2-inch "C" channel steel. The back three are 6 inches in length and the "C" channel is 2 by 3 inches high, so the back three have "C" channel that runs parallel to the base of the machine.

"The front two brackets are 6 inches long as well, but do not run parallel to the frame. Instead they run perpendicular to the frame. It is also 2-inch "C" channel but is turned upside down and welded at the center. At both ends of these 6-inch pieces of upside-down "C" channel is another piece of "C" channel welded on to it that runs upward, also at 3 inches.

The brackets are wider in the front because the Toro 687 that rests in it is wider in the front.

The three weight trays on the back of the Toro 687 are all independent and narrow enough to use 6-inch "C" channel running parallel to the machine, Ellis explained.

The two front risers and the outside two risers on the back are 13 inches from the outside of the frame, Ellis said. The center riser (on the rear only) is 37-1/2 inches, or exactly centered in the back. These five risers are all equal height off the frame: 12 inches high to the base of the channel. The metal was painted with a primer and then Rust-oleum.

"It took Kim between three and four hours to build it," Davis said. "It cost \$200 for the steel and paint and \$80 for the casters, which are heavy-duty rated for 460-pound load range per wheel and were obtained from Grainger, part # 1F147. I am very pleased with Kim's usual good work that really shows that integrity and hard work pays off." ▶

And Gomphid dragonflies fly from April to September in the North but from June through October in Texas.

For the inquisitive mind wondering how the adults eat: "It is scientifically proven that they collect insects on their wings as they fly, then eat them off their wings," offered White.

Even if the dragonflies were not effective mosquito munchers, White said the public-relations value is worth it. So far, their use on the golf course has been word of mouth, but he said he is considering signs on the course informing golfers of the dragonfly project. ▶

PGMS, GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO READY

BALTIMORE, Md. — The 1999 Conference of the Professional Grounds Management Society, coupled with the Green Industry Expo, is scheduled for Nov. 13-16 at the Convention Center and the Marriott Inner Harbor Hotel here.

The three GIE partner organizations (PGMS, ALCA and PLCAA) will present more than 50 separate education sessions at the convention center, with each organization sponsoring approximately one-third of the sessions.

The PGMS subjects for 1999 include team-building; IPM of perennials and ornamental grasses; skin concerns for grounds professionals; maintaining a positive attitude; moving big trees; becoming a certified grounds manager; athletic field construction; preserving trees during construction; environmental stewardship; diagnosing site-related problems; use of topiaries in the landscape; control of Canadian geese; understanding landscape and herbicide use; managing grounds at a major league ballpark; using native plants in the landscape; sports turf care and trends; and maintaining the U.S. capitol landscape.

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