

The First Tee announces scholarship program, 2002 successes

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — At its fifth annual meeting in late October, The First Tee, in conjunction with Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., and 13 additional colleges and universities, announced that 28 scholarships will be available to First Tee participants beginning in 2003-2004.

"We have established an exemplary Scholarship Advisory Committee that will oversee the administration of The First Tee Scholars Program, and we look forward to announcing our first scholarship recipients next year," said Dr. William Crouch, president of Georgetown College.

The announcement stems from Crouch's surprise announcement at last year's meeting. At that meeting, Crouch said his college would donate two first-year scholarships to qualified participants of The First Tee. Kansas State University, one of the 13 schools to match Crouch's pledge, made the same com-

mitment the next day.

"Dr. Crouch is a champion of The First Tee, and his ability to successfully challenge 13 other universities and colleges is astounding," said Joe Louis Barrow Jr., executive director of The First Tee. "We are thrilled to offer this new Scholars Program, and look forward to identifying additional colleges and universities who have the same dedication and commitment to youth and education that these 14 schools do."

The First Tee also announced at the conference that it had exceeded its goal for the number of new affiliates added this year by



Joe Louis Barrow Jr., executive director of The First Tee; Dr. William Crouch, president of Georgetown College; and Kelly Martin, managing director of organizational development for The First Tee, announce formation of a scholarship for First Tee participants at the organization's fifth annual meeting.

30 percent. At last year's meeting, the organization set a goal of 75, but has added 107 since then.

The organization has also opened 115 new facilities this year, slightly lower than the 120 projected last year. However, Barrow said, the organization is on track to achieve its goals.

"We are confident that with the continued efforts of our chapter leadership, along with the commitments from our corporate partners, we will reach our 2005 goal," he said.

— Derek Rice

TranXit GTA labeled for bermuda greens

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Griffin LLC has received approval from the Environmental Protection Agency for TranXit GTA herbicide to be used on bermudagrass greens.

TranXit has been labeled for use on fairways since late summer 2001 (April 2002 GCN), and is formulated for the removal of *Poa annua* before overseeding and for removal of perennial ryegrass during the spring transition. The company held off on its request for a greens label so it could get more use data.

"The ability to use TranXit on bermudagrass putting greens makes this product an even more valuable and versatile tool for golf course superintendents," said Owen Towne, business director of Griffin's Specialty Products Group.

When applying TranXit to bermudagrass greens prior to overseeding, a two-ounce per acre rate should be used. For *Poa annua* control on non-overseeded bermudagrass greens, TranXit should be applied at one-ounce per acre.



The second hole at the Landings Club's Palmetto Course.

The Landings Club gains certification for last two courses

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Landings Club has received certification from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System for its Plantation and Palmetto courses. All four of the development's other courses, Marshwood, Magnolia, Oakridge and Deer Creek, have already been certified by Audubon International.

"We have achieved certification on all

six of our courses in four years," said Allan Pulaski, director of golf and grounds maintenance. "We did two courses a year in 1999, 2000 and 2002. We took a year off to renovate the Magnolia course in 2001."

The first layout at the Landings Club opened in 1974 and course development continued until the sixth course opened 1991.

According to Pulaski, the hardest part of

achieving certification was protecting the large amount of wildlife areas and dealing with both brackish and fresh water systems.

"It was challenging because of the broad diversity of the property and the abundance of wildlife and habitat that had to be documented," said Pulaski.

— Andrew Overbeck

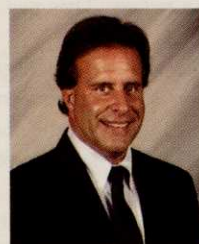
Columbia Seeds seeks to empower distributors and growers

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Tom Pape and Scott Harer have left Seed Research of Oregon to form Columbia Seeds, a new company that more directly links growers with distribution channels.

The two longtime seed industry executives saw a need to remove the overhead associated with larger seed companies and to bring product to market in a more efficient manner. In five years, the company expects to be doing between \$20 million and \$25 million in sales.

"Margins are being squeezed in all facets of the supply chain and we saw a need to link the distributor and the grower together with a smaller marketing company and not get involved doing shipping, handling and packaging," said Harer, who most recently served as sales manager for SRO. "We are going to



Tom Pape



Scott Harer

let others who are experts in those facets of the business handle it. It will allow us to bring product to market faster with a more competitive price."

Columbia Seeds opened for business Oct. 7 and is funded by outside capital. Several distributors and seed growers are equity partners.

"We have formed a grower group and all the cleaning, processing and blending will take place on the farm. We will ship it all from the same location," said Pape, who previously

served as managing director of operations and national accounts for SRO. "We will also have several distributors as partners so everyone will be linked. We have cut out the seed company in the middle and empowered the distributors and growers. We will manage the flow and do the marketing."

Not having research and development and breeding programs in-house will also drastically reduce overhead.

"There are many breeding programs out there resulting in ample opportunity to acquire regionally adapted material without funding your own program. You can't afford to have all your money tied up in invested capital and assets. It won't pay," said Pape.

Columbia Seeds has signed agreements with two independent breeding programs to source new turfgrass varieties.

"We will be marketing Dr. Virginia

Lehman's new L-03 bentgrass. She developed L-93 for Lofts Seed and this is an improved variety. We will be the primary marketer of that product," said Pape. "We will also work with Dr. Steve Whitten's breeding firm, Apex, on several tall fescues and perennial ryes."

Pape said Columbia Seeds will form strategic alliances with other Willamette Valley seed companies to market their varieties and that they will have a full line of cool-season, and possibly some warm-season, turfgrass varieties.

Pape and Harer are working now on finalizing a distributor network and signing independent sales representatives to handle sales across the country.

"We have already sold a few loads of seed and by spring we will have expanded our distributor network," Pape said. "By fall we'll really be good to go."