

Industry news

Turf-Seed plans to unveil seashore paspalum variety

Hubbard, Ore. – This spring, Turf-Seed is planning to release Sea Spray, a commercially available seeded variety of seashore paspalum. Seashore paspalum, which has high tolerance to heat and salt, has been seen as a viable alternative to Bermudagrass, but time and money expenses to sprig and establish the variety has prohibited superintendents from selecting it for their golf courses. The ability to seed with Sea Spray is expected to make seashore paspalum more affordable and easier and quicker to establish.

“The seed grows much faster than sprigs,” says Gordon Zielinski, c.e.o. of Turf-Seed. “Trials held at the University of Hawaii show that Sea Spray gained 95-percent soil coverage after about five weeks – faster than any other variety studied.”

Once it's established, Sea Spray adapts to a variety of soil types and water-supply sources, including straight sea water. This means superintendents and professional turfgrass managers can irrigate Sea Spray with pure sea water and achieve water savings.

“If a golf course is lucky enough to have ocean water available, they can greatly lower their irrigation costs by pumping directly from the ocean,” Zielinski says.

The recommended seeding rate for Sea Spray is one pound per 1,000 square feet. Its dual root system of rhizomes and stolons, along with its high turf density and quick repair ability, make it well suited for golf course greens, tees and fairways.

Ohio State tests Nitamin

Columbus, Ohio – Georgia-Pacific and its Nitamin-coated sand distributor, Fairmount Minerals, released results of two Ohio State University turf studies. The OSU studies demonstrate the benefits of Nitamin-coated sand in core aeration and topdressing applications compared with traditional sand. The research results show quicker turf recov-

ery in core aeration applications and improved turf color and density in topdressing applications with Nitamin.

Nitamin is a patent-pending fertilizer that's effective for turf establishment, topdressing, divot repair and high-traffic areas. Because of its extended nitrogen release profile, Nitamin isn't required for every topdressing application. The patented Steady-Delivery technology ensures a steady supply of nitrogen is released within the soil, keeping turf green and healthy for months with fewer applications and low risk of turf burn.

“We wanted to determine if backfilling coring holes with Nitamin versus traditional sand would enhance core hole recovery,” says Dr. Karl Danneberger, professor at The Ohio State University's turfgrass science department. “Our experiments showed that after 11 days, the Nitamin-treated areas showed about two holes visible per plot compared with about 10 holes per plot on the traditional sand-treated areas.”



Nitamin-coated sand benefits turf in core aeration and topdressing applications, according to an OSU study.

The core aeration study was initiated on a three-year-old L93 bentgrass fairway established on native soil and mowed at 0.5 inches. On Aug. 10, 2004, plant growth regulator treatments were applied to the turf at different rates. Three days later, the OSU research team set up 3-foot-by-6-foot plots in a random block design and aerified them with 5/8-inch tines. After aeration, the team removed cores and allowed the plot area to settle and dry for three days. Then the core holes were filled with Nitamin or traditional sand.

To evaluate the effectiveness of using Nitamin in topdressing applications, the OSU team compared it with traditional sand at different rates and judged the results based on color and density.

“We discovered that applying Nitamin at a rate of 1.5 pounds per 30 square feet provided better color and density than traditional sand applied at the same rate,” Danneberger says. “The

lower rate of Nitamin applied at 0.75 pounds per 30 square feet also performed comparatively well.”

The topdressing study was conducted on creeping bentgrass turf established on a U.S. Golf Association-specified green. The constructed root zone was maintained at 0.125 inches. The treatments were replicated three times in 6-foot-by-5-foot plots, which were designed randomly.

Appropriations bill includes funding turfgrass research

Washington - President Bush signed into law Consolidated Appropriations bill H.R. 4818, funding of fiscal year 2005, for several federal agencies, including the USDA – Agricultural Research Service. In the bill, new funding for turfgrass research (\$275,000) was included at two new locations. The new funding was added as a result of efforts by the turfgrass industry to inform Congress of its research needs and the importance of the National Turfgrass Research Initiative. More information on the National Turfgrass Research Initiative can be found at www.turf-research.org. Turfgrass research now is funded within USDA-ARS at \$760,613.

The breakdown of the funding is:

- \$485,613 – restored funding for the current research position at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington. It was about \$490,000. All programs were cut by 0.8 percent;
- \$150,000 – new funding for turfgrass research at the Beaver, West Va., facility;
- \$125,000 – new funding for turfgrass research at the Logan, Utah, facility.

Because of last-minute congressional negotiations to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of the bill, the funding for West Virginia and Utah turf research positions was reduced by half of what was in the original bill.

Pickseed buys Seed Research of Oregon

Lindsay, Ont. - Pickseed Cos. Group

purchased the Seed Research of Oregon, which was owned by Land O'Lakes. Additionally, Land O'Lakes purchased Seeds Ohio, a regional seed distributor based in West Jefferson, Ohio, that was owned by Pickseed. The transactions closed Dec. 31, 2004.

SRO will operate as an independent business unit of Pickseed in its Corvallis, Ore.-based facility under the direction of the current management team. SRO will continue its initiatives in research, technical support, quality assurance and customer service, including the supply of turf and forage grass seed to Land O'Lakes.

"The acquisition of Seed Research of Oregon represents significant market-share expansion for Pickseed within the United States and international markets," says Robert Clark, president and

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chief executive officer of Pickseed.

Dave Seehusen, vice president of the seed division for Land O'Lakes, says SRO will become a core asset of Pickseed and a key supplier of competitive turfgrass products to Land O'Lakes', Seed Solutions' and Croplan Genetics' marketing programs.

The Pickseed Cos. Group is comprised of Pickseed Canada, Pickseed West, Turf-One and Mapleseed. It has been operating since 1947 and is privately held.

Land O'Lakes is a national farmer-owned food and agricultural cooperative with annual sales exceeding \$6 billion.

Cleary awards two scholarships

Somerset, N.J. – At the recent 15th Annual Turfgrass Awards Banquet, two Rutgers Professional Golf Course Management School students each received a \$1,000 scholarship from Cleary Chemical Corp.

Timothy Connolly of Gaithersburg, Md., was awarded the Dr. Paul Sartoretto Memorial Scholarship, and James Schmid of Goshen, N.Y., received the Cleary Chemical Corporation Academic Scholarship.

The recipients, both in their second year at the Professional Golf Turf Management School, were selected by a committee of Rutgers University turf faculty. The students were chosen based on their strong academic performance and commitment to a career in golf turfgrass management.

The scholarships, presented at the banquet by Dr. Karen Plumley, director of research for Cleary Chemical, have existed for two years. The Dr. Paul Sartoretto Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of Sartoretto, an employee of Cleary Chemical for 50 years. He served as the technical director of the company's turf and ornamental products business. Sartoretto is recognized for pioneering



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several significant industry contributions, including the technology of fungicide tank mixing.

Association news

OTF offers largest, diverse curriculum

Columbus, Ohio – More than 3,800 turfgrass professionals participated in the 38th Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, which was conducted at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Dec. 7 through 10, 2004. Almost 2,900 attendees visited with 225 suppliers of turfgrass products and services in more than 530 booths.



“A lot of business was written on the show floor,” show manager Kevin Thompson says. “Many exhibitors have commented about the number of decision-makers visiting the trade show and the quality and number of new prospective customers they met.”

Doug MacLean, general manager of the Columbus Blue Jackets gave a welcome presentation. The event officially opened with a keynote speech from Mike Veeck, part owner of five professional baseball teams, senior v.p. of the Detroit Tigers, an ad agency executive and a nationally recognized speaker.

The educational sessions featured turfgrass management experts from Iowa State University, Penn State, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, Michigan State and the Sports Turf Research Institute in the United Kingdom, along with several professionals representing athletic facilities and golf courses throughout the country. More than 30 hours of pesticide recertification training and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Sports Turf Managers Association credits were available during more than 100 hours of education, making it the largest and most diverse curriculum that OTF has offered.

A highlight of the event included the OTF annual awards banquet. Almost \$25,000 was awarded in scholarships to well-deserving turfgrass management students from schools throughout Ohio. Additionally, OTF president George

Furrer presented a symbolic check for \$173,800 to Dr. Bobby Moser, dean of the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University, representing research grants to the university and student scholarship awards.

Lawsuit filed against phosphorus ban

Washington - Plaintiffs including RISE and CropLife America filed suit Dec. 15, 2004 against the City of Madison and Dane County, Wis., demanding an ordinance banning the display, sale or use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus be overturned. The suit states the ban violates state and federal preemption laws and, therefore, is illegal. This litigation marks the first time RISE has stepped into the courtroom as a plaintiff to defend the rights of industry members.



“The city of Madison and Dane County have overstepped their boundaries,” says Allen James, president of RISE. “If we allow these bans to be instituted, we are completely ignoring preemption and what it stands for. Our products have been tested, retested, and registered by the federal and state governments for safety. As the industry representative, it is up to us to stand up for our companies.”

These ordinances would put undue burden on lawn-care and landscape companies, opponents argue. Because the county's ban differs from Madison's, companies would be expected to know the specifics of each ordinance and in which jurisdiction their customer resides. State preemption, as exists in Wisconsin, prevents these local, confusing ordinances. The bans were scheduled to take affect Jan. 1.

Proponents of the ordinance believe the reduced use of inorganic specialty fertilizers containing phosphorus in their community will help eliminate unwanted algae blooms in local lakes. While the plaintiffs agree excess phosphorus contributes to the growth of noxious algae blooms in water, the lawsuit alludes to the bigger problem – the existence of Eurasian Water Milfoil, which is an invasive weed that can reproduce by fragmentation in Dane County lakes.

GCSAA plans relief effort

Lawrence, Kan. – The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will make a donation to those affected by the devastating storms in Florida this past fall and the victims of the Southeast Asia tsunami. The association will present a check to officials while in Orlando for the GCSAA education conference and the Golf Industry Show. Additionally, the association will collect donations in the show's registration center during the week of conference and show.



The GCSAA will match those contributions and then forward the funds to the U.S. Golf Tsunami Relief Fund. This is a collaborative effort of the major golf associations to address the needs of the regions affected by the natural disaster.

Lawn tractor delivers gift

Raleigh, N.C. - A \$56,065 John Deere LT 150 lawn tractor, which normally retails at about \$2,400, served as the sole prize in a raffle staged by golf course superintendent Michael Shoun's colleagues in the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association to pay for surgery that would help his 2-year-old son, Parker, hear. The cost of surgery, therapy and specialized schooling as Parker learns to speak will cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Parker had cochlear implant surgery in mid-2004, and his doctors and parents are encouraged by early results.



Superintendent Michael Shoun was given a \$56,000 check to help his son.

Members of the Triangle Turfgrass Association in and around Raleigh, N.C., campaigned for 12 months on behalf of the Shoun family. They received responses from golf course superintendents and industry members throughout the country. The campaign also received generous support from the membership of Raleigh Country Club, where Shoun has worked for seven years.

The \$56,065 figure is likely to become larger after Ed Wheeler's name was drawn as the winner of the raffle immediately after the check presentation. Wheeler, who works with Harrell's, immediately donated the prize back to the fundraising campaign.

Outgoing Triangle TA president, Steve Dorer, CGCS, says the success of the fundraising campaign illustrates the tight-knit nature of the golf course maintenance business.

Superintendents recognized for relations work

Lawrence, Kan. – Four GCSAA members were recognized with 2004 Excellence in Government Relations Awards for their government relations work in the areas of advocacy and compliance.

The awards were presented Feb. 11 during the general session of the GCSAA education conference and inaugural Golf Industry Show in Orlando.

Craig A. Hoffman, golf course superintendent at The Rock Golf Course on Drummond Island, Mich.; Stephen A. Kealy, CGCS, at Glendale Country Club in Bellevue, Wash.; Kenneth N. Lallier, CGCS, at The Quechee Club in Hartford, Vt.; and Sean J. Kjemhus, golf course superintendent at Stewart Creek Golf and Country Club in Canmore, Alberta, Canada were honored.

EGR Award nominees were judged on how their efforts best served the interests of the golf course superintendent profession and the golf course management industry. Members of the government advocacy and compliance task group conducted the award selection.

Course news

Teton Lakes facility to expand course

Rexburg, Idaho – Phelps Golf Design

plans to give the operators of Teton Lakes Golf Course something new and different. Phelps associate designer Kevin Atkinson is developing a preliminary proposal for a links-style nine-hole course to complement the existing parkland and lakeside layouts at the 18-hole municipal facility co-owned by the City of Rexburg and Madison County.

The original nine holes opened in 1978 and the second in 1984, according to Duffy McFarland, director of golf. Two floods between those opening dates resulted in the basic architectural differences between the front and back nine.

"The developers want a distinct third nine and asked for a links setting on a relatively flat, 60-acre site," Atkinson says. "Generally, when you add holes to an existing layout, most people want all the holes to blend together. But here we have two existing nine-hole courses that are already quite different from one another. The developers want to embrace that difference by building a third nine that varies from the existing holes."

The addition is in the concept and master-planning stage. Atkinson has developed preliminary routing plans and budget numbers that he submitted to municipal officials. Construction could start in the spring, although no specific date has been determined.

Greens fees at the existing course are \$16. One of the primary goals is to keep the facility affordable. One way to do that is by using local materials. For example, five miles from the course are natural sand dunes that motorcross drivers from throughout the country travel thousands of miles to enjoy.

Idaho Resort upgrades course

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho – The Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course is in the midst of the second phase of a multi-million dollar makeover that began in 2002. Improvements include adding new trees to the 14th hole, new green surrounds on the 16th hole, and new contouring and sod on the third, fourth and sixth holes. The irrigating systems and landscaping also will be improved.

The biggest project will be a completely new green complex on the fourth hole. The new green will feature a subair system to air condition the turf in the hot weather during the summer and heat it on cool mornings in the spring and fall.

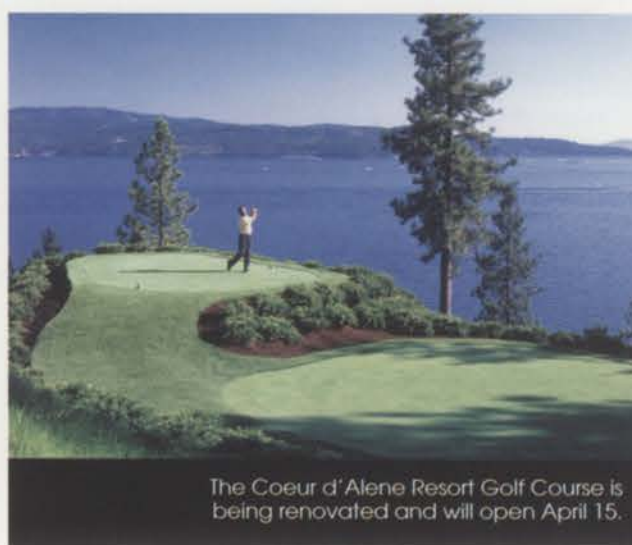


Photo: Joel Riney/QuickSilver Studios

The Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course is being renovated and will open April 15.

Designed by Scott Miller, the project is being implemented by Ridgetop with direction by superintendent Kevin Hicks. Because of the new construction, the course is closed and won't reopen until April 15.

The par-71 6,804-yard course has two full-time maintenance staff per hole, and they do all their work at night. The landscaping includes more than 1,500 wildflowers, 25,000 junipers and 30,000 red geraniums.

Hagadone Hospitality Co. owns the resort.

Bandon Trails to open in June

Bandon, Ore. – The latest addition to the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Bandon Trails, is scheduled to open in June. The third course of the resort spreads throughout the southeastern part of the property. Bandon Trails, which was designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, was in the final phase of construction – overseen by KemperSports Development – in December.

Paris Landing gets Audubon nod

Buchanan, Tenn. – Paris Landing Golf Course achieved a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation from Audubon International by demonstrating and maintaining a high degree of environmental quality. Paris Landing successfully met high Audubon standards in areas such as environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reductions, water conservation and water quality management.

Paris Landing is the fourth course in Tennessee and only the third park-affili-

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ated golf course in the nation to receive this honor from Audubon International.

The other state park affiliated courses are the Bethpage (N.Y.) Black, Green and Red courses. Other Audubon-certified courses in Tennessee are The Legacy in Springfield, President's Reserve at Hermitage Golf Course in Old Hickory and the Tournament Players Club at Southwind in Memphis.

Led by Dwayne Hicks, golf course superintendent, and Jane Burkhart, golf shop assistant, Paris Landing made a range of investments and operational changes to achieve Audubon certification. Investments include natural habitat enhancements and the addition of feeders that increased populations of wild turkeys and other animals around the course. Changes in storage and application of chemicals, in addition to adjustments for cart wash procedures, also are under way.

USGA awards \$15,000 to First Tee of San Antonio

San Antonio – More than 800 kids in the San Antonio area will continue to learn the game of golf and its inherent values thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the United States Golf Association. The program exposes disadvantaged youths to golf and the life-enhancing values that are associated with the game.

The First Tee of San Antonio's main objective is to make the sport of golf and related life skills accessible for San Antonio youth. The program focuses on teaching children between the ages of 5 and 17 the game of golf while exposing them to the core values and etiquette inherent in the game, which also can be valuable skills in everyday life.

The USGA grant will help The First Tee of San Antonio remain a free program for all participants. The grant is part of an overall financial commitment of \$11 million to The First Tee home office and its local chapters.



Kiva Dunes breaks ground on expansion

Gulf Shores-Orange Beach, Ala. – Kiva Dunes Golf & Beach Club, which is part of the Gulf Shores Golf Association, is expanding and has broken ground on The Village at Kiva Dunes.

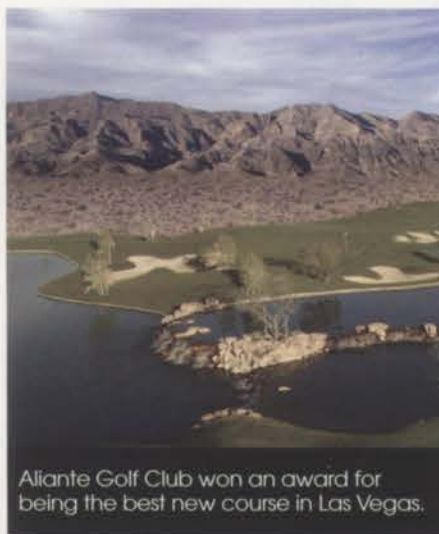
Kiva Dunes is a multi-amenity resort-residential community that offers private condominiums and rental lodging opportunities, including the Kiva Lodge Clubhouse and Condominium. It features Kiva Dunes Golf Club, a Jerry Pate-designed golf course that is rated among the top 100 courses in the United States.

The units at The Village are designed with golf groups in mind. Plans call for some of the four-bedroom units to comfortably accommodate as many as eight golfers. This phase of Kiva's development includes 30 additional two-, three- or four-bedroom luxury condominiums in two buildings located along the lake that runs adjacent to the 18th hole at Kiva Dunes.

Kiva Dunes offers a full-service clubhouse, meeting facilities, fitness area, three swimming pools, 3,000 feet of private gulf beach and on-site rental management of luxurious condominiums and beach homes. The master plan also calls for a tennis center and expanded facilities for meetings, conventions and corporate retreats.

Aliante Golf Club earns award

Las Vegas – Aliante Golf Club earned two Fairway Awards for being the best new course in Las Vegas. Aliante won the award in Vegas Golfer magazine's reader poll category and was the magazine's staff pick.



Aliante Golf Club won an award for being the best new course in Las Vegas.

Photo: Aliante Golf Club

The 18-hole, par-72 course, which was designed by Gary Panks Associates, opened to public play Dec. 5, 2003. The course, which stretches 7,000 yards from the back tees, includes a practice facility that features a driving range, putting green, chipping green and practice bunker. OB Sports Golf Management manages the Aliante Golf Club.

Legacy receives tourism award

Las Vegas – Lorraine Hunt, the lieutenant governor of Nevada, awarded The Legacy Golf Club a Tourism Development Award at the annual governor's conference on tourism in December. The Legacy was one of 105 businesses to receive the award throughout the state for opening or adding new facilities to attract visitors and enhance the state tourism economy during 2004.

The Legacy Golf Club, which is managed by OB Sports Golf Management, underwent an exterior renovation that included a fresh coat of paint, patio refurbishment and other cosmetic upgrades to improve the club.

The course stretches 7,233 yards from the back tees.



Florida club adds practice station

West Palm Beach, Fla. – Martin Hall, the director of golf instruction at the Ibis Golf & Country Club, added equipment to the club's teaching facility. The most efficient golf swing attainable perfect pro-



Ibis Golf & Country Club added equipment to its teaching facility.

Photo: Ibis Golf & Country Club

active equipment features 15 separate teaching stations that target almost every aspect of a student's golf swing. The MEGSA PPE ensures students use the same address position every time so they can work on their consistency. The 15 teaching stations are: antislidewall, rear posture board, width producer, right knee stabilizer, over/under station, take away perfecter, preset wall, hand plane bar, insider, plane-o-matic, head stabilizer, antilift pole, finish perfecter, resistance cord and post impact bar.

Additionally, custom-built, high-end residential homes continue to be built near the golf course.

Supplier news

Agrotain International, a supplier of stabilized nitrogen products, commissioned a new series of paintings called Artistry of Golf that pays tribute to the hard work and dedication of golf course superintendents. The first painting in the annual series, Crowds Have No Place Here, showcases the sixth hole at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind., often referred to by golf course architect Pete Dye as his first-born. The commissioned work was unveiled at the 2005 Golf Industry Show, where golf course superintendents entered a contest to win one of 50 signed and numbered limited-edition prints that are suitable for framing. The grand-prize winner was to receive the original framed oil painting. Superintendents who visited the company's booth and took the Stabilized Nitrogen Challenge received a commemorative poster featuring the artwork. The painting is the work of Sandy Cashman Schmieder, an artist who has been professionally serving the golf course maintenance industry for more than 15 years.

Avendra, a procurement services company, offers food-service operators programs that can help them address food-safety issues highlighted in a recently released report by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA reported widespread risks of food-borne illness throughout various types of food service operations. Food-safety-related offerings include: food-safety reviews, which thoroughly assess a property's handling, preparation and serving of food; Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point program development, which helps properties comply with food-handling regulations; and Meet the Truck Audits, which ensure properties are get-

ting wholesome product, delivered in the right condition, from local suppliers.

BASF says its Insignia fungicide received registration from the New York Environmental Protection Agency. Insignia provides control of more than 15 major turfgrass diseases as well as suppression of dollar spot. The active ingredient in the product is pyraclostrobin, a member of the strobilurin chemistry class, which inhibits mitochondrial respiration.

Finalists in the agricultural proficiency competition for the National Future Farmers of America organization were honored at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky. **Bayer Environmental Science** sponsored three of the 49 proficiency awards, including turfgrass management, landscape management and diversified horticulture. The sponsorship is an example of Bayer's commitment to the green industry, part of the company's Backed by Bayer initiative.

Dave Sylvester of **Bayer Environmental Science** presented Frank DeRosa, superintendent of Cedar Brook Country Club in Old Brookville, N.Y., with a Ford F-150 pick-up truck as part of the company's yearlong sweepstakes celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Merit insecticide. DeRosa was the contest's grand prize winner in the golf industry category.

John Deere introduced the One Source Credit Card with rates as low as 8.9 percent for all One Source soft-good purchases. Credit card holders can spread expenses with monthly payments equal to 10 percent of the amount financed, buy on demand, enjoy a flexible line of credit for multiple purchases and feel less pressured with the 8.9 percent APR. The new credit card is designed to smooth out the maintenance cycle. If the month is going well and there's money left in the bank, cardholders can pay ahead and skip upcoming payments or pay off the balance with no penalty. There's one consolidated bill a month.

Following two days of international competition, the 18th annual **John Deere World Championship** recently came to a close. Branxton (Australia) Golf Club became the first team outside North America to claim top honors. Contested Nov. 10 through 13, 2004 at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., the tournament featured 31 teams from six countries. Each

foursome represented a typical golf course management team – superintendent, owner, manager, golf professional – brought together to demonstrate a different set of skills on the golf course. The Branxton team of Aaron Ling, superintendent; Mark Hale, club president; Andrew Hayward, club professional; Gary Anderson, club manager; and Trent Bolton, John Deere representative, finished with a two-day modified scramble score of 103, edging a single stroke ahead the team from Hesperia (Calif.) Golf & Country Club.

LESCO expects its net sales for the year ending Dec. 31, 2004 to range from \$560 to \$563 million compared with net sales of \$523.5 million in 2003 – an increase of about 7 to 7.5 percent. The growth in net sales is from the company's service centers. The company also benefited from sales growth in its golf segment. It expects to release fourth quarter and 2004 results March 1.

Additionally, the company has retained Western Reserve Partners to explore the possibility of selling all or a portion of the company's distribution and manufacturing assets. The company believes harvesting the working and fixed capital of its supply chain will allow it to focus its resources on the expansion of its service-center network.

Players Turf International provided the synthetic turf for a 25,000-square-foot indoor practice area at the Golf Industry Show. The practice area featured several areas designed for improving a player's short game, including a practice putting green, an elevated chipping green and a driving range with a target green.

Pursell Technologies began production at its newest plant in Sylacauga, Ala., to meet the demand for the company's polymer coating technology for horticulture and professional turf market segments. The facility will allow the corporation to double its present production capability. This is the third manufacturing expansion for the company in recent years. The multi-million dollar expansion employs 15 people. There are plans to add 10 workers in the upcoming year.

To help the victims and survivors of the recent tsunami disaster, **SMT Golf** is donating one dollar from the sale of every company driver, iron, wedge and hybrid sold during the months of Janu-

ary and February directly to the Tsunami Relief Fund. These contributions will include all orders placed directly through the company or by any of their

distributors, including prebooks of any new equipment that the company introduced at the PGA Merchandise Show.

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Syngenta is donating aid to help victims of the tsunami triggered by an earthquake in the Indian Ocean. Initially, Syngenta is donating \$100,000 to aid agencies in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Additionally, the company will provide 10,000 safety kits with gloves and masks for the Red Cross and specific insecticides to reduce the risk of dengue fever spreading in affected regions. The company also will work with regional and international agencies to contribute additional aid initiatives and programs

During 2005, **Tee-2-Green** will commemorate Penncross creeping bentgrass with a 50th anniversary celebration. The company started the celebration by producing a 50th anniversary compact disc, which was mailed to 15,000 industry professionals in the show issue of *Golf and Environment*, the superintendent's video magazine. The company also will showcase the creeping bentgrass in a series of advertisements in industry trade publications.

Textron will donate as much as \$750,000 to assist with tsunami relief efforts, including an initial contribution of \$250,000 to the American Red Cross International Response Fund's tsunami relief efforts and a \$250,000 grant for a dollar-for-dollar match of employee contributions to the organization.

Turf Diagnostics and Design, a soil testing and consulting company, moved from Olathe, Kan., to Linwood, Kan.

Personnel news

Brian Hardin was named golf course superintendent of Stone Eagle, a new private golf club development in Palm Desert, Calif. Hardin, who was the superintendent at The Palms in La Quinta, Calif., for the past six years, will oversee the current construction, agronomy and day-to-day maintenance of the course. Stone Eagle, which is being developed by Destination Development Co., is the first Tom Doak-designed golf course in the Coachella Valley.

Benjamin D. Steen was named golf course superintendent at Sea Gull Golf Club in Pawley's Island, S.C. His responsibilities include maintaining golf course conditions, supervising the greens maintenance

staff and serving as a club liaison.

Jim Kron was named superintendent at Poplar Hill Golf Club in Farmville, Va. Previously, Kron, a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, was assistant golf course superintendent at Horsehoe Bay Golf Club in Egg Harbor, Wis.



Kron

Golf course superintendent **Kevin Collins** left Tower Ridge Country Club in Simsbury, Conn., and is now at Washington Golf Club in Washington Depot, Conn.

The city of San Diego hired a manager to run its golf courses. **Mark Woodward**, who has been the parks and recreation director for Mesa, Ariz., for the past 10 years, was named San Diego's golf operations manager, overseeing courses at Torrey Pines, Balboa Park and Mission Bay. The 52-year-old Woodward replaces Jim Allen, who resigned in May before a financial audit critical of the golf operations was released.

Kimberly Heyl, superintendent at Fenwick Golf Club in Old Saybrook, Conn., was elected as a corporator of the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn.

Michael Marino, superintendent at Stonington (Conn.) Country Club; **Brent Palich**, superintendent at Potowomut Golf Club in East Greenwich, R.I.; and **Ralph Simonelli**, assistant superintendent at Warwick (R.I.) Country Club, are new members of the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents added new members recently. They are: **Michael Astram** of Northern Designs, **Jason Booth** of Pine Orchard Yacht and Country Club, **Rob Giampietro** of Bull's Bridge Golf Course, **Paul Legault** of A-OK Turf Equipment, **Brian Sepot** of Longshore Club Park, **Timothy Quirk** of Turf Products Corp. and **Thomas Vorio** of Pine Orchard Yacht & Country Club.

James MacDonald, golf course superintendent at New Haven Country Club in Hamden, Conn., retired.

Robert Witkoski, golf course superinten-

dent at Washington Golf Club in Washington Depot, Conn., retired.

At the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation awards banquet in December, **Mike O'Connell**, golf course superintendent at Maketewah Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio, was presented with the Professional of the Year award for his commitment to the golf course maintenance profession and his years of involvement in the Greater Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association. O'Connell's award was presented by OTF past president John Fanning of Verdicon/UHS.

At the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation awards banquet in December, **Pamela Sherratt** of The Ohio State University's department of horticulture and crop science, was presented with a Professional Excellence Award by John Street for her accomplishments in turfgrass research and education, particularly in the areas of sports turf research and extension.

PGA golf professional **Albert Murdock** was named director of golf at the Links at Las Palomas Golf Club in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Currently, Murdock is vice president of the Southwest section of the PGA. He is a current member of the Senior Goldwater Cup Team and a guest instructor of the Stanford and Arizona State University golf camps. Murdock will direct the new course operation at Las Palomas, which is scheduled to open in May.



Murdock

PGA National Resort & Spa and the PGA National Members Club named **Desi Howe** the director of golf for the five-course facility in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Previously, Howe was the director of golf for the Doral Resort & Spa in Miami.



Howe

The International Network of Golf's membership elected a new advisory board. The new board members are **Tom Landers** of Pub Links Golfer, **Mitch Laurance** of Ace Productions, **John Steinbach** of TaylorMade-Adidas Golf and **Dean Stoyer** of Nike Golf.

Re-elected to new three-year terms were **Jack Bacot** of Carolinas PGA Golfer and

Tony Leodora of TL Golf Services. The remainder of the current ING advisory board are: **Laurie Dovey**, **Ron Garl**, **Holly Geoghegan**, **Rick Jamison**, **Dove Jones**, **Lynn Luczkowski**, **Ronnie Musselwhite** and **Mike Purkey**.

The 15-year-old ING is a non-profit, media-based networking organization that has a mission to enhance and promote communication and education in golf. The organization is managed by a six-person executive committee, elected by the advisory board. The current committee includes **Jay Hubbard** of Tour Edge Golf; **Mark Grody** of Corporategolf.com; **Tim O'Connor** of O'Connor Media; **John Glozek** of Long Island Golfer; **Geoff Converse**, a freelance golf writer; and executive director **Mike Jamison**.

Pearl Carey, a former president of the Western States Golf Association and a member of the USGA Regional Affairs Committee, was chosen as the second woman to receive the USGA Joe Dey Award. Given since 1996 in recognition of meritorious service to the game of golf as a volunteer, the award was presented Feb. 6 at the association's annual meeting in Santa Barbara, Calif. The award is named in honor of the late Joe Dey, who served as USGA executive director for 35 years – from 1934 to 1969 – and was later commissioner of the PGA Tour.

Matthew Bradley was named golf sales representative for Bayer Environmental Science. He will cover southwest Florida from Tampa through Naples and is responsible for the complete portfolio of Chipco golf products.

Golf Ventures West hired **Steve Anderson** as equipment territory manager for the southern Phoenix market.

Redexim Charterhouse hired an additional sales professional, **Nate Patrick**, to support its network of North American distributors.



Patrick

Chris Nordling is a product manager for trimmers, brush cutters and lawn edgers for Shindaiwa.

Jim Doll joined Tecumseh Power Co. as product line manager for walk behind mower engines. GCN