

Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 12

Lesco, Michael DiMino laid out his management team's vision of the company's future.

In a presentation to shareholders and the investment community in April, he described Lesco's new direction as a "back to basics," and called on a return to the philosophy of company founders Jim FitzGibbon and Bob Burkhart. DiMino said LESCO is on the road to a profitable 2002.

Syngenta still on track

Syngenta AG blamed adverse currency movements and continuing tough markets for first-quarter sales dip of 3.7 percent compared to last year. Although the company does not expect a sales boost soon, it says it's still on track to reach its goals of a slight improvement in margins in 2002.

Second course coming to Russia

Golf is coming to St. Petersburg, Russia, thanks in part to Illinois-based architect Dick Nugent and his firm Nugent Golf Associates, who will design and construct a 45-hole golf facility there. It's only the second golf course to be built in Russia — the only other course is the Moscow Golf and CC.

St. Petersburg is the most western and second largest city in Russia. It's probably the largest city in the world without a golf course, according to Nugent Golf Associates.

Rutgers explores transformation technology

An agreement between Rutgers and Japan Tobacco will enable Rutgers to develop and commercialize improved turfgrass varieties by using a pioneering plant transformation technology, announced William Meyer, head of the turfgrass breeding program at Rutgers. The new technology was developed by Japan Tobacco and modified for use in turfgrass by Barbara Zilinskas, a plant scientist at the Center for Turfgrass Science and the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment at Rutgers.

"Long term, we believe that transformation technology will enable us to solve some unsolved pest and disease problems," Meyer said.

Steiniger, the 'Super Superintendent,' dies at 96

Eberhard "Eb" Steiniger, known as the dean of superintendents, died in his sleep April 13. He was 96.

Steiniger, who retired from Pine Valley (N.J.) GC in 1980 after more than 50 years, was also known in circles as the "Super Superintendent." The recipient of many awards, including GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award and USGA's Green Section Award, Steiniger was GCSAA's oldest member.

Golfdom recognized Steiniger as one of its "Titans of Our Industry" in 2001. Steiniger told *Golfdom* his secret to success was to treat members with the utmost respect. "I treated all members as if they were my bosses, no matter what they asked," he said.

If you would like to make a donation in honor of Steiniger's name, contact St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Laurel Springs, N.J., at 856-783-1839.

Quotable

"Golf has helped me raise my family, put a roof over my head, food on the table and allowed me to meet some wonderful people."

— *Palmer Maples on being the first superintendent inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame (Augusta Chronicle)*

"We're a dying breed to have stayed at one course for as long as we have. But it's nice to be able to plant a tree and see how big it has grown seven years later."

— *Charlie Hadwick, long-time superintendent of The Country Club of Lincoln (Neb.), on longevity in the industry*

"God bless the muni golfer. God bless the hack, the chop, the scrape. God bless Joey Threerjerk over there, trying to hit a seven-iron with one foot on a sprinkler that won't shut off and the other on his bag of Cheetos that he's keeping from the pigeons. . . . Mostly, God bless the USGA for finally bringing the U.S. Open to the people, to a real muni, golf's chopphalla — Bethpage Black."

— *Rick Reilly from a recent Sports Illustrated column*