

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Lebanon Acquires Emerald Isle

Lebanon Seaboard Corp. acquired the Emerald Isle line of premium foliar and other granular fertilizer products from Milliken Chemical, a division of Milliken & Co. Terms of the agreement between the two privately held companies were not announced. Emerald Isle True Foliar products provide seaplant extract and other beneficial supplements for root growth, stress tolerance and disease resistance.

Bonar Wins Green Section Award

The United States Golf Association named Terry Bonar, golf course superintendent at Canterbury Golf Club in Shaker Heights, Ohio, as the recipient of the 2009 USGA Green Section Award, which is presented annually by the USGA to recognize individuals who exemplify outstanding contributions and dedication to the game through their work with turfgrass. Bonar is a member of Golfdom's Editorial Advisory Staff.

"To be considered in their company, I'm very humbled by this gesture," said Bonar, who has more than 45 years of experience in golf course maintenance.

IA Unveils New Look

The Irrigation Association recently unveiled a new logo and tagline. The redesigned brand, revealed during the 2008 Irrigation Show, is part of IA's strategic plan to become the recognized authority on irrigation.

The association says its new logo communicates the critical link between irrigation and making things grow, while the tagline, "Smart practices. Sustainable solutions," is a powerful message of IA's mission and its members' commitment to better water management.



Future Leaders Gather at Disney to Learn

By David Frabotta

Growing the game isn't a mantra; it's an ongoing commitment. That's why The First Tee partners with Walt Disney World and The Toro Co. to educate high school students about not only the game of golf, but careers in golf and hospitality as well.

The second-annual Future Leaders Forum, which took place in early November at Walt Disney in Orlando, welcomed 50 First Tee leaders from chapters around the world.

The delegates earned the trip through their exemplary participation through The First Tee, as well as essays to be part of the program. The winners won a cool, behind-the-scenes look at a PGA Tour event: The Children's Miracle Network Classic at Disney.

ABOVE: Gary Myers, director of golf courses and grounds for Walt Disney Resorts, speaks to the Future Leaders delegates. "It's important for students to know they have career options outside of playing golf."

Dennis Himan, group vice president of golf and landscape for Toro, read each survey, and said these students are some of the sharpest teenagers he has ever met, largely due to etiquette and life lessons learned from The First Tee. "The core of our company is built around golf," he says. "So it behooves us to participate in programs like this because there is a possibility that these kids, some of the best and brightest the sport has to offer, will come to work in the industry."

Part of the tour involved a stop with Gary Myers, director of golf courses and grounds for Walt Disney Resorts, which has 81 golf holes. He said it's imperative for superintendents to highlight golf maintenance opportunities in their respective regions. That includes speaking to student groups, technical colleges and horticulture classes.

"It's important for superintendents to talk about job opportunities, especially as we're headed into economic times like these (when there are a lot of job seekers and pressure to operate a more efficient business)." ■