

Off The Fringe

Lebanon Acquires PHC

Lebanon Seaboard Corp., parent company of LebanonTurf, announced recently that the company has acquired the U.S. horticultural and turf division of Plant Health Care (PHC), Inc.

Established in 1995, PHC is regarded as a pioneer among manufacturers of biologically based products for all segments of the green industry. The company is known for its research applied to fertility products incorporating beneficial microbes, mycorrhizal fungi and soil nutrients.



"PHC products add to our ability to create both environmental and economic benefits for our customers and capitalize on a movement throughout the green industry toward natural systems and biological products that promote plant health," Katherine Bishop, president and CEO of Lebanon Seaboard, said of the acquisition.

The acquisition of PHC complements Lebanon Seaboard's 2009 acquisition of Novozymes' turf and landscape business and its 2008 acquisition of the Emerald Isle line of foliar and granular fertilizer products from Milliken Chemical. ■

Want to get your news in *Golfdom*?
E-mail Seth Jones, editor in chief, at
sjones@questex.com.



Cal-Riverside Halts Diagnostics Lab

In a letter to the industry, Frank Wong, Ph.D., Cooperative Extension specialist at the University of California-Riverside, announced that as of March 7, 2011, their turf diagnostic lab services would no longer be in operation.

The lab collected more than 500 samples a year and supported the industry in California and surrounding states. But because of the reduction of several funding opportunities, personnel changes and the failure to get larger grant funding outside the turf industry, the lab was no longer sustainable.

"The true cost of the diagnostic program was subsidized by funding from UC Riverside, cooperative research with chemical companies, other grant resources or GCSAA contributions, and we have for the most part made it work," Wong said in the letter. "For 2011 we will try to reorganize under a new business plan to meet the diagnostic lab needs of the industry,

and relaunch the service under a different model as soon as we can."

Paul Mayes, CGCS at Hemet (Calif.) Golf Club, said the news was discouraging and would complicate his work maintaining Hemet GC, an 18-hole public course set in California's Hemet Valley.

"It's a shame, because other than Larry (Stowell, Ph.D.) at PACE Turf down in San Diego, there's nothing out here," he said. "I probably used (UC Riverside's lab) four to six times a year."

Wong stated in his letter that the annual cost to maintain the lab was \$80,000, while on average it only brought in \$30,000 a year over the last three years.

"It's unfortunate that they can't support golf courses," Mayes said. "Hopefully they can get the funding fixed and get it back on track. But it's just like everything else these days, everyone's seeing cutbacks – it's the almighty dollar." ■

FarmLinks Maintenance Facility Destroyed

The maintenance facility at FarmLinks Golf Club in Sylacauga, Ala., was a total loss after a fire devastated the building in the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 9th.

"Everyone is OK – no one was injured," Erle Fairly, president of FarmLinks, told *Golfdom*. "It's an unfortunate situation, but we'll rally the troops."

The Experience at FarmLinks hosts 1,200 superintendents every year. FarmLinks is well known in the

industry as a one-of-a-kind research and demonstration facility as well as a championship caliber golf course.

A fire inspector was investigating the damage as *Golfdom* went to press, but Fairly believed the fire was caused by a lightning strike.

Once again, the turf industry showed its class, Fairly said, as word was spreading about the fire.

"This industry is close-knit, there's been no shortage of support," he said. "Our partners, suppliers and superin-



tendents have all offered help. Courses are already lending us equipment." ■

Two *Golfdom* Winners

As the dust settled from the 2011 Golf Industry Show, *Golfdom* was able to make two more attendees quite happy with their trips to Orlando.

Golfdom notified Tim Kennelly, superintendent at Baltimore CC, and Sean Tully, superintendent at the Meadow Club in Fairfax, Calif., that they both won prizes for stopping by the *Golfdom* booth at the GIS. Kennelly won an expenses-paid trip to Pinehurst Resort for the first ever *Golfdom* Summit in November. Kennelly won a copy of the July, 1962 issue of *Golfdom* magazine, signed by Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

"Any time you get an opportunity to learn and improve yourself, you have to take it," Kennelly said of the *Golfdom* Summit (www.golfdoms Summit.com), an invitation-only three-day event which will include presentations, case studies and meetings as well as a round of golf on Pinehurst No. 2. "I've heard a lot about the work (Bill) Coore and (Ben) Crenshaw have done on No. 2... I'm excited to see it!"

Tully, meanwhile, plans to display the autographed copy of *Golfdom* in his office. Coincidentally, Tully has a collection of old issues of *Golfdom*, with his oldest issue previously a copy from 1965 featuring the construction of Spyglass Hill.

"I'm glad you guys do things like (the giveaway), it's pretty exciting," Tully said. ■



BASF, *Golfdom* Play Trivia for Charity

At the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals hosted a game show called "Superintendent Thousandaire." Superintendents competed for cash prizes, while BASF (represented by Tom Hill, communications manager, left) asked the turf media to participate for charity. *Golfdom*'s Seth Jones (right) missed his final question but still walked away with a donation to the Wee One Foundation (www.weeone.org) for \$1,900. ■



The Andersons Adds Distributors



The Andersons has added distributors for its professional turf products in an effort to expand reach and support growth. Relationships with Chicagoland Turf (Addison, Ill.), Keystone Turf (Export, Penn.) and The Hodges Rash Company (Coraopolis, Penn.), all full line golf and landscape distributors, along with Simplot Partners (Palm Desert, Calif.), who will distribute a limited offering of premium products, including Contec DG, in selected markets in the Western states, comprise this expansion of The Andersons distribution network. ■