

GCBA directory and yearbook available

The 1982 directory and yearbook of the Golf Course Builders of America is currently available. The 42-page, pocket-size publication includes information on general and subcontractors who build the nation's golf courses, identifies the courses they have constructed and tells of their general experience in building, reconstructing and renovating golf courses.

The 1982 publication feature articles on golf course drainage problems by F.J. Palecek, market manager of Advanced Drainage Systems, Columbus, OH; weed control by Dr. Paul Sprinkle, agronomist for Monsanto Agricultural Products Co., St. Louis, MO; and the story of the National Golf Foundation by Executive Director Don Rossi.

For a free copy write: Golf Course Builders of America, Suite 638, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20036.

Career center teaches course maintenance

The Wilco Area Career Center, Romeoville, IL, believes in giving their students hands-on experience in their courses. When they decided to start a horticulture program with emphasis on turf care and golf course maintenance, it was only natural to build their own horticulture training facility on a few acres of open field behind the center. In two years the resulting facility included a 12-ft. deep pond, two nurseries (valued at \$10,000), 16 turf test plots, a tractor driving range and a three-hole golf course.

Students in the Wilco Horticulture Program receive practical training in the operation of over 30 pieces of maintenance equipment. "What we have here is a program heavy in skill development and light in textbook work," said David Manning, horticulture instructor. Seventy-six students are presently enrolled in the horticulture program. They are taught the basic entry-level skills needed in the horticulture industry with an emphasis on turf care and golf course maintenance. After being certified by the center (in a one- or two-year program), graduates move on to full-time employment or advanced educational training.

According to Assistant Director Lyle Honnold, the Wilco Center is supported by local, state and federal funds. The program costs the students nothing. The golf course itself was constructed by the Wadsworth Co., Plainfield, IL, with much of the labor and equipment provided at no charge. A \$7000 manual irrigation system was installed and \$2000 worth of grass seed planted on the three-hole layout. Students took part by helping to clear and refine the area. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents loaned some maintenance equipment. One valuable piece of equipment, a used five-gang mower and tractor, was donated by a local superintendent.

The golf course has turned out to be a public relations asset to the career center. Players are given an honorary membership card for golf and fishing privileges at the Wilco Area Career Center Land Laboratory and are asked to give "continued support of vocational education." Wilco's bag tags and scorecards also inform the players that they are playing on a "student developed, maintained and operated golf course."

"We've spent the last four years further developing each aspect of the horticulture program so that every pupil is given a practical, hands-on training experience," said Manning. "The program goes year-round now with several of our students now employed on golf maintenance crews, in nurseries and in greenhouses."

In the future, Manning and his assistant James Phelps want to vary the maintenance practices on different holes (and add some more) and expand the nursery operation. In these endeavors the students will be guided by Manning and Phelps and a 20-plus member Horticulture-Agriculture Advisory Council.

gives the clients a secure backup system and programming expertise.

Suppliers who wish to be on the L.I.S.T. should contact McDonald with current information on their available materials and prices. Buyers must supply a list of materials being searched for and should begin receiving service as soon as there is a bank of suppliers on the computer.

PESTICIDES

Pesticide breakdown may lessen effectiveness

Studies are now showing that insect resistance may not always be the reason that some pesticides lose their effectiveness over time. According to Alan Felsot of the University of Illinois, erratic performance may occur because the pesticide is broken down by enzyme or microbial activity.

"We think that certain microbial organisms in the soil are able to use the pesticide as an energy source," explained Felsot. With the chemical as an additional source of energy, the microbes thrive and multiply rapidly. Consequently, the more pesticide that is added to the soil, the faster it is degraded.

Reports have been made of the herbicide Eradicane and the insecticide diazinon breaking down quickly once applied to the soil. These problems seem to occur primarily in soils with a pH above 7. Yet, scientists cannot accurately predict what types of soils foster this reaction.

Controlled release chemical formulations and rotation of chemical classes may remedy the situation. Chemical extenders are also effective in keeping pesticides in the soil longer in the laboratory. Scientists must discover the specific causal organisms or enzymes before the problem can be fully solved.

TURF

NY landscape conference a hit

A one-day conference held by the Professional Turf and Landscape Association in Nyack, NY was a tremendous success according to Dan Antonecchia, the liaison officer. The meeting featured 76 trade exhibitors as well as a program

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