

Deere links up with TPC

Deere & Company has been named the "Official Golf Course Equipment Supplier of the PGA Tour," effective

1998 through 2006.

The company will provide a full range of golf and turf equipment, along with utility vehicles and selected construction equipment, on an exclusive basis to each of the PGA tour's owned-and-operated Tournament Players Club courses. As courses are added to the TPC network, Deere will provide the equipment.

New course planned

The company has also been named the title sponsor of the Quad City Classic for 1998-2006, representing one of the PGA Tour's longest title sponsorship agreements.

The PGA Tour will design, construct and operate a new Tournament Players Club, to be named TPC at Deere Run, to serve as the future home of the Quad City Classic. Three-time Quad City Classic Champion D.A. Weibring will be player design consultant for the project, to work closely with Maury Miller, lead golf course architect for Golf Resources, Inc. and Chris Gray of PGA Tour Design Services.

The new daily-fee course will be located near Deere's corporate headquarters in Moline, Ill., on 385 acres known as "Friendship Farm."



Chris Gray says the natural features of the site for "TPC at Deere Run" include 50-foot high bluffs overlooking the Rock River.

"Friendship Farm is a beautiful piece of land with some striking natural features that we can incorporate into the design," says Gray.

"The topography, mature trees, ravines and views offer us the opportunity to design a very traditional and classic golf course," adds Weibring. □



John Deere Worldwide's new factory near Raleigh, N.C., Turf Care, Inc., is expected to employ 250 people by 2000. "Many new machine models and attachments" are on the way, reports the company.

B. J. Johnson retires

After 40 years on the job, starting in agriculture but spending most of his career as a turfgrass researcher, B. J. Johnson announced his retirement at the Southeastern Turfgrass Conference in May.



Wayne Hanna, USDA, ARS, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, presented Johnson with a plaque and offered his sincere appreciation to Johnson, whose last official duty as a member of the Agronomy Department of the University of Georgia, Griffin, Ga., was to update turfgrass managers on his most recent weed control findings. □

Boynton heads PLCAA's list

Rex Boynton, executive director of the Picture Framing Association, is the leading candidate to replace Anne McClure as executive director of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA). McClure left PLCAA in April to manage the International Gas Turbine Association. She was PLCAA's second-ever executive director and served the 17-year-old association for almost seven years.

Boynton, who now lives in Richmond, Va., has been with the Picture Framing Association for the past six years. Boynton was scheduled to travel to PLCAA headquarters in Marietta, Ga., on May 30 for final discussions with the PLCAA executive committee. Boynton was one of over 170 people who expressed interest in PLCAA's top management position. □