

# Grab Bag

## Good-bye to the mowing job?

When retired Illinois electrician Frank Capaci won a record \$104.3 million prize (\$68 million after taxes) in a state lottery in May he said he expected to keep his job cutting grass at a golf course near his Carol Stream, IL, home.

This prompted several remarks in the "Turf Talk" forum on the GCSAA web site.

"Why doesn't he buy the golf course?" offered one superintendent.

Opined another, "If I won \$68 million the last thing I would do is cut grass on a golf course! The second thing I wouldn't do is buy one."

## Happy Anniversary to Chapel Valley

Happy anniversary to Chapel Valley Landscape Company. It's celebrating 30 years of providing exterior landscape services to Baltimore, Washington, and Northern Virginia communities.

Founded by Landon Reeve and his late wife Janet, Chapel Valley has 240 employees, including seasonal staff, and two offices in Woodbine, MD, and another in Dulles, VA, as well as satellite offices in Bethesda, MD, and Crystal City, VA.

"Quality, service and innovation have defined our company's approach since its inception," says Landon Reeve. "Our success is due to striving for, and maintaining, a high level of customer satisfaction."



## Now available: trees from country music stars

Recognize the guy on the left? That's William Lee Golden, one of the Oak Ridge Boys recording artists. He and about two dozen other country music stars allowed the seeds to be collected from their favorite trees growing at their homes. The small trees are now being sold for fans and as special gifts. The idea is part of the Famous & Historic Trees project operated by American Forests. Jeff Meyer, project director American Forests, is on the right. For information call 800/320-8733 (e-mail [famoustrees@msn.com](mailto:famoustrees@msn.com)).

## Plant pathologist dies in automobile accident

Dr. Janell Johnk, 35, extension plant pathologist at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Dallas, was killed May 6 in a six-vehicle accident in Frisco, Texas. Dr. Johnk was traveling to Prosper, Texas to prepare for a wheat field day when the accident occurred. Texas A&M technician, Crystal England of Denton, driving another vehicle, also was involved in the accident but not seriously injured.

Colleagues say they will remember Dr. Johnk for her upbeat way of communicating her science to laymen in understandable terms. Dr. Johnk had been working recently on the oak wilt problem which now threatens oak trees in North and Central Texas, training arborists on how to identify and treat it. A memorial service was held on June 30.

She is survived by her husband Mike and their two-year old daughter Kayla, her father, two brothers and a sister. An education fund for her two-year old daughter has been established. Checks should be made payable to: Kayla Johnk Education Fund and mailed to Dr. Ellen Jordan, Texas A&M Dallas, 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252-6599.

Grab Bag features brief observations and prognostications throughout the green industry. If you have an unusual photo or comment you'd like to share with us, please send it in...