

EETC's first year sees start of certification program

Schools across the United States are excited about the prospect of gaining certification from the Equipment and Engine Training Council (EETC). At the council's meeting in Milwaukee, WI, in May more than 120 participants received copies of the new "Outdoor Power Equipment Technology Program Certification" publication.

For a school to become certified it must meet the industry's standards for providing professional training facilities and tools; ensuring instructor competency; and teaching industry-specified and desired subjects.

Each of the three levels of certification will require compliance with specific standards for the facility, instructor qualifications, and curriculum competencies.

Level 1 covers two and four-stroke engine competencies.

Level 2 covers electrical, driveline, hydraulics, and hydrostatic competencies.

Level 3 covers compact diesel & generator competencies.

Bruce Radcliff, incoming president of the EETC, said that "one of the primary goals of the EETC for the coming year is to provide accreditation to six to 10 schools in North America. The first school accreditation should be complete by early June."

A second goal outlined by Radcliff was for the EETC "to see a measurable increase in the participation of OPE dealers." He said the involvement and experiences of OPE dealers are needed for the success of EETC.

EETC wants to develop strategies to provide servicing equipment dealers with a continuing flow of qualified service technicians, and improving training and educational opportunities.

Nine speakers addressed the audience

Georgia supers meet with club managers

Members of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Georgia Club Managers Associated met April 13 at a Superintendent/Club Manager Seminar and Golf Tournament. More than 100 superintendents, managers, golf pros and members of the golf course industry were welcomed by hosts Jimmy Geter, CGCS, and Joe Carter, GM of the Marietta Country Club where the event took place.

The morning's seminar featured a panel discussion concerning golf course maintenance budgets. Panel participants included Mark Esoda, CGCS, Atlanta Country Club; Dick Schulz, owner, The Oaks Course; and Bill Stewart, GM, Atlanta National Golf Club.

While the seminar focused on duties and responsibilities held by superintendents and managers, the GGCSA opened the seminar and tournament to all association members.

For more information on the GGCSA, contact Karen White at 706/769-4076. □

of about 120 at the EETC meeting at Briggs & Stratton. Andy Kuczmar, outgoing EETC President and Director of National Service/Training for Echo, Inc., set the positive tone for the meeting. Other speakers included: Curt Larson, VP of Distribution Sales & Service for Briggs & Stratton; John Rainone, VP of Service for MTD Products; Tony Saiia, VP Quality & Customer Support, Textron Turf Care; Dave Haeck, Training Manager, Commercial Products, John Deere; Jerry Bernhardt, Director of Career & Technology Education, Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice; Clifford Korkowski, President, Anoka-Hennepin Technical College; Judy Fuller Wood, Fuller's Power Equipment, an OPE dealer located in Lansing, MI; and Jim Starmer, President, Dixie Sales Company, a distributor located in Greensboro, NC.

The 1999 EETC annual meeting will be at the headquarters of Husqvarna Forest and Garden in Charlotte, NC, on May 2 and 3. For more information about the EETC, contact Virgil Russell, Executive Director, at 512/442-1788 or E-Mail at opecert@io.com. The EETC's web site is www.opecert.com. □

Seminar topic: pesky mole crickets

More than 70 golf course superintendents and industry members from Georgia and north Florida learned first hand about how to deal with turf-damaging mole crickets. They attended a seminar at The Island Club on St. Simons Island sponsored by the Georgia and North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Dr. Will Hudson, USGA Extension Entomologist; Ken Hopkins, Chipco; Geri Cashion, FMC; and Dr. Leon Stacy, Coastal Consulting, all spoke at the seminar. Completing the event was an on-site demonstration of a subsoil injection machine. Afterwards, participants golfed at the Island Club, hosted by Norm Pilote, director of golf maintenance, and Scott Lomis, superintendent.

This event is held annually through the cooperative efforts of the Georgia and Florida GCSA's. For further information, contact Karen White, executive director, GGCSA, at 706/769-4076, or Bill Plante, CGCS, Orange Park CC at 904/276-7660. □