

## Landscape Contracting News...

By Birgitta Brophy

What do orchids, Oneonta Bus Lines and the Bronx have in common? Together they were all a part of a tour taken in March of the New York Botanical Gardens. A gregarious group of 18 students, faculty and guests were given the red carpet treatment by James Diermeier the Assistant Director of Display Gardens at the NYBG. Mr. Diermeier provided the group with in depth information on the operations, maintenance and propagation for the various areas of the gardens. He gave us the first glimpses of spring color in a pre-season tour of the rock garden where hellebores, heather and dwarf irises were blooming! To top off the tour, the group was treated to the annual Orchid Show in the Enid Haupt Conservatory.

Last spring's graduating class added to the ambiance of Delhi through their hard work and skills. In the Village, the Advanced Landscape Design class designed and installed a foundation planting at the newly constructed e-Center, a multi-use building for the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, a business incubator center and water testing center. The new landscape highlights the architectural features with plants which provide color and textures year round. The Chamber of Commerce was very pleased and hopes to enlist future classes to continue landscaping other areas of the property.

One of the department's newest advisory board members, Mr. Thomas Wright, was our special tour guide at his place of employment, the Mohonk Mountain House. Last October the students of planting design class were special guests of Mr. Wright at this amazing historic resort. We were treated to insider information on the greenhouse and propagation of plants for the grounds, the design and development of the flower display area and related garden features, the putting green at the resorts circular drive and the immediate surrounds of the main building itself. One of the students from class, Zachary Hilty, was an intern at the Mohonk Mountain House working with Mr. Wright and his staff. Zach was the official tour giver of the "Labyrinth" – a somewhat difficult rock scramble to the Sky Top Tower. The scramble, gardens and an unexpected fly by of a bald eagle made for an absolutely special day!



From left: Charles Tarrant, Professor (standing), Trevor Smith, Darren Shuman, Erik Shook, Birgitta Brophy, Assistant Professor, (standing), Rick Pembroke, Eric Berninger, Tyler Busa, Chace Pagani, Tom Bennett, Adam Overbaugh

This spring looks favorably in the continued enhancements of the Garden Display area at the Turf Education Center. Students are planning on constructing seat walls for outdoor classroom teaching or group activities. On main campus there is an opportunity for some foundation planting design and installation along Sanford Hall to complement the newly installed sidewalk between the building and campus loop road. We'll be sure to keep you posted on these projects!

Dom Morales, Steve Tait, Julia Ward and Birgitta Brophy attended the New York Turfgrass Association's Southeastern Conference. Ms. Brophy and Mr. Morales were also there to as guest speakers. The conference was well attended and we were able to meet up with some of our alumni!



# SUNY Delhi



## Golf and Plant Science Programs



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### An Internship to Remember

By James Hayes



Mr. Hayes is a junior enrolled in the Golf Course Management: Superintendent Bachelor Degree Program

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville Virginia is the home of the President's Cup. This is a biannual PGA tour event that was first played here at RTJ and countless times after. The President's Cup trophy resides on display at RTJ when not in use. Naturally with the close proximity of the course to the Washington D.C. and White House, and the tradition of hosting the President's Cup, it is only natural that there is a strong relationship between the course and The President of the United States. With that said, it is an honor to work at RTJ. The most honored experience this summer was my trip to the White House. I was invited to the White House to work on a renovation project on The President's putting green. This is a maintenance tradition that has brought RTJ employees to the White House for the last 10 years. Scott Furlong, the Superintendent at RTJ invited me and two other interns to work on this project. We received all-access passes to the White House. We met with the head Horticulturalist and some of his staff while we were there. It was the most exciting and most memorable experience of my life. The aerification project consisted of first mowing the green, then core aerifying (the removal of soil plugs). We then removed all the plugs and top-dressed (adding a thin layer of new sand) the green. Lastly we spread soil amendments, mainly gypsum and some fertilizer on the green. Once we had finished we were allowed to take a tour of the White House and the property, many places of which are not allowed to be seen by any tour group. My time at White House will be something I will never forget and cherish greatly. Furthermore I owe a great deal of thanks to Scott Furlong for selecting me and providing me with the opportunity of a lifetime.

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### Suny Delhi Students Awarded Scholarships From Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association

Three SUNY Delhi students were awarded scholarships from an endowment established at the college by the Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association (Long Island GCSAA). Ryan Abbate, a golf course superintendent major from Sayville, and Kevin Anderson, a Golf Course Operations major from Oyster Bay, each received \$1,000, and Eric Newell, a golf course superintendent major from Melville, received \$750.

The three scholarships are the result of an endowment that was established at SUNY Delhi in 1990 by Bob Kamp, who was president of Long Island GCSAA at that time. The scholarships recognize exceptional students from the Long Island area who are enrolled in Turf Management, Golf Course Operations, or Golf Course Management: Superintendent and have successfully complete one semester.

Abbate, Anderson and Newell were presented their awards at the March 20 meeting of Long Island GCSAA by Gerry Kunkle, director of Long Island GCSAA and golf course superintendent for Pine Hollow Golf Course, and John Genovese, CGCS, vice president of Long Island GCSAA and golf course superintendent for Long Hills Golf Course.

"It was a privilege and an honor to receive this scholarship," said Kevin Anderson, whose father Phil Anderson is a golf course superintendent at Sands Point Village Club and was in attendance to honor his son at the presentation.

To date, the Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association endowment has produced 12 scholarships for SUNY Delhi students.



From left: Pat Joy, Eric Newell, Chad Borden, Eric Shook, Tim Williams, Rick Pembroke, Kevin Anderson, Ryan Abbate, Jeff Ferguson, Trevor Smith, Adam Overbaugh

## Planet Career Days

Eleven Students traveled south this March to participate in the PLANET Student Career Days at North Metro Tech College in Georgia. Accompanying the team were Instructional Support Associate, Julia Ward and Instructor, Kathy Gillooley.

Student Career Days is an annual three-day competitive event among students enrolled in horticulture programs from colleges and universities across the country. The students have the chance to compete in events that are directly related to the skills necessary for a career in the green industry. The event also offers a Career Fair which gives the students the opportunity to meet prospective employers in the industry and discuss employment opportunities.

Other highlights of the event included a tour Pike's Nursery and the Georgia Aquarium. At this year's competition, Delhi students fared well against the other schools with Senior Chad Borden taking 2nd place in the Turf & Turf Pest Identification event.

We also met alumnus Melissa Warner who is now Enhancement Sales Specialist for Outside Unlimited Inc. in Maryland.

## Professional Golf Management News

By Tom Phillion

The Professional Golf Management (PGM) program at SUNY Delhi is experiencing unprecedented growth with 19 new freshmen registered for the fall 2008 semester. This growth can be attributed to an aggressive marketing campaign, and improvements in several program areas including; facilities, curriculum, internships and player development. Nine more seniors started their final internships this past March and will graduate in December. Congratulations to Mario Gatti from Rochester, NY (368 points), who beat out fellow senior Ryan Hammerle (Syracuse, NY – 364.5 points) to capture the 2007 PGM Player of the Year award.

The Upper Classmen successfully defended their Director's Cup title last fall, handily defeating the PGM sophomores and freshmen 18-10.

The PGM Club will be taking a golf trip to the Pompey Club in Syracuse on Sunday May 4th as a way of thanking them for their community service this year.

Twenty-two PGMers braved a cold November day to clean up a two-mile stretch of Back River Road, just north of the village limits. Fifteen large bags of garbage, cans and other debris were collected from the roadside and taken to the dump as part of our community service efforts.

The PGM Club has formed a local Relay for Life Team to raise money and awareness for cancer victims.

The event takes place at the American Legion Field in Delhi on April 25th and 26th.



From Left: Mario Gatti, Ryan Hammerle, Zach Maslyn, Paul Breton, Clint Chaffee, Tom Garby, Dustin Walbridge, Evan Drahzal-Gasster

## Advanced Turf Technician School

SUNY Delhi, in cooperation with the New York State Turfgrass Association, offered a three-day Advanced Turf Technician School on the college campus from January 7-9, 2008. Fifteen participants from New York & Connecticut received three full days of training from experienced SUNY Delhi faculty.



The first course, Troubleshooting Irrigation Components, was presented by Thomas Holdrege, instructional support associate. This one day course focused on the basic concepts of irrigation as they relate to landscape and turf situations and on the different components used in a state of the art system. There was an emphasis on "hands-on" training and the course was geared towards the troubleshooting and repairs of irrigation components.

The second course, Sharpening and Grinding, was presented by Steven Tait, assistant professor. This two day course provided instruction on the principles and practices of sharpening tools and equipment used in golf course and landscape operations. Special emphasis was placed on grinding cutting blades used in reel type mowing equipment.

We are hoping to offer hydraulic troubleshooting and welding classes next year. Watch for additional information later in the fall or call SUNY Delhi Business and Community Services at (607) 746-4545.



## 2007 Empire State Green Industry Show

Thirty students and four faculty/staff from Golf/Plant Sciences department attended the annual Empire State Green Industry Show held in Rochester, New York November 13 through 15, 2007. SUNY-Delhi students once again received the over-whelming majority of the scholarships awarded and they also won the TURF BOWL competition for the second year running.

**Congratulations to the following scholarship winners;**

**Chad Borden:** (Senior; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Scholarship.

**Jesse Bulaga:** (Senior; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Scholarship.

**Aaron Crouse:** (Junior; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Scholarship.

**Chris Ellsmore:** (Junior; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) Stephen V. Moffett III Scholarship

**Marc Francis:** (Sophomore; AAS Golf Course Operations) Peter P. Hahn Scholarship.

**Eric Newell:** (Sophomore; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Scholarship.

**Jarrett Pilkington:** (Junior; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) the John Cornman Scholarship

**Phil Weatherbee:** (Senior; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Scholarship.

**Dave Wilcox:** (Sophomore; BBA Golf Course Management: Superintendent) Stephen V. Moffett III Scholarship

Congratulations to the following winning teams and individuals of the annual Turf Bowl Competition held at the show on Wednesday November 14th in the Rochester River Side Convention Center. Five college teams competed. **First place team;** SUNY-Delhi, Eric Berninger, Pat Joy, \*Eric Newell, Danny Sattler. \*Chad Borden. \*Overall top scorer.



From Left: Chace Pagani, Pat Joy, Eric Newell, Steve Lopena (background), Danny Sattler, Marc Francis (background), Eric Berninger, Matt Carlascio