Award honors Don Rossi

The Golf Course Builders of America awarded the first Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award to its namesake, former builders society director Donald Rossi.

Saying Rossi "inspired a lot of people," GCBA President Perry Dye presented the award to Rossi's widow, Ruth.

"It is especially appropriate that an award bearing his name be a humanitarian award," said Ruth. "We all brought our problems to him and he relished finding solutions as much as he relished charitable contributions. Every acquaintance was a friend, a part of his extended family. His love of people was boundless and contagious, and it is this quality that this award will perpetuate."

Joe Much, who worked with Rossi during Rossi's tenure as executive director of the National Golf Foundation, cited his service to the industry, including organizing the allied associations of golf. "His warmth, his sincerity and his humanitarian side were his dominant characteristics," Much said.

The Rossi daughters—Gail, Mary and Betsy—were in attendance while his son, Michael, was in Japan.

They've uncovered a new jewel at The Pearl

Success stories aren't rare for The Pearl. The West course at this Myrtle Beach resort has been voted one of the 10 best courses in the Carolinas. During the season, 400-500 golfers a day flock to play one of its two Dan Maple designs.

Credit Superintendent Bill Hoffman for The Pearl's championship conditions. And John Deere for helping him achieve them every day Hoffman has a John Deere 305 mowing fairways, a 1200 grooming bunkers, a 1500 spraying and a 2243 mowing greens—the newest addition to his fleet.

"The offset cutting units played a key role in our purchasing the 2243," Hoffman says. "With the amount of traffic we get on these greens, anything we can do to reduce compaction helps."

"I've already noticed the difference. Areas around the perimeter that always used to give us trouble are much better now. Plus, it's so easy to steer and maneuver that our operators are doing a better job.

"The 1200 Bunker Rake is our workhorse. It's powerful and quiet—the best machine we've ever had in our traps."

For the name of your nearest distributor, or free literature on all John Deere Golf and Turf Equipment, call 1-800-544-2122 toll free or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL 61265. Like Bill Hoffman, we know you're going to like what you see.

Bermuda super makes do with less

By Peter Blais

John Perham sympathizes with fellow superintendents in Florida, Arizona and California struggling with shortages. But he has some encouragement.

"You can make do with a lot less," said the superintendent of St. Georges Golf Club in Bermuda.

The president of the 14-member Bermuda Golf Course Superintendents Association, certified as a regional superintendent, spoke at the International Roundtable during February's GCSAA International Conference and Show in Las Vegas, Nev.

Perham said he uses an average of 10,000 gallons a day "when I can get it" to water his 75-acre, 18-hole course on the water-tight island. While occasional brown spots occur, especially during the six-week stretches where the rains refuse to fall, "usually my course looks as good as anybody's."

Perham remembers pumping as much as 300,000 gallons a day on courses he once managed in Florida, most recently Meadowood in Ft. Pierce. But even when water was plentiful, he tried to conserve, a trait that has served him well in Bermuda.

To save water, Perham irrigates just his greens. He has an automatic irrigation system, but instead hand waters them, a practice he believes cuts evaporation losses in half. It increases labor costs, which are especially high on Bermuda where a beginning laborer makes $14 an hour. But the water savings are worth it.

Rather than water in fertilizer, he listens to mainland U.S. weather reports and fertilizes when a storm system appears headed his way.

Islanders trap rain water that falls on roofs for drinking water. St. George GC also collects storm water falling on its parking lot and stores it for irrigation.

The club's 50 wells have salt levels approaching 2,000 parts per million, Perham said. While that is considered too high at most U.S. courses, St. George continues to use it with no ill effects, he added.

Inevitably, parts of the course turn brown, Perham said. But tourists and natives accept it with little complaint.

"The way to attack the issue is to go to the people and change their attitudes," Perham said. "There is no reason a course has to be green all the time. Golfers have to start accepting the fact courses are going to be brown a couple of times a year."

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