Palmer-Maples reaps laurels for much-honored golf family

Appreciation Award points to decades of contributions

Palmer Maples Jr. of Summit Chase Country Club in Snellville, Ga., former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, was presented an Award of Appreciation at a Georgia Golf Hall of Fame banquet in January.

Independent course runoff studies sought

Golf Course News is calling for leads on turf runoff research that has been done or is planned at golf courses.

In order to add substance and bulk to the body of scientific knowledge, we are asking superintendents and others to let us know about any research they know about. Please contact Stuart Cohen at Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., 11141 Georgia Ave., Suite 208, Wheaton, Md. 20902.

Cohen will follow up any lead and compile the results to be summarized in a report for the industry.

Cohen said he has discovered instances of isolated, limited studies of golf course runoff or leaching. Usually, those studies are never publicly released, he said.

Kozelnicky

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The award was presented to Maples largely for his performance over several decades in which he has been a role model for aspiring superintendents.

He has helped many young superintendents find the way to the summit of their profession. One of them, Atlanta Athletic Club superintendent Ken Mangum, presented the Award of Appreciation in behalf of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association.

A member of a famous golf industry family, Maples was GCSAA president for six years, Georgia GCSA Superintendent of the Year in 1971, and served on the U.S. Golf Association Green Section Committee for 15 years.

One of the country’s first 10 certified golf course superintendents, Maples was superintendent at Charlotte (N.C.) Country Club for 11 years, then moved to the Standard Club in Georgia in 1970. In 1977 he went to work as education director for the GCSAA, leaving in 1981 after developing manuals and slide sets for education programs.

Palmer says, “As a writer and speaker, I’ve tried to share my experience as a golf course superintendent for 30 years and encourage other superintendents to provide the best playing conditions they can. We all receive from the men and women who went before us, and we need to give back all we can to insure the betterment of golf.”

Palmer encouraged young people coming into the business to seek all sources of information, try them out, and then tell others of the success or failure, because “there are times when knowing what not to do is as good as knowing what to do.

“No one ever said golf was fair, and no one says being a superintendent is an easy job. But it is rewarding. Seeing the beauty of God’s nature and being able to work to enhance that beauty is a blessing in itself.”

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