TREESDALE HIRES NAPORA

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Larry M. Napora, 53, has been appointed director of grounds at Treesdale, a new community here.

Napora was most recently associated with Greens and Grounds at Treesdale, a new master-planned community in the Pittsburgh area. He gained recognition as one of the country’s leading turfgrass scientists and professionals in identifying the varieties, blends and mixtures, recommended seeding rates and planting instructions best suited to a variety of golf course conditions. Napora is responsible for supervising construction of the 18-hole course and, upon completion, will be supervising daily maintenance operations of the course and community grounds.

The appointment was announced by developer representative Jess Gilt, president of Treesdale Development Co.

USGA unveils research progress

New bentgrasses on horizon due to USGA-funded turfgrass breeding

Two new heat-tolerant creeping bentgrasses are expected to be released this year, and major strides have been made with other grasses in tangibly resulting from ongoing research being supported by the United States Golf Association, the USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow said in his 90th-year report on the 10-year turfgrass research effort that “important strides have been made in improving major turfgrass species for golf, including bentgrass, Bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and even poa annua.”

He also said great improvements have been made in novel native species such as buffalo grass, alkali grass, blue grama and curly mesquitegrass.

Snow said the expected bentgrasses will come from Texas A&M University’s breeding program, conducted by Dr. Milt Engelke.

One of these new cultivars will be named Catto bentgrass, in honor of Paul Catto, a long-time supporter of golf, former president of Golf Club of Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, and founding president of Bentgrass Research, Inc., which has contributed at least $20,000 per year to Texas A&M University’s turfgrass research.

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The USGA donated $2 million to the projects to investigate the effects of golf courses on the environment. Its Executive Committee determined to focus research on:

- the fate of pesticides and fertilizers applied to golf courses;
- development of alternatives to using chemical pesticides to control certain pests; and
- impacts and benefits of golf courses on the environment and living organisms.

There was some discussion at the Advisory Committee meeting, but not much disagreement. Europeans have some different ideas and different materials available, so they may want to modify some things. But I’d be disappointed if the recommendations changed greatly,” said Hummel.

USGA specs undergoing facelift

USGA unveiled details of new sand specifications

The USGA donated $3.2 million to the Professional Turfgrass Research Institute to conduct research on improving turfgrass quality. One of the projects was to investigate the effects of golf courses on the environment. Its Executive Committee determined to focus research on:

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The announcement was made by Mike Robinson, president of The Lawn Institute, named by the USGA to become even more active and visible in educating the public as to the environmental benefits of improved lawns and sports turf through the wider use of turf grass varieties and in promoting the importance of the turfgrass industry playing in helping to protect and enhance our environment.

The administrative headquarters will now be in Marietta, Ga. The new address is The Lawn Institute, 1509 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite 190, Marietta, Ga. 30060; 404-977-5492.
Studies seek wider range
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people and wildlife.

The information on the fate of pesticides and nutrients applied to turfgrass is encouraging but somewhat limited. "The downside of previous studies," Snow said in his report, "is that they were conducted under a limited set of conditions (i.e., climates, soils, irrigation, pesticides, turfgrass species, etc.), leaving much room for speculation." The commissioned studies cover a wide range of management factors, climates, and sampling methods.

Alternative pest management studies will investigate biological control; nonchemical control including cultural and mechanical practices; allelopathy (concerning genes); selection and breeding for pest resistance; ecological balance of turfgrass species; and application of integrated turf management practices using integrated pest management and low cultural inputs.

The look into golf course benefits and influence includes studies concerning:
• biological diversity of flora and fauna in urban, urbanizing, and urban-agriculture fringe areas;
• local soil and climate regarding gaseous and particulate pollutants that affect air quality; temperature, humidity, and wind modification; soil stabilization and watershed management and noise modification; and
• psychological and physical well-being of people, and the importance of landscape aesthetics to humans due to the interaction between people and plants.

Snow pointed to three publications that are forthcoming from funded projects that were not of three years duration. "Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues," a 900-page review of scientific literature on this topic, was due out in June.

"Naturalizing the Human Landscape," due out late this year or early 1993, details natural vegetation zones in the United States, including information on native plants and how to use them to benefit wildlife on golf courses.

"Quantification and Validation of the Beneficial Contributions of Golf Courses and Turfgrasses," also due out late this year or early in 1993, is a seminal article on the environmental benefits of golf courses.

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