Briefs

Turf experts on search mission to China

By Peter Biais

A small group of turfgrass researchers hopes to travel to mainland China next year to collect native, warm-season grasses that could be used on U.S. golf courses.

"We'll be looking for plants with increased tolerance to various stresses, particularly drought, cold, insects and disease," said Oklahoma State University agronomy Professor Charles Taliaferro, one of the trip organizers.

"We'll also search for grasses with better seed production potential and superior turf performance, such as fine texture," Taliaferro said.

Taliaferro plans to submit a proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development by the agency's July deadline.

If approved, the federal agency would pay half the group's expenses and help gain Chinese government permission for the expedition, Taliaferro said. Expedition members and/or their institutions would pay the other half. The Chinese government would pick up the group's expenses while in China.

The OSU researcher said there is a "good chance" the proposal would be approved, meaning he and a handful of fellow researchers could travel to the southern and central parts of China in August or September 1993.

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Zidik resigns; Hahn takes post on GCSAA board

Joseph Hahn says he is excited and anxious to begin his duties as the newest member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's board of directors.

Hahn, superintendent at Oak Hill Country Club in Fairport, N.Y., was named by GCSAA President William Roberts to fill the one-year term of Paul McGinnis. McGinnis, of Union Hills Country Club in Sun City, Ariz., is filling the vacancy for the two-year term of Randall Zidik, who stepped down shortly after being re-elected to the board at the GCSAA annual meeting Feb. 17 in New Orleans. Hahn was one of five men who ran for three open seats on the board.

"I'm real green, I'm a rookie, and I'm anxious to get started," said Hahn, 51, a 28-year member of GCSAA.

He said he wanted to serve on the board because he had worked on several GCSAA committees, tasked with work being done and the attitude of the superintendents. He has been appointed to the Tournament and Building committees. He will be on-site chairman next winter of the GCSAA national golf championship, which draws more than 400 participants.

Hahn has done that job on the local level and is "looking forward to it. It will be a real challenge," he said. He added that he will run for a two-year term at next year's annual meeting.

Zidik, superintendent at Rolling Hills Country Club in McMurray, Pa., served three years on the board.

In his letter of resignation Zidik said that "over the past several months I have been struggling to deal with the balance between my GCSAA activities and my numerous other responsibilities. Upon returning from conference and following a thorough self-examination, I have come to the conclusion that it would be best for me, my employer, and for GCSAA to resign from the GCSAA board immediately."

Zidik said he will "treasure the friendships made with the association's senior staff and with my fellow board members... Experiences and maturity have shown me that there is no greater gift than that of true friendship and for that I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart."

Florida steps forward with 'model' for research

Ground should be broken at UF in October

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — University of Florida President John Lombardi, Florida Turfgrass Association President Bob Rehberg, turfgrass industry professionals, and research and educational leaders recently celebrated groundbreaking for the Envirotron Research Facility on the University of Florida campus.

The Envirotron will be the prototype of a new generation of world-class turfgrass research facilities. Extensive environmental research is expected to benefit both Florida's homeowners and turfgrass industry.

"All of us will share in the benefits of an enhanced environment, a stronger industry, and in the practical applications of the research," Lombardi told attendees. He explained the Envirotron will house a series of...

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