SHIRLEY IS GEORGIA PRESIDENT

N.C. TURFGRASS EVENT PLANNED
RALEIGH, N.C. — The Professional Turfgrass Managers Association is scheduled to hold a Turfgrass Field Laboratory (Field Center) on May 12. This North Carolina State University event is jointly sponsored by the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina and the North Carolina Landscape Contractors Association. For more information contact TCNC at 919-695-1333.

LONGVIEW TURF PROGRAM ACCEPTED
Langlework Community College’s grounds and turf management program has been officially accepted as an associate degree program by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education in the state of Missouri. Training coordinator Allen L. Earle said: "I feel very strongly that this program will be very beneficial to anyone involved in the ‘green’ industry. Currently, there is no horticulture degree program in the Kansas City area. It is our desire to present the highest quality training that will be pertinent to ‘real-life’ experiences."

N.C. EVENT BREAKS RECORDS
The 31st Annual North Carolina Turfgrass Conference & Show shattered all previous records, according to Tom Flans, president-elect of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina. Bland attributed the success to a combination of factors, a total-event marketing plan. Twenty-five hundred and fifty turf industry professionals participated in more than 50 hours of educational programs focusing on effective turf management and environmental stewardship based on integrated pest management. Attendance was an estimated 1,400 over last year’s event. The 10th Anniversary Industry Trade Show boasted 159 companies exhibiting in 350 booth spaces. The previous show record was 132 booths. Bland said most significantly, he said, was the $66,000 in cash contributions to the Research Endowment and Foundation.

The University of Florida’s new research green in the background was added last fall next to the old green. The Envirocaster system in the foreground, which collects weather data, is in the center of the old green. The hybrid Bermudagrass cultivar Tifgreen 328, on the left, and Tifdwarf, on the right, are maintained at 3/16-inch height. The new green is being planted with Tifdwarf.

Florida research green sheds light on effects of maintenance

BY PETER BLAIS
The University of Florida’s research green in Ft. Lauderdale has yielded interesting findings regarding the effects of nitrogen levels, various fungicides and maintenance practices on Bermudagrass putting surfaces, according to researchers and course superintendents. New and ongoing studies involving pesticide movement through turfgrass, organic bio-stimulants and experimental Bermudagrass cultivars should help Southern superintendents grow stronger turf in the not-so-distant future, according to Monica Elliott, the university’s Research and Education Center coordinator.

"The research green project has been very well received and well supported so far," said Kevin Downing, superintendent at nearby Willowglen Golf Club. Downing is also chairman of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association committee that spearheaded development of the Otto Schnieker research green. The facility opened almost two years ago.

Elliott listed some of the early findings on the original 20,000-square-foot USGA-spec green and the new 10,000-square-foot, 85-15 (sand-to-organics) root-zone mix addition added last fall:

• Synthetic nitrogen levels can be reduced a moderate amount without adversely affecting turf characteristics, although extremely low application levels do cause a drop in quality. Researchers tested low, moderate and high-

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RICKY WIDEMAN
Harbor Town Golf Links
Hilton Head Island, S.C.

MIC Heritage Classic
April 15-18, CBS

Ricky Wideman was familiar with the nooks and crannies of Harbor Town long before he arrived in Hilton Head two years ago from Palmetto Dunes. Wideman used to crew at Harbor Town during the Heritage Classic while a student in the turf program at Harry George-town College in Myrtle Beach. Now the 33-year-old native of McCormick, S.C. is running the show. He says the best/worst things about hosting a PGA tournament are closely related. "The best thing is everyone coming together to do the job right. The worst thing is the lull after. Everything works so hard, and when it’s over, we all get the post-tournament blues."

Things to look for: "We just went through a three-month renovation project, installing a new irrigation system and cart paths. We are very well received and well supported so far."

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DEAN CROUCH
Forest Oaks Country Club
Greensboro, N.C.

K-Mart Greater Greensboro Open
April 22-25, CBS

Dean Crouch, 31, came to Forest Oaks in 1989 from the prestiges Atlanta Athletic Club, where he served as assistant superintendent. Prior to that, he cut his teeth at Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Ga. Though he’s a native of Columbia, S.C., Crouch is not a fan of University of South Carolina Gamecock red & black. He greatly prefers the bright orange of Clemson University, where he earned his B.S. in plant science.

Things to look for: "The biggest difference in the course is we just reconstructed the 18th green this past fall. Architect Clyde Johnston handled it with Fuzzy Zoeller consulting. We tried to do several things. We wanted to pick up more pin placements, and we lowered the green 3 feet to give players the feeling they were closer to the hole."

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Mike Link, a 34-year-old native of Ponca City, Okla., came to the Woodlands after serving as assistant superintendent at the 27-hole River Plantation Country Club in Conroe, Texas. He is a 1986 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a B.S. in agronomy.

Things to look for: "It’s been awfully wet here the last three years. I’ve been trying to apply a pre-emergent herbicide this week (March 5-9) and the rain has delayed that. Weather is the biggest headache for us. I have a game plan that I go by through the Heritage and the rain has delayed that. Weather is the biggest headache for us."
Brown Deer facelift a success for Bob Stock

MILWAUKEE — Brown Deer Golf Course was once ranked among the top public golf facilities in the United States. Now the course is pulling out all the stops to return to its former glory.

In the late 1970s, Golf Digest rated Brown Deer as one of the nation's top 10 public golf courses. Unfortunately, outdated irrigation and drainage systems took their toll on the course. Fairways and greens began to deteriorate, and the course fell out of favor with local golfers.

Under the direction of superintendent Bob Stock, Brown Deer is making a comeback. New irrigation and drainage systems have led to improved turf conditions. Bentgrass fairways have replaced bluegrass.

Stock hopes these efforts will regain the course's prominence.

"Our goal is to bring the course back to where people want to play. From its national reputation of excellent condition," he said. "We want the course to be as good as in the 1970s, as good as Brown Deer ever was."

The Milwaukee County began its $2 million renovation in 1987. Spurred by a study that simulates a Southeastern U.S. putting surface, the city installed a $500,000 draining system. The new drainage system was installed to control overflow from rain.

Now, with a built-in, positive subcla drainage system, the course drains out within an hour, Stock said.

Stock's crew added a $500,000 double-row network irrigation system. Two thousand feet of cement drain tile was installed to control overflow from rain.

Step two involved the irrigation system. As it was in 1987, the system could only water two greens at a time without shutting down. Eventually, the system failed completely.

The county installed a $300,000 double-row network irrigation system that discharges 1,500 gallons of water per minute.

It also dug out a three-quarter acre irrigation pond with its own pumping station. Despite the overhaul, the classic layout of the course did not change, Stock said.

BENTGRASS CONVERSION
Stock consulted amateur and PGA professionals about converting the fairways to bentgrass. He decided to make the switch.

"The bottom line is, we would never get any tournaments without bentgrass," he explained.

Once the decision was made to convert the fairways, Stock had three options:

• Silt-seed bentgrass seed and spray glyphosate, a non-selective, post-emergence herbicide on the fairways as a burn-down treatment.

• Airify fairways two to three times a year for several years. Stock's crew would mow the grass close each year, while overseeding bentgrass.

• Continuously overseed bentgrass. "We decided to spray glyphosate over the long run, it was less expensive, took fewer man-hours and provided quicker, and better, results than the alternatives," Stock said. "One benefit with applying the herbicides is that the course would have remained open."

Instead, Brown Deer was closed for nearly three months. Stock and his crew slit-seeded the fairways with Penncoress bentgrass seed a day before applying glyphosate. They applied Roundup herbicide at three quarts per acre with a 15-foot boom sprayer. The edges of greens were also treated.

"Glyphosate is really the way to go. It's a one-step process instead of waiting two to three years for overseeding," Stock said. "Ten to 14 days after application, we saw the results."

Stock has changed his maintenance program since the conversion. His crew now uses lightweight mowing equipment. It also plans to cut the number of mowings in half.

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM
Public reaction to the renovation has been positive, despite the fact the course had to be closed.

"People were more frustrated when things weren't getting done. Overall, we're proud of what we've done and plan to keep on going to get the course back into the top 10," Stock said.

Ongoing and future projects include: adding cart paths, creating a driving range, replacing bridges, and converting tees to bentgrass, Stock added.

Research green
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application rates. "We noticed some major differences at certain times of the year and almost no difference at other times," Elliott said.

• Two fungicides, mancozeb and chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787), are the most effective in controlling blue-green algae.

• The best way to control root zone degeneration on Tifway 328, one of the older Bermudagrasses, was simply raising cutting heights from 3/16 to 1/4 inch. Fungicides and fertilizers had little effect.

Other studies underway are designed to test the effects of 1990s maintenance practices on grasses developed in the 1960s and 1970s. These include:

• Tracking pesticide movement throughout a USGA-Spec green. Drs. George Snyder and John Cisar are concentrating on insecticides and nematicides.

• Developing a method of testing whether various organic fertilizers improve turf quality and increase rooting. Among the products currently being tested are Bluegrass (composted sewer sludge); three products — Eco, Sustain and Ringer — that consist of composted manure, organic wastes such as turkey feathers and bone meal; and natural cytokinin-like materials made from seaweed.

• Building and testing new turfgrass varieties.

• Ongoing and future projects include: adding cart paths, creating a driving range, replacing bridges, and converting tees to bentgrass, Stock added.