BRIEFS

DALLAS — Robert A. Brame, a certified golf course superintendent working with the United States Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region, will speak at the annual prayer breakfast at the International Golf Course Conference and Show. Brame, ordained in 1984 by Carmel (Ind.) Baptist Church, has served as an interim pastor for several churches while working in course management. The event will be at 7 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, at Loews Anatole Hotel. The breakfast is open to all faiths.

GCSANJ DONATES $20,000

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey raised $20,000 for Project FAITH (Fitness Activities and Community Service, New Jersey Championship, a raffle and a booth) at Golf Digest's National Turfgrass Federation, Inc. has presented its 1993 Distinguished Service Award to longtime supporter and Grass Roots turfgrass company owner Ken Kubik. A member of GCSANJ since 1976, Kubik was involved in starting The Greenside newsletter in 1983, then co-edited and wrote for it. He is a past member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association board of directors and serves on the board of the Alliance for Environmental Concerns.

ON THE MOVE

Andy Bowen has left his assistant superintendent’s position at Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Ga., for greener pastures. He has accepted the head superintendent’s job at the Old North State Club in New London, N.C., about 50 miles outside of Charlotte. Old North State was voted the second best new private club for 1993 by Golf Digest.

Terry Vassey, formerly assistant superintendent at The Standard Club in Duluth, Ga., and instructor at Harry H. Atkinson Technical College, has accepted the position of golf course superintendent at Berkeley Hills Country Club, also in Duluth. Vassey is also an instructor at Gwinnett Tech.

Eagle Watch Golf Course in Stockbridge, Ga., has a new superintendent. Rich Franke has accepted the head superintendents job after manning the same position at the City Club of Marietta.

Ron Schaffer has accepted the head superintendent’s position at Ponce de Leon Resort and Conference Center in St. Augustine, Fla. Schaffer had been assistant superintendent at the Golf Club of Georgia in Alpharetta.

MAINTENANCE

Dr. Carrow’s cultivation research to improve compaction, water use

By PATRICK O’BRIEN

Dr. Bob Carrow, researcher at the University of Georgia Experiment Station, significantly reduced surface and subsurface compaction and improved water uptake of a common Bermudagrass turf grown on a compacted clay soil. As part of the $5 million 1983-92 United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research program, this discovery will help turf managers develop and justify cultivation programs for tees and fairways that will ultimately result in more efficient use of irrigation water.

Numerous studies to evaluate different cultivation techniques have been funded by the USGA Research Committee at the University of Georgia. This study was performed on a Cecil sandy clay loam with 55 percent sand, 18 percent silt, 27 percent clay and a 2 percent organic matter content. Each common Bermudagrass plot was compacted with a smooth power roller at a 90 percent frequency of Verti-drain treatments, as well as the combination of Verti-drain and hollow-tine coring, were further explored in this new study.

Two annual Verti-drain and hollow-tine coring combination treatments consistently reduced soil compaction and improved root water extraction. Penetration resistance reductions of at least 25 percent occurred in all zones. Root water extraction was improved from 35 percent to 71 percent within the soil profile.

In very hard soils, loosening the surface initially with core cultivation will allow improved Verti-drain penetration. With the upper three inches of the profile less compacted, the Verti-drain will expend maximum energy at lower depths. After the first year, the research demonstrated core aeriation could be omitted once the upper three inches are softer.

A dense root system is often thought to be the most efficient for water extraction. The Verti-drain actually decreased total root length density and total root length in this study! However, the roots left behind were more viable and extracted water from the soil more efficiently than roots in the compacted control. Root data may not always correlate well to water uptake in cultivation studies. The Verti-drain also enhanced overall water uptake as demonstrated by evapotranspiration (ET).
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And because they can be used several times before discarding, they're economical, too. Best of all, Gem Wipes are non-abrasive and low-linting, so they're as safe as they are strong! If you're currently using laundry service towels or ordinary disposables, you owe it to your hydraulics to give Gem Wipes a try. For more information, contact your nearby Standard Golf distributor. We think you'll be very pleasantly surprised!