John Kelly was elected vice president-elect for the American Society of Horticultural Scientists. Kelly will begin his term in July 1995. Kelly has been a professor at Clemson for nine years and department head since 1982. Kelly was elected for his outstanding leadership, involvement in the ASHS and professional accomplishments. He won the election by a large margin.

Winter kill serves spring wake-up call to mid-Atlantic Coast superstars

By DIANE MILLER

In the wake of the most severe winter since 1977-78, golf course superintendents from Maryland to New York are reporting the loss of as much as 30 percent of their turf on greens and up to 70 percent on fairways, and some may not open until “well into May.”

The blanket of ice and snow that kept area courses closed for as long as two to three months prevents gas exchange around the glass plants, in effect smothering the plant. Superintendents are discovering that under the layers of ice the turf is rotting and black in some areas, giving off a powerful stench once the ice is removed.

Winter injury, including extensive winter kill of poa annua and perennial ryegrass, extends from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., through the Philadelphia area, central and northern New Jersey, and into the Pocono Mountains, according to the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. Much heavier than normal snow mold is being reported through Ohio and Kentucky.

More than 200 golf course superintendents, assistants, greens chairmen, club officials, and course owners from the New Jersey/Philadelphia area met on March 28 at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield, N.J., to discuss the ramifications of the severe damage.

The joint meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ) and the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents (PAGCS) opened the line of communication between superintendents, club officials and the USGA.

Jim Sklorusky, Northeast Region agronomist for the USGA, discussed previous years’ damage from upstate New York and Montreal. David Oatis, director of the Green Section’s Northeast Region, discussed communication with club membership and talked about what superintendents can expect during the winter months.

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Fourth-grade students take ‘teacher’ Moore to school

By JIM MOORE

Travel, turf trouble the consultant’s lot

Continued on page 21

Mount Pinatubo fallout

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust at Clark AFB course

By HAL PHILLIPS

Angeles, The Philippines — With Mount Pinatubo blowing its top in October 1991, a layer of ash blanketed the 18 holes at nearly Clark Air Force Base, which soon closed its doors for good. In the frenzied retreat from lava and ash, the course suffered another indignity. It was looted: irrigation heads, cups, yardage markers, even door knobs were stolen.

Things have turned around at the site, as a private corporation — Mondragon International Philippines Inc. — will refurbish the course to anchor a new destination resort. But the ash — which Filipinos call labar — has created an agronomic poise for turf consultant Neil Noble and Honolulu-based architects Nelson, Wright, Haworth.

They’ve got a real good loam underneath, but there’s a four-inch layer of ash on top of everything,” said Noble, an Ohio State graduate who heads Honolulu-based Environmental Turf Systems.

“The ash is real sandy because this bit fell so close to the actual volcano (about 15 miles). From a water filtration standpoint, the eruption basically top-dressed the whole site.

“Told the ash and came up with high levels of phosphorus, potassium and calcium,” Noble continued, “which are...
**PGA Tour honors Myers for top-conditioned TPC track — Summerlin**

**By Mark Leslie**

The story of an Indiana farm boy who made good has continued for Gary Myers. The superintendent at TPC of Summerlin until March, Myers was presented the PGA Tour's annual Tournament Players Clubs Golf Course Maintenance Operations of the Year Award for 1993.

TPC Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations Cal Roth presented Myers the award, citing excellence in course conditioning for the members and the Las Vegas Invitational; personnel training; safety; budget and equipment management; and innovation in operational improvements for the TPC of Summerlin and the TPC Network.

"Because Gary has done such an outstanding job at Summerlin, he has been promoted to the TPC of Scottsdale," Roth announced.

Myers compared the challenges presented by his jobs at Summerlin and Scottsdale. "It's a challenge in itself to maintain quality turf conditions under that enormous amount of play," he said. "But we also have to be aware that the touring seniors spend a lot of time playing here and it takes extra special care because of that."

TPC of Scottsdale hosts the Phoenix Open in January. But that's nothing new for Myers. During his term as superintendent at Desert Inn Country Club in Las Vegas from 1982-90, he prepped the course for 17 or 38 PGA/LPGA and Senior PGA tournaments. Regular PGA and LPGA Tour events were hosted two weeks apart. Only two other courses host even two major PGA tournaments.

Myers, who studied engineering at Purdue University, graduated in 1978 from the winter school at the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School. He also worked from 1979-82 at Country Club of Green Valley south of Tucson.

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**Winter kill causes major problems**

Continued from page 17 coming season.

Keith Hopp, USGA agronomist with the Mid-Atlantic Region, illustrated that the winter damage is widespread across the region. They all discussed how superintendents should proceed to repair damaged areas.

Some of the clubs hardest hit by winter injury will not be opening until "well into May," said superintendent Thomas L. Grimac of Tavistock Country Club, who spearheaded efforts to organize the meeting.

The Green Section experts outlined several turfgrass recovery procedures, saying superintendents should:

- Restrict traffic as long as possible on renovated and overseeded winter-damaged areas.
- Apply a starter fertilizer to the seedbed, achieve good soil-to-seed contact and use heavier seeding rates for the most rapid recovery.
- Overseed on damaged greens.

Dead Air Findings Imminent

Preliminary results from the Georgia Turfgrass Foundation's flagship project — the dead air syndrome research green — should be forthcoming in mid-summer. Overall project coordination has been the responsibility of Jim Dusch and Ken Mangum, who have donated routine maintenance of the green. However, donations of cash and materials are still needed for this $90,000 project. For further information, contact Douglas Moody at 404-975-4123.