WASHINGTON, D.C. — You walk before you run. So it's a way of saying thanks for all the work they do, too. But no one does, they are so at home in the clubhouse and equipment, Softspikes are winning converts by the droves.

FOCUS ON STRESS MANAGEMENT

Turfgrass stress management will be the topic at three separate seminars sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association and its local chapters. The sessions will be held Oct. 12 in Billings, Mont.; Oct. 27 in Portland, Maine; and Jan. 11 in Charlotte, N.C. The instructor is Dr. Joseph DiPaola, formerly of North Carolina State University and currently a senior technical support specialist for a major turf and ornamental products manufacturer. For more information contact 800-472-7878.

BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Its scoreboard was mapped by reported 1 million phone calls over three days, the U.S. Senate voted in mid-August to postpone a vote on the international treaty. The treaty was not signed by then-President George Bush, but has been called on implementation groups to make the agency's science program a reality. "In 20 years this is the best thing I've seen in the areas of golf balls, clubs and maintenance," said John Malloy, former superintendent at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, Ill., who is now growing in the Jack Nicklaus-designed Bearpath Golf and Country Club in Eden Prairie, Minn. "It's something everybody could use and save a lot of wear and tear," said superintendent Mark Yoder. "We're geared up in the locker room to change the spikes quickly. If the golfers want their old spikes put back on, they'll do that, too. But no one does, they are so much more comfortable."

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Management is streamlined in new leadership lineup

**NEW DEPARTMENTS**

Former manager of Pacific Rim operations Don Brethour and former Director of Education Dave Bishop have filled two of the three leadership roles for the new departments.

Brethour is manager of chapter/ international relations, while Bishop is manager of technical information services.

A manager of career development will be named in coming months.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Pat Jones, former director of development, has been appointed director of communications. He succeeds Clay Loyd, who has retired.

Christ Caldwell, former managing editor of GCSAA's Golf Course Management (GCM), has been named editor-in-chief. Terry Osteimer, former special projects editor for GCM, has been appointed managing editor. Sharmion Linsesnien, former assistant editor, is associate editor.

Dr. Jeff Nus, technical editor for GCM, has assumed added duties of manager of research. Carol Hayes, former manager of communications, is manager of executive communications.

**Watson to be presented Old Tom Morris Award**

Citing his career as exemplifying how "one person can make an enormous impact on an entire profession," the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has selected Dr. James Watson to receive the Old Tom Morris Award.

"Dr. Jim has been a great friend to GCSAA and its members for half a century," said GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy. "We are delighted to be able to pay tribute to the contributions he has made."

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1985 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding lifetime contributions to the game. The award is named in memory of Old Tom Morris (1821-1908), greenkeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Following military service in World War II, Watson earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Texas A&M University in 1947. He obtained his doctorate in agronomy from the Pennsylvania State University in 1950.

As a graduate student at Penn State, Watson was the recipient of the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section fellowship and studied under the famed Dr. Barton Musswer. He returned to A&M to serve as assistant agronomy professor and conduct turfgrass research.

In 1952, Watson left A&M to begin his career with The Toro Co. as director of agronomy. For over four decades with the company, he has been named director of central services, chief of public relations and media and the public.

The issue of golf and the environment continues to be a part of these efforts." Watson said.

COURSES OUTLINING METAL GOLF SPIKES

Continued from page 13 clubhouse," Malloy said.

- "Metal spikes ruin mower blades," Yoder said. "We've saved several thousand dollars this year already." Malloy recalled that a superintendent at Woodstone when the Green Committee bought the first two pair of Softspikes for each of its nearly 300 members, said, "Probably six times a year a mower operator will run over a spike and clear away the turf and you trash a $250 reel."
- "Quality turf can be maintained better with the urethane spikes, too."
- "The metal spike creates a perfect seed bed for poa annua, transporting the poa from one course to another, while Softspikes do not."
- Metal spikes pull up the turfgrass runners. Softspikes do not.
- And, some suggest that a new golf course can be grown in faster if players wear the urethane spikes. They say that since the grass is tender and has little thatch buildup, Softspikes will do less damage and allow the turf to mature faster.

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Golf course operators might equate a quicker course opening — with urethane spikes — to more money in the bank, as well.

"If it costs me less to get the course up and running," Malloy said. "I can cut my prices for the greens, which is tremendous."

"I know a lot of guys get heat up last year with the wet conditions," Malloy said. "But I wore Softspikes in deplorable, wet conditions and couldn't damage the turf even if I tried. I went back to my manufacturer and told my green committee, 'I think I've got the trick for your spike-marked greens.'"

Checking his greens one day after they had absorbed about 240 rounds, Malloy found they "looked like the they did when they were mowed. The putting conditions were identical at 3 in the afternoon as at 7 in the morning, as far as spike marks are concerned."

"We've had three major golf tournaments held exclusively on Softspikes [including the Ohio Amateur at Scioto and two tournaments at Muirfield Village]," said Softspikes, Inc. Vice President of Sales and Marketing Brian Golden from his Alexandria, Va., headquarters.

"The players who, late in the day, had the same greens to put on as the first off really appreciated it."

So what are the disadvantages to Softspikes? They don't last as long, Malloy said, adding, "You probably have to change every 20 to 30 rounds, depending on how much concrete you walk on."

They tend to be slippery on wet wood surfaces and very steep wet slopes, Yoder added.

Nothing else, unless the $7.95 per pair of shoes (less when bought in bulk) scares people off.

Golden reported that 10 facilities now ban metal spikes, but he expects to grow, and even skyrocket if the golf shoe manufacturers climb onto the bandwagon. "Manufacturers make their profits on the shoe, not the spikes. They should have no qualms about changing over," Golden said. "Several golf shoe manufacturers are interested and we should know more in the fall." Golden's group began operating Softspikes last October and has been aggressively marketing the spikes since the end of January, he said. It began seeing success in April.

Softspikes, Inc. is located at 5000 Farrington Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22304; telephone 800-638-0675.