And while I'm on the subject...

Of course, we're biased. But it's hard to imagine the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America choosing two more deserving recipients than Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hurdzan for this year’s President’s and Distinguished Service awards, respectively.

Both gentlemen serve on the Golf Course News Editorial Advisory Board, and they serve it extremely well. When it comes to nurturing the best minds that affect superintendents, the staff here simply could not do without their knowledge, enthusiasm and perspective. Please take time to read Mark Leslie's stories on Tim, the superintendent at Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla. (page 28), and Dr. Mike, the Columbus, Ohio-based superintendent-turned-architect whose star is definitely on the rise (page 30).

And while I'm on the subject, this month’s Q&A features Hurdzan’s mentor, Jack Kidwell, who has done just about everything there is to do in the golf business. In addition to designing, maintaining and managing courses in his native Ohio, Kidwell played a fair game of golf in his day. In fact, during his high school years, he competed on more than one occasion against a fellow future architect from Urbana. Some guy named Pre-calculus.

And while I'm on the subject, the Kidwell Q&A was conducted by the newest member of our editorial staff, Editorial Assistant J. Barry Mothes, who comes to GCN after a tenure at the Portland Press-Herald. Barry further qualified himself for the job by working this summer on the maintenance crew at Portland Country Club under Superintendent Pat Lewis. In between cup replacements and GCN assignments, Barry continues to work on an authorized history of Portland CC, a venerable Donald Ross design at the head of Casco Bay.

And while I'm on the subject (geeze, this column is all over the board!), congratulations to Jim Hodge, who succeeds Lewis as president of the Maine Golf Superintendents Association. Pat has served the association well and I'm sure Mr. Hodge—who toils at Valhalla Golf Course in Cumberland—will follow suit.

A little birdie has informed me (as one informed him) that National Audubon Society President Peter Berle will step down early this year. Wouldn't it be great if the ubiquitous Ron Dodson, president of N.Y. Audubon and golf course bird sanctuary promoter, were considered for the nation's top avian avenger?

“Not chance in the world,” laughed Dodson. “My job is national enough. If it were any more national, my wife would toss me out.”

Indeed, I was amazed to actually catch the globetrotting

Letters

ROOT ZONE ADDENDUM: COST AND ‘PERFECTION’

To the editor:

Thanks for the opportunity to express some of my thoughts. In your November issue, regarding the industry's problems concerning root-zone mixes [see related letter on opposite page]:

Because of the important issue of cost, I would like to clarify our company's position regarding testing fees. The blending companies I work with charge for the mechanical portion of the work. We try to make sure that the mix that is produced is of the mix and assumes the liability of producing mixes as designed. Together, our pricing is competitive with others in the blending business.

It should be pointed out that all mixes are perfect until they are confirmed as meeting the original design specifications by a competent soil laboratory. If a mix is not checked by someone who knows what they're doing, it's a perfect mix.

Only after it's checked will you know whether the mix is subpar.

Glen Watkins
Root Zone Mix
Mule Shoe, Texas

PLAYER CLARIFIES DESIGN

To the editor:

I read the November issue of Golf Course News today. In this issue, GCN has an article concerning the acquisition of Cutter Sound Golf & Yacht Club in Martin County, Fla. (“Golf Communities adds Fla. track,” page 43).

The article incorrectly states that this is a "Gary Player-designed championship course." We terminated our agreement with the developer of this course approximately first of year. After exit, the project was purchased at auction a nearly complete golf course designed by Richard and Associates was named Head of the Bay Club. Construction of the golf course began in May of 1991. I find it preposterous that full design credit is being assigned to Mark Mungam (of Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish and Silva, Inc.) after some minor tee and green improvements to this golf course. Richards and Associates spent two years laying out and superintending this exciting golf course during some difficult times.

To deny us credit where due is unfortunate reporting.

Ray Richard
Richard and Associates
Sagamore Beach, Mass.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE DU

To the editor:

I would like to clarify several inaccuracies in your October 1994 article relative to the Atlantic Country Club opening in Ply- mouth, Mass. (“Massachusetts course opens first nine,” page 4).

The present owners purchased at auction a nearly complete golf course designed by Richard and Associates was named Head of the Bay Club. Construction of the golf course began in May of 1991. I find it preposterous that full design credit is being assigned to Mark Mungam (of Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish and Silva, Inc.) after some minor tee and green improvements to this golf course. Richards and Associates spent two years laying out and superintending this exciting golf course during some difficult times.

To deny us credit where due is unfortunate reporting.

Ray Richard
Richard and Associates
Sagamore Beach, Mass.

Ed. While it was never our intention to "deny" Mr. Richard credit, Golf Course News apologizes for the error. A great deal of the design and construction work was performed by Richard and Associates before sale of the course. Mr. Mungam indicated his firm considers Atlantic (the former Head of the Bay) a "remodel," not a Cornish and Silva design. However, according to Mr. Mungam, "We did do a major amount of work out there: All the tees, six of 18 greens and significant grading."