USGA pushes for soil lab certification

BY MARK LESLIE

The USGA is working with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (AALA), a Washington, D.C.-based organization which has accredited more than 800 labs of various kinds. The USGA Green Section is hoping that by establishing more than one office in a region — as was done in the Northeastern Region 10 years and in the Western Region in 1993 — it can provide better service.

Regions are reorganized to better serve course clients

BY JIM SNOW

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The United States Golf Association's (USGA) Green Section has reorganized several of its regions in an effort to provide better service to clubs and courses in its Turf Advisory Service. Starting in the East, Ohio and Kentucky will become part of the new North-Central Region. The North-Central Region will include Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana. These states will be serviced by newly-appointed regional director Bob Crow, in Kentucky, and Bob Vavrek, near Milwaukee.

The Mid-Continent Region will gain Illinois and Iowa in the reorganization. Colorado and Wyoming will move to the Western Region. Jim Moore will remain as regional director from his office in Colorado and Wyoming.

Establish a new office in central Illinois. The Western Region will pick up Colorado and Wyoming. Larry Gilhuly will remain as regional director from his office near Seattle.

Par for the Course

Stossel joins Dodson, Erusha, Pyle in environmental general session

LAWRENCE, Kan. — ESPN will launch a golf “block” of programming that will air on Sunday mornings, and will broadcast Par for the Course as part of its package.

Produced by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Par for the Course takes an innovative look at the world of golf from the view of what goes into making the game enjoyable.

The segments will air on Sunday dates and 11 Thursday/Friday dates throughout the year.

GCSAA will also be producing a series of feature segments for ESPN that will air during the network’s coverage of PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour tournaments. These short segments will highlight issues and trends in golf course management.

ABC-TV newscaster John Stossel will make an encore appearance at the association’s International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Stossel, who appeared at GCSAA’s 1991 conference, will be a panelist in an Environmental General Session, “Changing Perspectives,” focusing on the public image of golf courses and how they are maintained.

Other panels will be Dr. Kimberly Erusha, director of education for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section; Ron Dodson, president and chief executive officer of the Audubon Society...
Students pursuing careers in golf course management recently got a boost from a $40,000 donation to the GCSAA from the Metedeconk National Golf Club of Jackson, N.J. The donation was derived from the club’s annual Robert Trent Jones Invitational Team Championship. It will go into the GCSAA Foundation’s Robert Trent Jones Endowment, which provides scholarships for outstanding students pursuing careers in golf course management. The fund currently stands at more than $600,000.

The GCSAA has formed a blue-ribbon committee to try to remain environmentally proactive and to identify research priorities.

The GCSAA’s Research Committee has identified agronomic research; the environment; health and safety; and business and operational issues as four major areas of concern. The committee, chaired by GCSAA Director Paul McGinnis, is made up mainly of member superintendents and turfgrass researchers.

The GCSAA’s Career Development Resource Group has developed several suggestions to improve employer education, job-seeking skills and tools and career guidance and counseling.

Some of the suggestions are: Improving the GCSAA’s Employment Referral Service; improving the GCSAA’s Employment Resources Kit; improving the GCSAA’s Salary Survey; and changing the purpose and direction of The Leader Board, the GCSAA’s club and course leader-directed newsletter.

The group discussed changing the newsletter from a subscription-based publication to one free of charge to every golf course with a GCSAA member.

A new Historical Preservation Resource Group has been formed by the GCSAA to preserve the history and evolution of the superintendent and the job of maintaining a golf course. A book on the GCSAA’s history is already planned, and research is underway which could eventually be turned into exhibits and displays.

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As a donor of $5,000 or more, the West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association recently donated $5,000 to the GCSAA Foundation to support research on health and safety issues.

As a donor of $5,000 or more, the West Virginia association will be honored as part of the Platinum Tee Club at the GCSAA show in San Francisco. (Thumbnial sketches of all those standing for GCSAA office, see pages 26-28.)

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The number of active superintendents certified by the GCSAA has reached 1,400 for the first time in the history of the 23-year-old program.

The 1,400 superintendents holding the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) represent about 20 percent of the association’s Class A membership.

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