DON SWEDA DIES AT 48

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Don B. Sweda, a certified golf course superintendent at Columbia Hills Country Club here, has died at the age of 48.

Sweda, a world authority on endophytes in turfgrass, had served six years on the OTT board and was also a past president of the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association. He had previously worked at Beechmont Country Club in Cleveland.

WHITE JOINS RUTGERS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Dr. Jim White, a world authority on endophytes in turfgrass, has left Auburn University in Alabama to join the staff at Rutgers University. White, who began his duties in September, has eight years experience in turf research.

POSTER HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS

A new color poster that highlights the environmental benefits of golf courses is appearing at golf facilities across the country, thanks to a cooperative effort by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the United States Golf Association (USGA). The poster lists some of the key ecological and social benefits provided by the more than 15,000 golf courses in the United States, including protecting wildlife habitat and improving air quality.

BENTGRASS RESEARCH ONGOING

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Research are collaborating to double the bentgrass area for bentgrass research here. The enlargement will allow researchers to evaluate the changes in construction recommendations for U.S. Golf Association specifications putting surfaces. More information is available from Drs. Bruce Clarke and Jim Murphy.

PENN STATE CONCLAVE SET

The Penn State Golf Turf Conference will be held at Nittany Lion Inn here, Nov. 7-9. More information is available from Dr. Peter Landschoot of the Department of Agronomy at 814-863-1017.

MAINTENANCE

BRIEFS

By PETER PLAIS

LAWRENCE, Kansas — A proposal that would have required anyone belonging to a local superintendents' association to also join the national organization by the year 2010 was hotly debated during September's Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America chapter relations meeting here.

What emerged from the two-day conclave was a compromise that mandated dual membership for new members beginning July 1, 1997. Anyone joining a local chapter after that date would also have to join the GCSAA. Likewise, anyone joining GCSAA would also have to join a local chapter. Existing members would not be required to join both organizations.

The proposal could be enacted on the national and local levels over the next few months.

Most of the 95 chapter representatives who met here to discuss the proposed chapter affiliation agreement agreed dual membership would increase the professional image of all superintendents.

But many disagreed with the requirement proposed by the GCSAA Chapter Relations Committee that all superintendents and assistant superintendents join both organizations. The proposal would require 75 percent of a local chapter's Class A, B and C members hold joint membership by the year 2000, 75 percent by 2005 and 100 percent by 2010.

There are some existing members who just don't want to join the national association, "said Jim Hodge, president of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSA) and head superintendent at Val Halla Golf Club in Cumberland, who said he wants to see 100-percent participation in both organizations. But there are other avenues to get there rather than simply requiring everyone to join by the year 2010."

A recommendation from the floor that the proposed chapter affiliation agreement be amended so that only new members would be required to join both organizations gained the support of more than two-thirds of the chapter representatives, Hodge said.

"Requiring just new members to join"

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New products for wood ensure soft-spike safety

By TERRY BUCHEN

We are fortunate to have new technology available in the form of spikless golf spikes. These spikless alternatives have made our jobs easier in providing better playing conditions, and it will be interesting to see if they will survive the test of time. Many golf courses have banned metal golf spikes, favoring the "greens-friendly" spikless varieties.

The only disadvantages: They sometimes will come loose and can become lost when used on an older set of golf shoes; and they are slippery on wooden bridge surfaces (especially if they have an incline) from the elements of heavy dews, irrigation, rain, fall and sometimes even fog.

To help eliminate concerns from potentially "falling to their knees," a couple of products can be applied to any wooden bridge surface for excellent results. Flexigran and Play Bound are two types of rubberized or urethane surfaces that are "poured-in-place" and it is likely they will stick.

On wooden bridge applications, one-half or five-eighths of an inch top-grade waterproofed plywood is nailed to the bridge surface in any widths or configurations the superintendent desires. The rubberized or urethane products containing material available locally. If a reliable source of calcium carbonate were available, it could have been used instead of the dolomite. This is the safest and most efficient method of raising the pH of the water and creating a buffer to further pH change both in the water and ultimately in the soil.

At the Banyan Tree Country Club site, acidic deposits had built up over the many years of operation. Runoff from the old tin mine had acidified the ground water in the area and effectively destroyed the buffering capability of the irrigation water and the soil.

When the pH of any water or soil is lower than 6.0, the bicarbonate ion buffer is converted to carbonic acid. The carbonic acid can decompose and the buffer may be lost as carbon dioxide, which is lethal to many organisms. These include aquatic plants and fish and other organisms are affected adversely. Depending on the plant material, it can literally dissolve the plant material. It can literally dissolve the plant material. An example of this is the acidification of lakes falls below 6.0, some species of fish and other organisms are affected adversely. Depending on the plant material, it can literally dissolve the plant material.
GCSAA hopes to work membership deal with local chapters

Continued from page 13 both groups was more palatable to just about everyone," said Mark Ruff, president of the Intermountain GCSA and head superintendent at Mountain Dell Golf Course in Salt Lake City.

"Guys coming out of school today all know about the benefits of GCSAA and are more likely to join anyway," added Hodge. "We'll eventually get to the 100-percent level this way. It may take a little longer. But there are no deadlines and no existing members will be forced to leave their local organization because they don't want to join the national."

GCSAA Vice President Bruce Williams, who chairs the chapter relations committee, said he was pleased with the compromise.

"The consensus was that we go with a two-way [dual] membership," he said. "Whether we phased it in over 15 years or just required it of new members didn't make a great deal of difference."

GCSAA and chapter representatives conceded the $210 annual GCSAA dues may present a hardship for some superintendents, especially those at smaller or remote clubs where employers are less likely to pay for a superintendent's GCSAA dues.

"We [GCSAA] deal with membership prices all the time," said Williams, who noted dues have remained the same the past six years. "And we sympathize with those situations. But we have to look at the good of the profession as a whole. If a club won't pay for its superintendent's dues, then the individual must decide whether the services GCSAA provides are important enough for the superintendent to contribute to the profession himself."

The new agreement could lead several smaller superintendent chapters and/or turfgrass associations with a mix of superintendent, landscape architects, sod producers, etc. to drop their affiliation with GCSAA, Williams said.

"We [GCSAA] are poised to give those groups any assistance we can," Williams said. "We could lose a couple. Or we might reorganize and come back in another form. It's not our intent to lose chapters. But as we attempt to strengthen the profession, some individuals and groups may have to jump through a few more hoops."

The Chapter Relations Committee, Williams said, has been reviewing the dual membership question as part of its ongoing effort to improve cooperation between the national and its affiliated associations. Little has been done to enforce the existing affiliation agreement for the past dozen years, Williams noted.

"We need to strengthen a relationship that had started to fall apart," said Williams, who will assume the GCSAA presidency in February. "The affiliation agreement is a big part of that. To enforce the old agreement without input from the chapters would not have been fair."

Chapter representatives were impressed with GCSAA officials desire for their input and willingness to listen to their ideas during the meeting. "Four years ago when we were considering some new bylaw amendments, there was no trust between the members and board of directors," said Bob Maibusch, a past president of the Chicagoland GCSA and board member of the Midwest GCSA. "There seemed to be a lot of hidden agendas."

"No one accused this board of that. Everything was above board and we had a very open dialogue. Now we can move forward as an association."

Introducing new PENDULUM® Plus Fertilizer belongs in that category. A. Thomas Perkins, Ph.D.

American Cyanamid is so excited about introducing new PENDULUM Plus Fertilizer, we're giving away $10,000 in cash to the ultimate weed picker. PENDULUM brand Pendimethalin has earned a reputation for providing cost-effective, broad spectrum, season-long, preemergent control against many troublesome weeds. And now it's available on quality fertilizers from American Cyanamid, the leading manufacturer of preemergent turf herbicides. PENDULUM Plus Fertilizer controls all the troublesome weeds that PENDULUM alone does, including crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail, oxalis and spurge. In fact, it controls every one of the weeds illustrated above and more. So the correct answer to our question is actually "none." Remember that when you're filling out your entry form. It could win you $10,000 in cash! PENDULUM also offers greater flexibility than ever before, since it is also available in 60 WDG and 3.3 EC sprayable formulations. And now, like all Pendimethalin based products, it's more affordable, thanks to special cash rebates available to you through July 31, 1996.