BRIEFS

CRENSHAW TO GET OLD TOM AWARD

PGA Tour great Ben Crenshaw will receive the 1997 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The presentation will take place Feb. 11 in Las Vegas at a banquet during the association’s 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show. GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams said Crenshaw’s actions over the years “exemplify what is best about the game. From his activities as a collector to his passion for the integrity of the game, Ben’s obvious love of golf is an inspiration.”

SOUTHWEST SHOW SCHEDULED

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The 19th annual Southwest Horticultural Trade Show will be held here Sept. 5-6, featuring a full-day seminar on reclaimed irrigation water and several educational sessions. Sponsored by the Arizona Nursery Association, the event will display products specifically designed for the desert areas of Arizona, New Mexico, California and west Texas. The annual Xeriscape Conference, continuing education units, marketing panel and grower short course are part of the event.

FOULTY OVERSEES EXPANSION

NORTHVILLE, Mich. — Expansion is underway here at Downing Farms Golf Course and Michigan State graduated Troy Fouty has assumed the position of superintendent. Work on an additional nine holes began in January along with improvements on the original course. The 3,120-yard Harry Bowers design will incorporate wetlands and feed and equipment storage areas. More important than the finances, Morris said, is “this partnership between us and the USDA. The USDA puts out a small bit of support and they get a lot of benefit from it, being able to say how much they’ve done for research. What NTEP gets is the credibility of running a national program associated with an unbiased, neutral organization — not for industry. It’s a danger that people perceive us to [work for industry]. There is a whole air of neutrality that is hard to put a value on and could be threatened by moving from here.”

With many domestic and foreign visitors coming to the facility, NTEP would be threatened by moving from here.”

GCSAA OPENS WEB SITE

A new World Wide Web site makes information available to the general public about course management. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America site address is http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa. The initial phase will focus on the environment. Starting July 1.

Budget-cut threat to NTEP awaits Congress

By MARK LESLIE

BOLTSVILLE, Md. — The air of neutrality and objectivity surrounding the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program would be in jeopardy if the U.S. Department of Agriculture redetracts its support to other areas of its Agricultural Research Service (ARS), according to NTEP National Director Kevin Morris.

“Endophyte relates to insect resistance, and you’ll get run over. That’s the message. From his activities as a collector to his passion for the integrity of the game, Ben’s obvious love of golf is an inspiration.”

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**Top ryegrasses in National Turfgrass Evaluation Program tests**

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**Supers cautious over rye diseases**

**BELTSVILLE, Md. — Certain disease problems in ryegrasses "are steering many people away from the use of ryegrass—at least in the transition zone," according to the national director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.**

"A lot of superintendents are considering going to bentgrass or zoysiagrass on fairways," Kevin Morris said from his office here. "A lot would like to go to zoysia, but the problem is cost and getting it established. Bentgrass is a more economical option for many of them, if they have a good irrigation system and the ability to keep thatch under control."

Morris said gray leaf spot — never a concern that far north before — was a big problem in the mid-Atlantic region last year. "It may have been just the right climate conditions. It may be that superintendents are using fungicides so much that they've wiped out beneficial organisms that keep gray leaf spot in check," he said. "So now we have this new problem on ryes in this area. And the question is whether we have resistance to it. Most likely, we don't have a lot of resistance." One more challenge to the breeders.

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**Ryes for superior turf**

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"Finding the acreage in Oregon is becoming more and more difficult," Morris said. Meanwhile, all this improved breeding is good for the consumer, he said, adding: "If these grasses will persist and survive with less water, pesticides, etc., the consumer benefits."