Audubon hails supers' rising involvement

BY MARK LESLIE

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ELKIRK, N.Y. — Citing "dramatic results" and a growing number of golf course members, Audubon International reports its Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS) experienced a year of stability and strong member involvement in 1995.

"At an average of 120 or more acres per site, [golf courses] represent some of the most extensive sanctuary areas in the country," the ACSS Annual Program Report says. "ACSS members are literally transforming their courses to improve habitat, protect water sources, and reduce water and pesticide use."

"The [program's] momentum seems to be picking up more and more," said Audubon International President

The Report is In

Plastic spikes vs. metal and none

BY G.W. HAMILTON, D.S. SINKUS, L.P. TREDWAY & A.E. GOVER

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Two studies have been conducted here at Penn State University evaluating the effects of three tread types on putting green turf wear, ball-roll distance, and ball-roll deflection.

The study found that tread types significantly affected ball-roll distance and caused an unacceptable amount of wear at certain traffic intensities on both types of root zones: all-sand and modified soil.

Deflection in ball-roll was rarely statistically different for tread types.

Another general observation: Metal spikes, because of the creation of the hole in the turf, made the traffic much more noticeable. Although the holes make the traffic more apparent, the effect on ball-roll may not be as significant as the effect on turf visual quality.

The objectives of the first study were to evaluate the effects of tread type on turf wear and ball-roll distance. It was conducted at the Valentine Memorial Turfgrass Research Center here. Two

Latshaw's poa attackus plan at Merion

BY MARK LESLIE

ARDMORE — While his dad has been tackling major greens woes at Congressional Country Club, Paul Latshaw Jr. has faced obstacles of his own at Merion Country Club here and has made major strides in conquering poa annua problems.

The Merion superintendent said a combination of gassing the greens last September with methyl bromide, covering the greens and applying heavy dormant feeding through the winter, and using a four-cultivar blend of bentgrasses had his putting surfaces looking "pretty decent" for the May 18 opening. Now Latshaw and his crew are faced with the real chore: keeping poa annua from

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Audubon Membership

By Robert L. Green

U-Cal research sheds light on water use

Robert Larson Green, Ph.D., is the turfgrass research agronomist in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. Green provides leadership for a growing research program involving turfgrass stress physiology and cultural practices. He has bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Florida and has authored 70 scientific journal papers, technical reports and scientific abstracts. Golf Course News spoke with Green as part of its ongoing question-and-answer sessions with leading turfgrass researchers.

Golf Course News: What research have you and other UC-Riverside researchers undertaken in the area of water use and what are your findings?

Robert Green: We have conducted considerable research irrigating below reference water use (ETO) via process irrigation field plots. The goal is to save water by expanding the time between irrigations while maintaining representative, functional turfgrass. The rooting aspect is one of the most important plant traits that enables us to irrigate below ETO and save water.

Recent research shows a defined irrigation amount, say 80 percent ETO, statistically higher turfgrass quality and soil water content within the root zone can be achieved by irrigating two times per week versus four times per week. Turf researchers have known the benefits of the practice of deep, infrequent irrigations for many years and our data supports this economic principle.

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