ORLANDO, Fla. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded a research grant to Environmental & Turf Services (ETS) to critically review water-quality monitoring results from golf courses across the country.

"Very few golf course monitoring studies have been published in peer-reviewed literature," said Dr. Stuart Cohen of ETS, principal investigator of the project and the director of the Cape Cod Study of golf course ground water. "This effort will be a major step beyond the Cape Cod Study (which summarized results of four golf courses). It will also be a significant expansion in depth and breadth beyond the article we wrote for the February 1994 issue of Golf Course News."

That story summarized the results of 13 studies of 25 golf courses from Massachusetts to Guam. The results of the studies were overwhelmingly favorable for the golf course industry.

Approval of the proposed new research was made by GCSAA's board of directors at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The project will be a comprehensive summary of other studies. The objective is to publish a critical evaluation of the impacts of golf courses on ground and surface water quality. Attempts will be made to draw meaningful conclusions.

New bents need different care

By Patrick M. O'Brien and Christopher Hartwiger

Much of the discussion on the new bentgrass varieties has focused on differences like color, texture and summer performance. But information on how best to maintain these varieties has been limited. Should they be maintained similarly to the most common bentgrass, Penncross, or are changes necessary in the basic management program to maximize their performance?

An overwhelming majority of superintendents with one of the new varieties such as Crenshaw or the new Penn series (A-1, A-4, G-2, G-6) believe maintenance programs need to be modified to manage them effectively. Here is a review of these management differences and specific practices that may need to be modified.

The 1990s have been an exciting time for bentgrass managers. More varieties are available than ever before. Many were developed to improve tolerance to the high heat and humidity common to the Southeast. Many new varieties have a higher plant population per unit area compared to Penncross and offer the golfer a higher level of putting quality. The combination of these improvements results in a variety of improved playability characteristics.

Metsker earns Tradition Award

By Mark Leslie

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Stanley Metsker, who was instrumental in pushing the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to accept certification, has been chosen for the Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award.

Metsker, 59, of the Country Club of Colorado in Colorado Springs, will be presented the Excellence Award during the PGA Senior Tour's Tradition tournament at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Although Metsker feels his crowning achievement was pushing certification for golf first through the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association (RMGCSA), then through GCSAA, his contributions have not been limited to turfgrass research. Metsker was also a founder of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

Hunker tops in TPC Network

By Peter Blais

ORLANDO, Fla. — Outstanding tournament conditions, Audubon certification and a happy membership have combined to earn superintendent Ted Hunker of the Tournament Players Club at River Highlands in Hartford, Conn., the TPC's designation as its top operation of the year.

Hunker received the award at the annual gathering of TPC superintendents held here during the International Conference and Show.

"The winning operation had such a terrific year it was a very clear choice," said Cal Both, director of maintenance for PGA Tour Golf Properties. "The head superintendent was very deserving of this award."

That superintendent was Hunker.
Metsker earns Tradition Award
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ultimate satisfaction has been in caring
for the Pete Dye-designed CC of Colo-
rado.

"Most satisfying for me is taking this
course from the soil and creating a living
board for a game which happens to be
golf," he said. "I planted all the trees,
built all the roads and paths, helped put
in the irrigation system. You might say we're
active in the environment, in that we are
creating an environment.

"This was a nice valley. It's now a spe-
cial place because the valley has been
changed by housing. But our environ-
ment is still here and gets better each
year as the trees grow and it's more ap-
preciated. I've enjoyed the overall ability
— over a period of years — to see some-
thing develop and to bring the architect's
vision into being."

He added, "The real challenge was to
maintain a good quality course at a very
modest budget over the years."

Metsker calls CC of Colorado "a soft
Dye course." It stands out, he said, be-
cause of the use of tall grasses.

"This was absolutely outlandish — to
think, in 1972, of putting tall grass on a
golf course," Metsker said. "I had been at
Cherry Hills, Lakewood Country Club
and all those were fence-to-fence manicured
courses considered among the best in the state,
and to come here and talk about growing
tall grasses was heresy."

But he committed to Dye's vision and
has maintained that continuity the last 23
years.

While at CC of Colorado, whose soil is
high in salt content, Metsker discovered
alkali grass puccinellia, which he passed
on to Dr. Jeff Fults at Colorado State
University (CSU), who developed this
cultivar into what is known commercially as Fults Alkali Grass. Metsker has

appreciated all his royalties on this seed to
CSU.

The Tradition of Excellence Award also
cites Metsker for leadership in the areas
of teaching and research. A superinten-
dent for 37 years, he has mentored many
assistant superintendents, taught at Den-
ver Community College and Pikes Peak
Community College and advised the turf
management program at Northeastern
Junior College.

A former president of the RMGC, the
Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Asso-
ciation and the Horticultural Arts Society
of Colorado Springs, Metsker served as di-
rector of the Colorado Horticulture Re-
search Association, and was chairman of
the Denver Botanic Garden Rock/Alpine
Garden Committee. The founder and first
editor of the RMGC newsletter, he has
also written many articles for trade maga-
zines and newspapers.

Metsker has used his writing talents to
finish a book, Entitled "On the Course:
The Life and Times of a Golf Course Super-
intendent," it "traces the history of our
area and some of its people as well as my
own experiences," he said.

His next challenge: Finding a publisher.

Companies lend Delhi healthy hand

DELHI, N.Y. — Turfgrass industry
leaders have donated nearly $100,000
in-state-of-the-art irrigation equipment
to the golf course expansion project at
the State University College of Tech-
nology at Delhi.

"The Delhi College Golf Course now
has the latest in irrigation technology," said Paul Roche, irrigation manager for
the S.V. Moffett Co. of West Henrietta.

S.V. Moffett, a long-time supporter of
Delhi with the best, most up-to-date
system gifts to the college.

"These manufacturers didn't compro-
mise quality one bit. They provided
Delhi with the best, most up-to-date
equipment on the market," said Roche.

"This kind of support is indicative of
the respect Delhi College has earned
throughout the golf industry," said
Dominic Morales, Plant Sciences De-
partment chairman.

Five companies cooperated in arrang-
ing the irrigation product donations to
Delhi, according to Roche. Moffett pro-
gressed, fairway and tee sprinklers,
as well as electric and coupling valves.

Buckner Inc. of Fresno, Calif., donated
the computerized irrigation system at 20
percent of cost. Hunter Industries Inc. of
San Marcos, Calif., provided all the sprin-
kers for the 10th hole. Commercial Pump
Service of Swanton, Ohio, gave a 35-per-
cent discount on the computerized auto-
matic pumping station. The Harrington
Co. of Lynchburg, Va., provided all the
fittings for the system's piping.