Iowa golf/ag alliance influencing policy

By MARK LESLIE

DES MOINES, Iowa -- Combining monetary clout with "a huge grassroots force," the Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns (IAAEC) and Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI) are proving that the turfgrass and agriculture industries can be a political power at the Statehouse here.

In this hot bed of agriculture, legislators have been known to cry "Uncle" when barraged by calls from IAAEC and AAI members, who hail

Making choices: It's an environmental watershed'

By RON DODSON

Have you ever heard the reference to "watershed" as a critical point that changes a particular course of action, like a decision that created a turning point in history?

That use of watershed comes from its definition: "a ridge of high land dividing two areas that are drained by different river systems, also called "water parting." A watershed may also refer to the region that drains into a river, river system, or other body of water. So, the golf industry needs to take a look at watersheds for two reasons.

First, the industry needs to understand the environmental importance of watersheds in order to make good economic and environmental decisions about developing and managing the land.

Secondly, it has reached a critical point in making land-management decisions where it must choose between the status quo of golf course development and maintenance, and that of sustainable development and management practices.

In order to understand how important watersheds are, however, we need to know a little about ecology. An ecosystem is a community of plants, or animals, or even human beings) together with its environment of soils, waters and other elements on which the organisms depend for sur-

Matchmaker, matchmaker

Two GCSAA ex-presidents team in jobs search firm

By MARK LESLIE

LOS ANGELES -- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Past President Bruce Williams has joined another former president, Jerry Faubel, adding a West Coast presence to Faubel's Executive Golf Search Inc.

Faubel formed the "headhunting" company with famed course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Michigan State University Prof. Ken Payne in the early 1990s. Payne died in 1994 and Jones has retired, leaving Faubel running the company solo.

"Over the years, I've been involved in helping a number of superintendents find jobs that would be a good fit for them," Williams said. "Retiring from the GCSAA board allowed me the opportunity to spend my spare time in other activities. This was the perfect match for me."

Saying that he and Payne had hoped Williams would join them after proceeding through the GCSAA chairs, Faubel added: "We thought Bruce would be an excellent partner. All of a sudden he moves [from Chicago] to the West Coast and..."
North Shore CC short-game complex: exercise in innovation, evaluation

(Editor’s note: Anyone interested in data, or in viewing the test site at North Shore Country Club at 1340 Glenview Rd. in Glenview, Ill., is welcome. They should contact superintendent Dan Dinelli at 847-724-4963.

“That’s what it’s there for,” Dinelli said, "for people who are interested to come and evaluate for themselves the different cultivars and root-zone mixes.”

By DAN DINELLI
and TOM VOIGT

GLENVIEW, Ill. — The United States Golf Association (USGA), the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSSA), and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) have combined resources to initiate a national research project to evaluate turfgrass varieties grown on USGA rootzones and maintained by host golf course facilities as in-play green surfaces.

Funding was made available to construct practice putting greens at 16 different golf courses across the United States. All of these experimental greens were constructed to USGA specifications. Northern locations sowed bentgrass varieties; southern locations Bermudagrass varieties, and in transition-zone climates both species were planted. Monitoring and evaluation will continue for at least five years, with annual reports being submitted to the NTEP who will issue annual reports of the results.

In conjunction with the University of Illinois, North Shore Country Club was selected as one of the sites for this unique study. In the summer of 1997 the Office of Dan Dinelli is a certified golf course superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill., and Tom Voigt is an Extension turfgrass specialist at the University of Illinois.

Root-zone mix cells at North Shore Country Club. All the work is done by hand, ensuring no cross-contamination. The barriers, from gravel to the top, are permanent.

ers and Governors of North Shore Country Club (NSCC), led by Mr. Van Salmans, Greens Chairperson approved the construction of a short-game practice facility to augment the USGA putting green.

SHORT-GAME PRACTICE FACILITY

The short-game practice facility consists of a 7,200 square foot (sq. ft.) putting green, a 14,098 sq. ft. creeping bentgrass fairway measuring 55 yards long, 28 yards wide, and two greenside bunkers. It is understood by the membership of NSCC that the facility is a functional complex with several research objectives.

General purposes of the short-game practice facility include:

1) Maintain a functional short-game practice facility, and putting green to the standards expected at North Shore Country Club, while recognizing the research potential of such a site. Regular maintenance on the USGA green will include periodic straight sand topdressing, and daily mowing at 120-130 thousandths of an inch. The fairway will be mowed at one half of an inch, and will undergo regular mowing, aerification and established maintenance practices.

2) Monitor the performance of 21 different creeping bentgrass varieties for putting green use on USGA rootzone profiles, including 18 NTEP entries, and two blends.

3) Monitor the performance of a creeping bentgrass blend (L-83/SR-1119) grown on 20 amended putting green rootzones within the context of a USGA rootzone profile.

4) Monitor the impacts of forced gas exchange in the putting green rootzone and turf canopy utilizing the SubAir system.

5) Monitor 13 bentgrass varieties at fairway height, grown on a yard-waste compost amended site.

6) Compare and contrast organic soil amendments to native soil for fairway use.

7) Evaluate a bluegrass blend for use on green surrounds.

The major emphasis of the practice facility is to observe turfgrass performance, integrating cultivars and rootzone amendments with management techniques. Field observations, along with detailed monitoring, will help develop a better understanding of turfgrass science and ecology. Information gained will further IPM strategies, and foster a holistic philosophy of turfgrass management towards maintaining high-quality playing conditions.

Disease susceptibility, nutrient requirements, infiltration rates, moisture stress, and moisture retention will be noted. Possible areas of interest and potential study include but not limited to: segregation with genetic dominance in varieties, color, texture, density, thatching tendency, recuperative potential, wear tolerance, heat and cold tolerance, ball roll speed, growth habit, localized dry spot severity, nematode assay (beneficial and plant parasitic), resiliency for desired ball bounce, microbial ecology, turfgrass-microorganism interactions, stability of soil amendments, dynamics of percolation rates over time, fluctuations of soil and turf canopy gases (i.e. oxygen, carbon dioxide and methane), relative soil temperatures, Poa annua encroachment, inoculation potential of beneficial microorganisms, winter hardness, fate of rootzone amendments over time, and root mass.

PUTTING GREEN

The putting green site is unique. This will be a functional green receiving approach shots, and being used by the membership for putting. This activity will produce ball marks, wear, and compaction, and offer daily stresses seen on in-play

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Matchmaker, matchmaker

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it is working out better yet.”

Williams, who had been at Bob-O’Link in Chicago for 21 years, took over the reins as superintendent of Los Angeles Country Club in the spring of 1997. Faubel is the long-time superintendent at Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club. The contacts the two men have within the golf industry are substantial.

Faubel said Executive Golf Search works with course operators, owners, general managers and search committee chairmen to define the superintendent’s position at their course, then help find the individuals who best fill their needs.

“Some times they don’t really know what that definition is,” Faubel said. “We look at their needs and thoroughly discuss them and show them the importance of a well-qualified superintendent. Then we set up interviews with the employer and candidate. They negotiate the salary and other terms between themselves.”

The company accepts resumes from superintendents for its database. “We now have about 3,000 resumes, but that’s over a number of years,” Faubel said. “Some of these people are happy where they are, but if the right job comes along we could possibly put them in a better situation.”

Faubel said the Executive Golf Search work is “a good fit” with his superintendent position since he’s less busy during the wintertime, when the great majority of job searching is done.

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