

## Rossi Award winner Beard cites others

ORLANDO, Fla. — Cited as having "touched the lives of many people in this room and at this conference," Dr. James Beard received the 9th annual Don A. Rossi Award at the banquet of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) here Feb. 12.

Named for the late executive

director of the GCBA, the award is given to an individual who has made major contributions to the game of golf and its growth and who has inspired others by their example.

GCBA President Bill Kubly of Landscapes Unlimited presented the award to Beard, a noted agronomist best known for

his years as a professor of turfgrass science at Michigan State and Texas A&M universities. Beard is now the chief scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute in College Station, Texas, which he founded when he retired from Texas A&M.

In introducing his former professor, Dr. Bob Shearman of the

University of Nebraska said of Beard: "There is no individual, from an agronomic standpoint and the agronomic sciences, who has had a greater impact on our industry than this man. He has trained an outstanding number of individuals who have gone on to have a great impact on the industry. And that legacy continues."

Beard, who has won such honors as Distinguished Service Awards from the International

Turfgrass Society and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is a former president of the Crop Sciences Society of America, accepted the award on behalf of his wife, Harriet, and himself.

"I have had an opportunity to work with great people in this industry," Beard said. "I've learned from them. I've learned from golf course superintendents, builders, architects and industry reps. I've tried to bring good scholarship and science to the field ... to advance the science of this industry. I've enjoyed the opportunity to work with a lot of good people in our research and educational programs at Michigan State and Texas A&M University."

"It starts with your fellow researchers and colleagues. Dr. Paul Rieke [sitting] here is an example of that. It starts with good research associates and technicians, like Sam Sifers, who is still working with me. It starts with mentors. As an assistant associate professor trying to figure out what to do, Dr. Jim Watson [sitting] here certainly was helpful in that regard for a long time. It takes good graduate students, because they do a lot of the really good basic research that your technicians can't do, or you don't have time to do. We have had over 40 of them and many of them are leaders around the country. Dr. Bob Shearman is an example of that."

Saying he has enjoyed his students, who number in the thousands, and their interaction, Beard added: "In a sense, probably a lot of you are students with the books I have written."

But most important, he said, is Harriet who, he said, was a key to his success, especially helping with his eight books and more than 600 articles.

"She worked with me as a team," he said, as well as raising two sons.

## Ted Horton

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bases its decisions on good science. The strength of our membership is critical in putting pressure on the EPA to ensure it listens to our concerns."

As the GCSAA's representative on a national ADA panel, Renault said the association "has taken the lead in providing tools to help golf courses comply" with the new rules. A new draft of those rules was released late last year.

"GCSAA is also successfully leading a coalition of disabled and golf organizations trying to avoid litigation on play issues, such as cart path-only rules," Renault said. "We made progress by arranging meetings with the Department of Justice and to begin resolving these issues in a non-adversarial manner."

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