OFF-SEASON? YOU BETCHA!
Among other tasks, the crew at The Valley Club in Sun Valley, Idaho, must maintain the club's platform tennis court. See Spring Prep section, pages 28-30.

Roundup-tolerant bent looms on the horizon
By PETER BLAIS
COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Scotts Co. is developing genetically modified turfgrasses that are resistant to the herbicide Roundup, a potentially major breakthrough that could make it easier for superintendents to control weeds, according to Scotts researcher Dr. Virgil Meier.

Speaking at the recent Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show here, Meier said a Roundup-resistant bentgrass crop could be ready for harvesting as early as 2003. The Marysville, Ohio-based firm is also researching Roundup-resistant strains of Kentucky bluegrass and St. Augustinegrass. The bluegrass could be available in 2004.

"This whole area of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will change how we maintain turfgrass 15 to 20 years from now, starting with the Roundup-resistant bentgrasses and bluegrasses that will be available in 2003 and 2004," Meier predicted.

Scotts has been testing genetically modified...
Mobile courses offer up coastal challenge

By ANDREW OVERBECK

MOBILE, Ala. — When the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) last visited New Orleans in 1992 for the International Golf Conference and Show, the GCSAA Golf Championship was held in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., three states away from the convention center.

Traveling to the 2000 tournament will be a tad bit easier for participating superintendents. This year, the tournament will be staged at six courses in the Mobile, Ala., area Feb. 11-15.

The Toro Co. has renewed its sponsorship of the event through the year 2003 and the tournament is expected to attract more than 720 superintendents from across the country and around the world.

The 2000 Tournament will be held at the following courses:

**Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club, Scott Clark superintendent**
- Yardage — Championship: 7,026 yards, Regular: 6,494, Forward: 5,799
- Terrain — Flat
- Rating/Slope — 73.4/126
- Course Comments — “This is a bump-and-run style course, players will have to use a wide variety of shots.”

**Kiva Dunes Golf Club, Michael Rienzi, superintendent**
- Yardage — Championship: 7,092 yards, Regular: 6,464, Forward: 5,849
- Terrain — Coastal Dunes
- Rating/Slope — 73.8/129
- Course Comments — “This is a bump-and-run style course, players will have to use a wide variety of shots.”

**The Crossings Course at Magnolia Grove, Layton Overstreet, superintendent**
- Yardage — Championship: 7,151 yards, Regular: 6,584, Forward: 5,184
- Terrain — Marshy, undulating
- Rating/Slope — 75.1/137
- Course Comments — “The Falls course is a true tournament golf course. Out of all the courses that they will be playing in the area there is no doubt that this is the big boy.”

**Cotton Creek at Craft Farms, Kevin Kaehr, superintendent**
- Yardage — Championship: 7,028 yards, Regular: 6,581, Middle: 6,032, Forward: 5,175
- Terrain — Flat
- Rating/Slope — 73.9/132
- Course Comments — “The Cotton course is longer and narrower, with a lot of trees on the back nine.”

**Cypress Bend at Craft Farms, Kevin Kaehr, superintendent**
- Yardage — Championship: 6,848, Regular: 6,424, Middle: 5,954, Forward: 5,045
- Terrain — Flat
- Rating/Slope — 73.5/131
- Course Comments — “Cypress is wide open and forgiving, but the greens are a bit bigger and wider. You will have some outlandish putts left if you are not near the pin.”

**Gulf Shores supers excited about tourney**

Continued from page 1

By ANDREW OVERBECK

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- Rating/Slope — 75.1/137
- Course Comments — “These greens are real slopy and you have to watch the breaking speed.”

**The Falls Course at Magnolia Grove, Layton Overstreet, superintendent**
- Yardage — Championship: 7,239 yards, Regular: 6,558, Forward: 5,253
- Terrain — Marshy, undulating
- Rating/Slope — 75.1/137
- Course Comments — “The Falls course is a true tournament golf course. Out of all the courses that they will be playing in the area there is no doubt that this is the big boy.”

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**WEATHER**

Weather conditions in the Mobile-area in the middle of February can be a hit-or-miss proposition and many courses are situated close to the Gulf of Mexico or Mobile Bay so windy conditions are likely.

“In February there is usually a pretty stiff wind from the north, and that is when things get hard and fast,” said superintendent Michael Rienzi at Kiva Dunes Golf Club. “It is usually around 70 degrees during the day, but we could get high winds and a cold snap.”

**Maples to get USGA Green Section Award**

By MARK LESLIE

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Palmer Maples Jr., former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association, will receive the USGA Green Section Award during the GCSAA’s 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show here in February. Following such past recipients as Drs. James Watson

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