A Super Event
Coverage of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference & Show ........ 13-23

It’s All in the Method
Hydroseeding now a more viable choice for golf course construction projects ......................... 35

Andersons to buy Scotts Pro Turf
By A. OVERBECK
MAUMEE, Ohio — In a move that will likely trigger further consolidation within the fertilizer industry, The Andersons, Inc. has signed a letter of intent with The Scotts Co. to acquire Scotts’ U.S. Professional Turf business.

The two companies have agreed to a long-term supply agreement under which Scotts will use its proprietary manufacturing processes to produce products for Andersons. The acquisition includes ProTurf, Contec and other brand names, the distribution network, customer lists and all trademarks.

Dinelli receives Excellence Award
By MARK LESLIE
NEW ORLEANS — Ingenuity and initiative in the Dinelli family are long-standing traits, the latest result of which is the presentation of the 2000 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award to Dan Dinelli of North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill.

The Scotts Co. of Marysville, Ohio, presents the annual peer-nominated award to recognize outstanding achievements among superintendents who are “dedicated to advancing the science of course maintenance and making golf the best it can be.”

Superintendents, builders, owners trumpet change
New GCBAA exec: Upgrade image
By PETER BLAIS
NEW ORLEANS — Increasing public and professional awareness of the importance of golf course builders is a primary goal of incoming Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) Executive Vice President Lee Hetrick.

“Builders need more exposure and recognition from the architects and superintendents because of the contributions builders make,” Hetrick said. “What you see when a course opens is a collaborative effort. But I don’t know if I’ve ever looked at a golf course scorecard and seen the name of the builder. My objective would be to have the builder...

NGCOA’s Stine: Continue assn. growth
By PETER BLAIS
FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — In a sign of these consolidation times, William Stine, president of 100-course Meadowbrook Golf Group, was elected president of the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) during the group’s annual meeting here.

“I’ve been on the [NGCOA] board for the past eight years and was a member before that,” said Stine, who started in the business as a single-course operator. “It’s just in the past few years we’ve become a multi-course operator. I’ve evolved through the business, just as our organization has.”

Stine’s father, Charlie, started...

GCSAA: Scott Woodhead takes reins
NEW ORLEANS — Scott Woodhead was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America during the recent International Conference and Show held here.

Woodhead, who was appointed to the board in 1993, hails from Valley View Golf Course in Bozeman, Mont. He replaces David Fears of Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, who will continue on the board as immediate past president.

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REPLENISHING NATURE
Greg Nash-designed Anthem Golf & Country Club shows its colors in Phoenix. Builders replenished the natural vegetation in order to bring back the land to its original state. See p.8.
Hetrick: Certification a crucial issue

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recognized right along with the architect.

Hetrick said the GCBAA certification program rivals that of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. "If I develop a golf club, the first thing I'm going to do [when searching for a superintendent] is see if there is a certified golf course superintendent I can get. But that's not the way things are done in the golf course construction industry. My objective is to get everybody [in the association] certified and get the architects to hire certified builders.

Hetrick recently replaced Executive Vice President Phil Arnold, who left after nine years with the builders organization to start his own golf course photography firm.

"The builders association has made huge strides since Don Rossi started the organization and Phil Arnold picked them up," Hetrick said during a recent interview at the GCSAA International Conference and Show.

"I admire Phil's ability to get so much done and defer praise to others," said Hetrick, who also noted the work done over the years by Arnold's assistants, Susan Monk and Molly Heiser.

"When Phil announced his decision [to leave GCBAA], I jumped in with both feet."

Hetrick, 50, grew up in northwestern Pennsylvania. He played his first round of golf in his teens with a borrowed set of wood-shafted clubs, much to the amusement of his golfing buddies. "That might have been a defining moment for me," Hetrick said. "I became determined to learn more about the game and play better."

Hetrick spent four years in the Navy before enrolling at Duquesne University. After school, he worked as an assistant pro and enrolled in the PGA Apprentice Program. He also caddied on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour for such noted golfers as Jane Blaylock and Iako Okamoto.

Hetrick carried the winning bag at four LPGA Tour stops.

"When you're a caddie, you lose all sense of your own performance," Hetrick recalled. "The score you get at the end of the round may not be at all indicative of how you performed. A 69 is a 69 and a 79 is a 79. Sometimes that's hard to swallow. Your life is out of your control."

Eventually Hetrick gave up caddying, completed the apprenticeship program and worked as head pro at clubs in Florida, Texas and Arizona. But a bad back forced him out of the golf pro side of the business.

"That's when I met a young course architect who was sent to the West Coast to make Art Hills famous, Keith Foster," he said.

Through his friendship with Foster (the two served as best man at each other's weddings), Hetrick learned the nuts and bolts of course architecture and construction. Under Foster's tutelage, he was an assistant superintendent at Walking Stick Golf Club in Pueblo, Colo.; assistant construction superintendent at The Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, Texas; project superintendent at The Legacy in Thailand; and design associate on a number of projects working out of Foster's St. Louis office.

"I coordinated a great project in Euleess, Texas, called Texas Star," Hetrick said. "Keith energized a city that many used to jokingly call 'Useless.' No one thinks it's useless anymore."

When Foster decided several years ago to slow the growth of his business, Hetrick accepted a marketing position with Jacklin Golf. Hetrick, Eric Nelson and Jim Connolly represented the seed company in its dealings with course architects and builders.

Hetrick said his knowledge of architects, and how they make things happen in conjunction with builders, were important factors in the GCBAA board selecting him from a strong field.

While his long-term goal is greater recognition for his employers, his short-term goal is to move the association from its present headquarters in Chapel Hill, N.C., to his home in Lincoln, Neb. Hetrick offered Monk and Heiser the opportunity to stay with GCBAA and relocate to Lincoln, but they chose to remain in North Carolina.

How to make the perfect core

Whoever said consistency is boring never aerated a green. With the John Deere line of Aercore® Aerator, we've taken aeration to a new level of quality and quantity. A lot of the credit has to go to our unique "Flexi-Link" design. The Flexi-Link is attached to the rear of the tine leg and absorbs the forward motion of the aerator, allowing the tines to stay perpendicular while they are in the ground. As the tines come out of the ground, the Flexi-Link pushes the tine leg forward into position for the next downward stroke.

The result is a very consistent, round hole with minimum tearing.
Woodhead, new officers take posts

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ors were Ken Mangum of the Atlanta Athletic Club and Jon Maddern of Elk Ridge Golf Course in Atlantic, Mich. Sam Snyder VIII of Hercules Country Club in Wilmington, Del., resigned his director position, effective at the conclusion of the 2000 Conference & Show.

One additional director will be appointed to serve the remaining one year director position created with the election of Wallace as Secretary/Treasurer. In other GCSAA news:

• Although the final audited figures have not been determined, unofficial attendance figures for the Conference & Show include registered education seminar attendees, 7,903 (surpasses record of 6,999 in 1999); attendees, 21,868 (record of 22,623 in 1999); exhibitors, 757 (surpasses record of 740 in 1999); exhibition space: 267,000 square feet (surpasses record of 246,500 in 1999).

How do the Conference & Show attendance totals compare to a decade ago (1990 in Anaheim)? That year, 17,071 attended, with 534 exhibiting companies and 170,000 square feet of floor space. Twenty-five years ago (1975 in New Orleans) 4,861 attended.

- Todd Barker, golf course superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorville, Utah, defeated Paul Jett of Pinehurst No. 2 (N.C.) Resort by paring the second playoff hole of the 50th GCSAA Golf Championship in Mobile, Ala. Barker and Jett both recorded first-round scores of 73 at Kiwa Dunes Golf Club and second-round totals of 76 at the Magnolia Grove Falls Course to go to the sudden death playoff with five-over-par scores of 149.

It was a bit of deja vu as Barker won his first GCSAA title in 1995 at Monterey, Calif., while Jett was also the runnerup. Barker's father, Vaughan, was the 1977 GCSAA Golf Champion. The younger Barker also is the 1997 Utah state amateur titleist.

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Steve Mona has been selected to serve on the Golf 20/20 Conference Steering Committee executive board along with Jim Awtrey (PGA of America); Joe Beditz (National Golf Foundation); David Fay (USGA); Tim Finchem (PGA TOUR); Michael Hughes (NGCOA) and Ty Votaw (Ladies Professional Golf Association).

The conference, to be conducted Nov. 17-19 at the World Golf Hall of Fame, brings together the golf industry to address the future of golf in a strategic manner, with an emphasis on accelerating the growth over the next 20 years and creating new avenues of access into the game.

- GCSAA will have a presence at the 2000 Kmart 400 NASCAR race, June 11 at the Michigan Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. Chad Little's No. 97 car, sponsored by John Deere, will feature the GCSAA lettermark and logo on the trunk of the Roush Racing Team vehicle.

- Representatives from the National Football League (NFL) and Major League Baseball (MLB), plus grounds directors from 43 NFL/MLB franchises met at the 2000 GCSAA Conference & Show.

Executives attending included MLB Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations Sandy Alderson, NFL Assistant Director of Game Operations Tim Davey and NFF Players' Association Regional Director Clark Gaines. Sponsored by Toro and TURFACE, the Professional Sports Turf Symposium exposed professional grounds directors to the products, services, education and research that has been em-
Woodhead, GCSAA move ahead

Continued from page 17

ployed by the golf industry.

Former USGA Executive Commit-
tee member Ray Anderson will rotate
off the board, with his spot being filled
by Thomas Chisholm, vice president of
automotive marketing with Eaton
Corp. The “Investing in the Beauty
of Golf” endowment campaign has
reached the $3.7 million mark, with
a goal of $5 million (increased last
year from the original $3.5 million
target).

A new GCSAA Foundation mission
statement was also approved: “The
GCSAA Foundation enhances the
game of golf through funding applied
research and advanced education in
golf course management.

The remainder of the GCSAA Foun-
dation board of trustees includes
GCSAA representatives Woodhead,
Witt, Wallace, Fearis and Mona as well
as course architect Tom Fazio, former
PGA of America President Joe Black,
Toro Co. Vice President Michael
Hoffman, and PGA Tour Senior Vice
President of Communications Bob
Combs.

Iowa State University claimed the
title at the sixth annual Collegiate
Turf Bowl Competition conducted at the
Conference & Show. It was the second
consecutive honor for the school.

The winning team is advised by Dr.
Nick Christians, professor of
agronomy and featured students Kirk
Golinghorst, John Lavelle, Aaron
Patton and Chad Wilson. The event
was a two-hour test requiring a written
Q & A, math problems, and identifica-
tion of soil, seed and weed samples.
Students from Michigan State and Kan-
sas State were second and third, re-
spectively.

Earlier this year, GCSAA mem-
bership topped the 20,000 mark for
the first time.

The 72nd International Golf
Course Conference & Show is set for
February 12 -18 in Dallas.

Ultradwarfs reach new goals
and offer more challenges

Continued from page 13

He said the “positives” of the
ultradwarfs are numerous:

• When cut at the right height,
its density is excellent.

• In some cases it eliminates
overseeding. “But I caution you not to
use that as a selling point,” he warned,
because the money you save there must
be used in other places, like for addi-
tional walk mowers, sand, fertility...

• It allows 419 Bermudagrass to be
grown on collars without encroachment
into the greens. “That’s an excellent, ex-
cellent characteristic,” Kloska said.

• It mowed lower. “If you have Snow-
birds who want fast greens even in the
winter, this is an option,” he said.

• It will maintain its color in cool
weather, when soil temperatures get
down into the 50s, “whereas with
Tifdwarf you see discoloration in the
50s,” Kloska said.

On the negative side, he listed:

• Accelerated thatch build-up. “I highly
recommend that you be proactive about
this,” Kloska said. “Watch nitrogen lev-
el and take care of cultural practices —
aerification and top dressing.

• Much slower ballpark recovery
because ultradwarfs do not grow laterally.

• Intensive maintenance.

• Very poor shade tolerance.

To grow in the ultradwarfs, Kloska sug-
gested:

• Sprig heavily: 30 bushels per acre.

• Watch for disease, particularly dur-
ing tropical weather patterns, and es-
specially on stressed turf. The disease
do thatch also makes it more difficult to establish and maintain uniform
stands of overseeded grass. TifEagle not only produces less thatch than
the other superdwarfs, it’s very forgiving when subjected to aggressive
management. In fact, TifEagle can tolerate 2 to 3 mowings per day at
heights as low as 1/8” with no loss of stand density. Insist on TifEagle.

• Fertilize more frequently:
every three to four days instead
of once a week.

• Consider buying a water
injection aerifier. “It’s very im-
portant,” Kloska said.

• Mixed Nitriform and
coated potash. “It will help you won-
terfully.”

Kloska’s management tips included:

• Do more grooming instead of deep
verticuting.

• The K-N ratio should be 1.2 or 1.3 in
the summer and 1.5 in the winter.

• In the cold weather, aerify twice a
week.

• Use finer fertilizers. “In some cases,
the grass is so tight, fertilizer has a hard
time getting in,” he said. “You will do
lighter and more frequent top dressing.
We have gone so far as putting sand out
with a rotary spreader. Even at that,
we water heavily that night and hope it gets
the sand down in.”

• Because of the impact of the turfs
density on water infiltration, a water
aerifier is “extremely important.”

• Aerify with smaller times more fre-
quently in the summer.

• Remember that ball marks heal more
slowly.

• Monitor the surface temperatures
greens in the summer. “Remember
you are top dressing every week and
there is a lot of sand on top of that
green. Also, you’re mowing low at .150
or .130,” Kloska said.

• Watch for disease, particularly dur-
ing tropical weather patterns, and es-
specially on stressed turf. The disease
will show up where stress is occurring
— shaded, scalped and heat-stressed
areas.

Stress Relief for Your Turf

VigaROOT

Heat stress, drought stress, salt stress, insect and
disease pressure all take their toll on your turf.

VigaROOT is a NEW turfgrass management tool
designed to help reduce stress and stimulate root
growth through enhanced water and nutrient uptake.

VigaROOT’s dry formulation combines humic acid,
seaweed and yucca extracts, beneficial bacteria,
and fully chelated iron, zinc and manganese.

VigaROOT is packaged in a pre-measured foil bag
to provide easy use and ensure longer shelf life and
stability. This means no setting or “bowling balls”
and the fully chelated micronutrients guarantee
outstanding tank mix flexibility.

So relax. There’s no need for stress; a schedule of
quick, cost-effective applications of VigaROOT can
return turf to peak performance perfection!

IT’S IN THE BAG!
NGCOA president
Continued from page 1

Golfweek magazine in 1974. Stine was never involved with the magazine other than serving on the board of directors. He purchased his first course (Sunair) in Haines City, Fla., in 1980, launched a golf course real-estate brokerage company (USA Golf) in 1984, and started IGM (a course maintenance firm) in the early 1990s.

IGM merged with Meadowbrook Golf Group in 1998. Meadowbrook, the parent company, now owns or operates roughly 100 courses nationwide.

"Ten years ago," Stine said, "we were talking about whether we should even let multi-course operators in [to the NGCOA] since we were supposedly an organization representing single-course operators. But we realized that multi-course operators had many of the same problems we did. And they brought strength to our organization in dealing with industry people.

"I know most everybody in NGCOA, worked with them for many years and come from a single-owner background. The goal of many people in the organization is to have multiple locations. [NGCOA Executive Director] Mike Hughes runs the organization and nothing is going to change."

During Stine’s eight years on the NGCOA board of directors, the association’s membership has risen from 1,200 to its current level of 4,000 members.

"I hope to continue the growth we’ve had in the past few years," the new president said. "The things we really want to concentrate on are player development and retention through the Get Linked marketing program, and to add purchasing benefits for everyone from multi-course to the nine-hole operators through our Smart Buy group purchasing program."

Get Linked is an extensive marketing campaign NGCOA makes available to members. Among the materials are professionally produced print and television ads that can be customized to a local market.

The Smart Buy program allows members to gain substantial discounts on a variety of golf course products through group-purchasing efforts coordinated by NGCOA.

Stine said the biggest change he has seen over the past decade is the influence NGCOA wields in conjunction with its allied associations — the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Professional Golfers Association, United States Golf Association, etc.

"The increased size of the organization has given us funding to hire more professionals to work on problems that all golf course owners have, rather than attacking these problems individually," Stine explained.

The NGCOA, Stine said, sees the superintendents playing more of a management role and working in conjunction with golfcourse property managers/owners in the planning process.

"The NGCOA has a lot of respect for the GCSAA and hopes to work more closely with it," Stine said. "Eight years ago, we had little communication with the allied associations. Now we’re meet-

Ten years ago we were talking about whether we should even let multi-course operators in [to the NGCOA] since we were supposedly an organization representing single-course operators."

— New NGCOA President Bill Stine

Even at the end of a 14-hour day you’re thinking ahead to the challenges of tomorrow. Your water aeration system shouldn’t be one of them. With over 100,000 units operating in the field, Otterbine is the brand turf professionals rely on for durability and worry-free operation.

No more 6-hour assembly sessions
Unlike the competition, Otterbine aerators are shipped pre-assembled and ready to work. Only Otterbine uses a custom built, low speed, four pole motor that operates in half the RPMs of competitive high speed motors. Low speed motors mean greater motor longevity and the lowest operation costs in the industry. Only Otterbine aerators are constructed of 21st Century high-tech engineered thermoplastics and stainless steel for longer life under extreme operating conditions.

Unmatched aeration capabilities
Otterbine has the highest oxygen transfer rate of 2.3 pounds per horse power per hour, based on published independent testing by Auburn and Louisiana State University. Each motor is built to run at the lowest RPM rate so you can expect years of dependable service with unmatched aeration capabilities, unlike high speed motors that sacrifice operating efficiency and aeration capability.

No more inconvenient repairs
The Otterbine warranty is the best in the industry — 2 years on all moving parts and 5 years on all non-moving parts — while most standard warranties only cover you for 1 to 3 years. Plus, with over 60 authorized Otterbine service centers around the globe, you’ll never have to worry about fixing an aerator yourself, or sending it long distances for service — which would mean long down times and greater expense.

Learn more about water management
Otterbine is the leader in the science of aeration. Read what we’ve learned in 40 years as the market leader in aeration — ask for your free copy of "Pond & Lake Management." It’s a guide to help you make the right decisions on aerator sizing, placement, and the scientific reasons behind those recommendations.

Otterbine offers a diverse line of products that include both surface and subsurface aerators, lake dye, portable pumps, ozone generating and delivery systems, plus much more.