



BRIEFS

BEARD RELEASES NEW EDITION OF TURF MANAGEMENT FOR GOLF COURSES

CHELSEA, Mich. — Dr. James B. Beard, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Texas A&M University, has released the second edition of *Turf Management for Golf Courses* that has been 20 years in the making. With editorial contributions by USGA agronomists, the new edition is a complete revision offering more than 800 pages of management tools to help golf course superintendents, club managers, owners, architects, green committees, consultants, and builders. The reference is available from Ann Arbor Press, located here, and is published in four-color processing in an oversized format.



Beard's second edition is now available

STEPPICH SIGNS ON WITH IGM

CHAMPIONSGATE, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance announced that Tony Steppich has joined IGM as the Northeast regional manager. His main office will be located in the Philadelphia area where he will be overseeing the day-to-day operations at 13 facilities spanning from Massachusetts, through New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Prior to joining the outsourcing company here, Steppich was the superintendent at the TPC Golf Club of Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Fla.



Tony Steppich

COUSINEAU JOINS CGSA

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, Canada — Ken Cousineau, CAE, has been appointed the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's executive director. He succeeds Vince Gillis, CAE, who retired from the post last month. Cousineau has worked for an Ontario-based, not-for-profit organization for the past 14 years and brings with him association management experience, both in managing administrative functions and external relationships with government and stakeholders. He will assume his new duties here as of Feb. 11.

Super ideas: tree recycling, chemical cuts, and a tee blower

By JOEL JOYNER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Innovative solutions to help save time and money in a maintenance operation is just what golf courses need when the economy starts to turn sour. From self-supporting tree recycling programs to reducing chemical use on the golf course to innovative debris blowers, superintendents John Gurke, Andrew Dalton and Larry Balko have implemented creative solutions that have proven successful at their courses.

TREE PROGRAM

At the Aurora Country Club in Wheaton, Ill., in the Chicagoland area, superintendent John Gurke has developed a tree planting program that supports itself. Located on a small acreage property in a residential area, the club has no room for a landscape waste disposal site, according to Gurke.



John Gurke

"We must recycle all landscape waste on site," he said. "What we've done is start a self-perpetuating tree program, whereby we cut and split all large tree material into firewood and chip smaller material for mulch."

The by-products are then sold to club members — delivered, stacked, and/or spread — for a cost of \$50 per dump truck load. The money is deposited into a new tree fund. "This way, we pay for new plantings with money garnered from dead or removed plantings," Gurke said.

"The labor cost is minimal, and all log splitting and chipping is done from fall to spring on frost mornings when the crew can not get out on the golf course," he



Superintendent Andrew Dalton on the third tee of the Hill course at Copper Hills G&CC.

continued. "It's a win-win situation. We get rid of the material without paying the high price of waste removal, and members get low-priced firewood and mulch. It also works as a nice public relations tool for member-staff relations."

In addition, every year in late October, the course obtains a permit from the Aurora Fire Department to hold a Halloween bonfire/hayride. "We pull a rented hay wagon around the course at night by tractor, with scare stations set up throughout," said Gurke. "The members have dinner at the clubhouse, get on the hayride and meander down to the maintenance area where we light up all unsold and unused firewood. We also include a bar tent, music, and pizzas for the event. It's a great time, and we legally finish off our extra and unsuitable-for-firewood material."

Continued on page 14

Bay Hill gets new greens, super

By GARY BURCHFIELD

ORLANDO, Fla. — For 22 years, superintendent John Anderson raised corn and soybeans in north central Iowa before "retiring" to run a golf course in Florida. He took over as superintendent at Bay Hill Oct. 1 when long-time superintendent Dwight Kummer resigned to join a Florida company.

However, it's not all new for Anderson. He has been at Bay Hill for 13 years, the last 11 years as assistant superintendent. He knows the course. He knows the conditions. But now, the buck stops at his desk.

"There is a little extra pressure in March with the Bay Hill Invitational because it's on national TV. I've been through several of them as assistant superintendent, but this will be my first one as the golf course superintendent," Anderson said.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

With a nationally televised event coming up this spring, Anderson has a big job in front of him. Fortunately, the par-72, 7,207-yard Bay Hill Championship

Course, is in top condition. Anderson recently overseeded the greens with Laser Poa Trivialis and the roughs with Palmer Perennial Ryegrass. Additionally, all 18 greens were re-grassed last summer.

"They were planted with Tifdwarf 11 or 12 years ago, and that grass was about at the end of its natural life," Anderson said. He hired an outside firm to



The new greens mix consisted of 80 percent sand and 20 percent Profile soil amendment.

shave off the old sod and dig out the top four to five inches of soil, to get rid of most of the organic material. They brought in all new soil, a mix of 80 percent sterile sand and 20 percent Profile porous ceramic soil amendment.

After the new soil was in place, they had an outside service fumigate each green, which involved covering the surface with plastic and injecting fumigant to get rid of any soil pests or troublesome organisms. After the treatment, greens were re-sodded in mid-June with new ultra-dwarf TifEagle.

"The TifEagle sod was grown on plastic so it was basically bare roots when we put it down on the new base. It took

Continued on page 11

New turf disease hits the Carolinas

By JOEL JOYNER

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — A new turf disease, tentatively named chytridiomycete, has hit coastal golf courses in the Carolinas. The single-celled organism was devastating to some courses last fall as researchers were just starting to learn about the fungus. So far, the disease has been discovered attacking annual bluegrass, ryegrass and *Poa trivialis*.

There's still debate on what to call the disease. "It's been found out West for the



Advanced symptoms of the chytrid disease on a *Poa annua* green (California).

past five years, but it's new to us here in the Carolinas. It's still new throughout the country," said Dr. Bruce Martin, plant pathologist at Clemson University. "We cannot call it the chytrid which is the slang term that's been going around. One idea is to name it rapid blight. When it is active, it can destroy a green in a week."

The disease currently is found in eight

Continued on page 15

Bonita Bay recertified with Audubon Int'l

NAPLES, Fla. — Bonita Bay Club East's two golf courses, The Cypress and The Sabal, recently earned recertification as Audubon International signature sanctuaries.

"Recertification is not automatic, and initial designation is not permanent," said Dennis Gilkey, president and CEO of the Bonita Bay Group. "It is conferred every two years if the developer shows ongoing commitment to the environment."

Each year, a comprehensive report is submitted to Audubon International that details the environmental work done during the previous year. "We present information about projects planned for the next year, our efforts to protect the native wildlife population, and our work to limit pesticide use," said Jim Schilling, director of golf course operations here at the facility.

The report also addresses ongoing habitat enhancement and educational programs that teach club members and the community at large about the environment, course maintenance and the ways golf courses can be good neighbors.

GOING NATIVE

During 2000, the club replaced a total of two acres of golf course turf with native grasses and natural vegetation, enhanced an acre of habitat and natural areas near the golf courses and eliminated 15 sprinkler heads and adjusted 50 more, resulting in additional irrigation water savings.

"The most recent 2001 project removed 29,500 square feet of grass that needed

Continued on page 14

FEBRUARY 2002 9

Carolina disease

Continued from page 9

states: California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Florida, and the Carolinas. There are about 60 golf courses to date that are known to have had this disease, according to Dr. Larry Stowell at the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute in San Diego. "The disease first popped up on *Poa annua* greens here in Southern California back in 1995," he said.

"That was around the time when more effective and lower rate fungicides were introduced to the market for control of a variety of diseases," he continued. "What we suspect happened is that a switch to reduced risk fungicides might have allowed for this disease to become active."

The disease is difficult to diagnose.

"It acts and looks a little like *Pythium*, but there's no fungal mold, a cottony white mycelium, present at all," said Stowell. "Diagnostic measures require a reasonably good microscope and some technical knowledge. This single-celled organism also is clear, making it even more difficult to detect amongst the leaf cells."

Chytrid started showing up here in South Carolina in late 2000, but 2001 was when the disease made its impact. Dr. Martin hasn't found the disease on any inland courses, only coastal golf facilities irrigating with a high sodium water were effected. "We had an outbreak last spring that hit four courses," he said, "and by last fall we were up to 12 courses with this disease."

Salt water intrusions, high saline conditions in aquifers, coupled with the drought the region has experienced in the last couple of years contributed to the outbreak. "We've had exceedingly dry falls and springs, and we're very low in our overall rainfall that help to concentrate salt water issues with irrigation water," Martin said.

The disease is found primarily on greens, but also has been discovered on tees, fairways and roughs, according to Martin.

"It starts out as little yellow spots in about quarter or half-dollar size," said Martin. "But they rapidly expand up to a basketball size, and the margins of the patches are water soaked. The darker color means that the grass is infected, but just hasn't turned yellow yet."

INITIAL RESEARCH STUDY

The Glen Dornock Golf Links in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., allowed the plant pathologist to conduct research on one of their greens as the disease attacked last fall. "Essentially, there was no information available on how to control this disease," said Martin.

Martin conducted two trials using 15 different fungicides at

the facility. Preliminary data suggested three fungicides that provided fairly decent control. "One was an old standby named Fore that's been used for years," he said. "The other two fungicides are newer, Compass by the Bayer Co. and Insignia by BASF. Insignia is expected to become a registered product early this year."

The fungicides provided some control after a single application. "Two applications proved more

effective as expected and will help to halt the disease," he said. "Several of the standard materials that normally work to control *Pythium* had not worked for this disease."

The golf facility also used other measures to counter the spread of the disease such as altering their irrigation practices and using gypsum applications to help flush some of the sodium buildup in the soils.

"This disease was devastating

to the courses that had it," said Martin. "Glen Dornock has probably saved other courses thousands of dollars by allowing us to do research at their facility. As this disease was attacking last fall, we passed information along to other courses. We need to learn a lot more about this disease, but those initial results were like putting a finger in the crack of a dam. It saved a lot of people some grief last season." ■



Symptoms of chytrid infection on an overseeded Bermudagrass green (Brightstar SLT perennial ryegrass planted plus Winter Plex *Poa trivialis*) in Arizona.

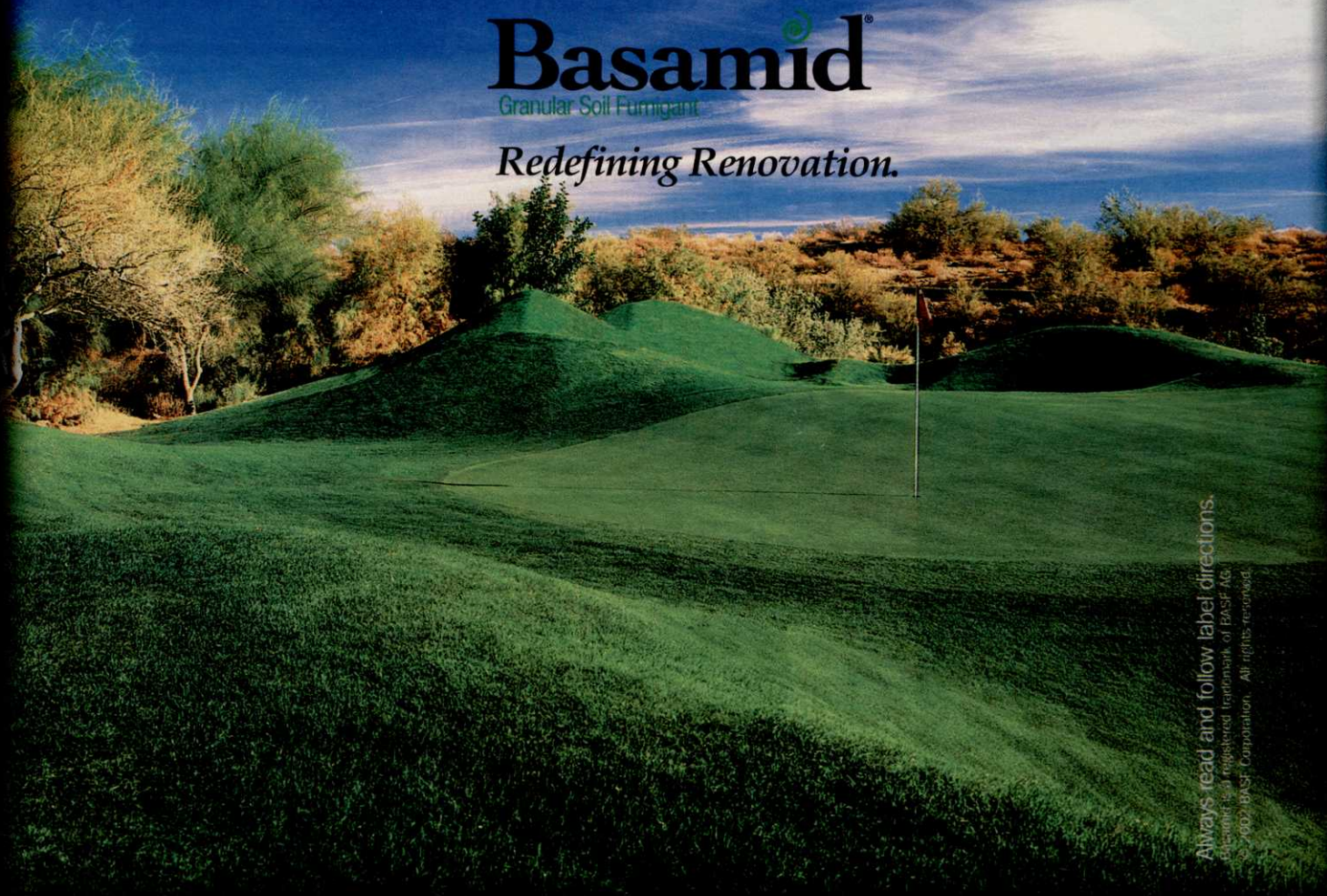
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