Brief bits of news from in and around the golf business...

Superintendents looking for a change of scenery might want to contact golf architect Robert Trent Jones — he is designing what will be the Soviet Union's only golf course. Located on 200 acres of white birch and hemlock 20 miles northwest of Moscow, the 18-hole course should be completed in 1981 or 1982, according to an Associated Press report. The AP quoted Jones as stating that "an American or British professional will be needed to teach the game, and a foreign greenskeeper will have to be employed until a Soviet staff can be trained."

Perhaps the National Golf Foundation should get involved, too, since Jones and his son Robert Jr. said that Soviet diplomats Vladimir Kurznetsov is the only Russian they know who plays golf.

On the other side of the world, another Robert Trent Jones golf course has been purchased by UAL, Inc., parent company of United Airlines and Western International Hotels. UAL paid Rockvortex, Inc., $51.5 million for the 310-room Mauna Kea Beach Hotel and its 18-hole championship golf course, located on the island of Hawaii. The 6,400-yard championship course of the Acapulco Princess Hotel in Mexico recently received a 3-month, $100,000 facelift under the direction of superintendent Carlos Villarreal. All 18 greens were removed and replanted with Tifton 328 bermudagrass; fairways were row planted with Tifton 419. Architect Ted Robinson's layout was maintained to capitalize on the natural beauty of the place, but new golf car paths were constructed and the sand in all 58 bunkers was replenished.

Closer to home, Deer Creek Country Club in Deerfield Beach, Fla., has begun a $100,000 renovation program. Most of the work was to be done last month and this month, while the course is closed. General Manager William Galloway said, "The new lakes have been staked out, and crews have been working steadily for several weeks installing over a mile of drainage systems on the course." Nearly 200,000 square feet of greens and fringes was to be replanted. Deer Creek is apart of a development owned by D.C. Properties.

Golf course operators contemplating building a new course or reconditioning an existing one can get a free directory of golf course contractors from the Golf Course Builders of America, 725 15th St. NW., Washington, DC 20005 (phone 202/638-0555). The pocket-size 48-page booklet carries biographical data on GCBA members. It also lists courses they have done, so you can check with other course operators about the quality of the contractors' work.

Selecting Your Golf Course Architect, an 8-page brochure, is available on request from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. The publication outlines the role of the architect and explains key steps in planning and constructing a golf course.

United States patent number 4165 has been issued for Birka Kentucky bluegrass, according to E.F. Burlingham & Sons, who have the exclusive U.S. rights for production and marketing. Burlingham Vice President Bob Peterson said that the grass has "consistently proven its ability to maintain an attractive appearance under low maintenance conditions throughout 8 years of testing in research stations in the U.S. and Canada."

Four leading turf specialists have produced a new bulletin titled Annual Bluegrass — Description, Adaptation, Culture and Control. The authors: Dr. James B. Beard, Texas A&M University; Dr. Paul E. Reike, Michigan State University; Dr. Alfred J. Turgeoni, University of Illinois; and Dr. Joseph M. Vargas, Michigan State. Single copies are available free, additional copies for 50c each, from the MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, East Lansing, MI 48824. Ask for Annual Bluegrass, Research Report 352.

The Turfgrass Bibliography produced by James B. Beard, Harriet Beard, and David P. Martin has been nominated for the American Library Association's Outstanding Bibliography Award for 1976. The book contains 16,000 references to writings covering turfgrass science, culture, and management from dating 1672 to 1972. It took 10 years to complete. A limited edition of 1,500 copies is available at $35 per copy (plus 45c shipping charge) from Lyle Blair, Michigan State University Press, Room 25, Manly Miles Blvd., 1405 South Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824.

Gary Wirn, director of club and professional relations for the Professional Golfers Association of America, will receive the Joe Graftia Award from the National Golf Foundation at a banquet on August 3. NGF Executive Director Don Rossi will present the award during the sixth annual Advanced Seminar for Teachers and Coaches of Golf put on by the Foundation July 30 to August 4 at Pine Needles Lodge and Country Club in Southern Pines, N.C. The award, named for the co-founder of the Foundation (and GOLF BUSINESS magazine's forerunner, GOLFDOM) and president from 1936 to 1957, is given for "outstanding service and dedication to the educational advancement of golf."

Professor C. Richard Skogley has notified us that the University of Rhode Island's 47th Annual Turfgrass Field Day will be August 23 at the University's Turfgrass Research Farm in Kingston. For details, contact Professor Skogley, Plant and Soil Science Dept., University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

August 23 will also see the Kansas State University Field Day put on in Manhattan, Kan., by the Central Plains Turfgrass Association. Contact: Dr. Robert N. Garrow, Horticulture Department, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (phone 913/532-6170).

Ohio Turf and Landscape Day is September 12 at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. Contact: Edward H. Roche, OARDC, Wooster, OH 44691 (phone 216/264-1021). The National Golf Foundation has scheduled its fourth annual National Daily Fee Golf Course Operators' Workshop for November 18-22 at the Marriott Inn in Orlando, Fla.

A familiar name has joined the staff of the National Golf Foundation. P.J. Boatwright III has been named assistant director of the Information Services Division. Fred Higgs has been appointed executive director of golf at the Paradise Island Golf Club in the Bahamas. He had been director of golf there until being made convention sales manager for the Britannia Beach Hotel in 1976. He also serves as chairman of the New Providence Division of the Bahamas Golf Association and on the executive committee of the BGA.

Clippings

Gary G. Giltnar has been named national sales manager for the commercial products division of The Toro Co. His responsibility will cover sales of turf maintenance equipment for use on golf courses and other large turf areas. Henry F. Pierce is now business center director for agricultural chemicals at Hercules Inc., and Ross H. Allmon is agricultural chemicals industry director. The products they market include Nitroform slow-release nitrogen and Antor, a new preemergence herbicide.

Dave Dudas, a 1977 graduate of Penn State's 2-year turf management program, recently joined Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co.’s irrigation department in Elyria, Ohio, as an irrigation systems designer. His background includes work as assistant superintendent at Grantwood Recreational Park in Solon, Ohio... Mallinckrodt, Inc. has hired Cecil Kerr as an executive sales representative for its Specialty Agricultural Products Department. Covering the North Central states out of Kalamazoo, Mich., Kerr will sell a product line that includes pesticides for use on professionally maintained turf and ornamentals.

Benson J. Lamp has been appointed marketing manager for Ford Motor Co.'s North American Tractor and Implement Operations in Troy, Mich. The Irrigation Division of The Toro Co. has promoted four of its top sales and marketing executives under a reorganization prompted by what Vice President James W. Adams called the "continuing vigorous growth" of the division. The men and their new posts are: Daniel E. Clawson, group director of sales and marketing; Robert Patterson, director of turf sales; Richard A. Danielson, director of marketing services; and Craig Tanner, director of marketing.