Dr. James A. Beard, author of several basic texts and reference books on turfgrass management and hundreds of scientific papers and technical articles, was named the winner of the Don A. Rossi Award by the Golf Course Builders Association. Beard is the president and chief scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute in College Station, Texas.

Dana Garmany was named chairman of the board for Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Troon Golf. Garmany is also CEO of the company, which he helped establish in 1996. Troon Golf also promoted John Sauter to president. He was previously chief operating officer.

Marysville, Ohio-based The Scotts Co. named James Hagedorn as president of Scotts North America. He will direct sales, marketing and operations for Scotts' North American Professional business groups; the newly formed Consumer Pesticides Business Group; the Business Process Development unit; and consumer divisions.

Eugene Mayer, a turfgrass consultant for The Scotts Company, was named the 1998 Professional of the Year by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation.

Edward C. "Ted" Horton, CGCS and vice president of resource management for the Pebble Beach Golf Co., will receive the 1999 President's Award for Environmental Leadership at the upcoming GCSAA Show in Orlando.

Don Ewoldt, CGCS at Chesterton, Ind.-based Sand Creek Country Club, will receive the 1999 Leo Feser Award.

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) elected one new member and re-elected two members to its Governing Board. The new member, elected to a three-year term, is Michael McDermott, manager of Professional Products for AgrEvo Environmental Health in Montvale, N.J. Re-elected to a three-year term were Chris Shaddy, manager of Turf and Ornamental Business for Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Co.; and James K. Champion, chairman and president of Glenwood, Ill-based Riverdale Chemical Company. Champion was also re-elected to a one-year term as RISE chairman.

The Georgia Golf Course Superintendents named its 1998-99 executive committee. Members are: Jim Dusch, president; Franz "Buck" Workman, vice president; and Chuck Underwood, immediate past president. New board members include Sam Crowe, Harold Franklin, Craig Ketelsen, Philip "Wade" Thomas, William Smith, Frank Siple and Jimmy Jeter.

Orlando, Fla.-based Masters Golf Corp. named Norm Haglund as vice president of operations. Haglund has more than 20 years of experience in the golf industry.

Janet Mulroy was named vice president of marketing for Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Granite Golf Management. The company's MG Orender was named secretary of the PGA of America.

Maumee, Ohio-based Andersons Inc. named Michael J. (Mike) Anderson as president and CEO. He had been president and chief operating officer of the company.

Let us know about your people on the move. Send information/photos to Golfdom's Mike Perrault at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440/891-2675 or e-mail to mperrault@advanstar.com.
PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Greensmower
Ransomes G-Plex II triplex greensmower features hydrostatic and reel pumps directly driven to the engine, eliminating the need for belts and pulleys and diminishing noise, vibration and maintenance, according to the company.

The center reel pivots out from under the mower and has an automatic time delay to prevent accidental cutting into the collar of the green. The G-Plex II's 22-inch floating cutting heads provide a cutting width of 62 inches, and the interchangeable reels are available in 7-, 9- or 11-blade configurations. The mower's low center of gravity helps improve traction while new 6-inch disc brakes improve holding power on slopes.

CIRCLE NO. 200

Underwater lights
Low-voltage underwater lights made of durable high-heat thermoplastic composite are available from Kichler Landscape Lighting.

The fixture is UL-rated for a MR lamp up to 50 watts and comes with a weighted base for accentuating features of a pond or fountain.

CIRCLE NO. 201

Twin-cylinder engine
Kohler's new Command PRO 26 horsepower, V-twin cylinder engine with a factory-installed electronic fuel injection system offers better fuel efficiency, increased horsepower, lower emissions and startability in all temperatures, the company says. The engines are as quiet as diesels and have a smaller size and lighter weight. Each EFI system is specifically designed to be compatible with the OEM's equipment.

CIRCLE NO. 202

Computer software
Epani offers its OnCourse module-based computer software program that assists superintendents with reports on the daily operation of their courses. Four prominent modules are staff, machine, maintenance and course.

Superintendents can extract information and statistics that aid the planning and running of the course when using the modules, according to the company. Superintendents will also be able to estimate the number of working hours, plan for various events on the golf course and calculate for the replenishment of supplies.

CIRCLE NO. 203

Soil amendment
Premier Environmental Products offers Greenchoice soil amendment to help improve the health and durability of golf greens. Developed for standard topdress procedures and deep-tine aerification systems, the amendment breaks up compacted soils, leaving a permanently aerated root zone, the company says.

Percolation rates improve based on the increased pore space created by the introduction of Greenchoice into the root zone, according to the company. Moisture/nutrient retention and capillary rise rates may also increase by the material's porosity.

CIRCLE NO. 204

Landscape mulch
MulchScapes offers streamlined, custom application of landscape mulch and spreadable groundcover materials. With a range of more than 300 feet, MulchScapes can apply an even layer of landscape mulch on virtually any terrain in any weather, the company says.

CIRCLE NO. 205

Golf-cart enclosure
Plastic Forming offers the Wind Cheater, a golf-cart enclosure that protects golfers against wind and rain. The snap-on, fold-down windshield and swing-open doors consist of clear, polycarbonate to protect golfers from errant balls. If weather improves, the side doors can be removed and stowed on top of the cart, secured with bungee cords.

CIRCLE NO. 206

Sod cutter
BlueBird International introduces its SC18 sod cutter, which features the same four-wheel drive power of its SC16 predecessor. A depth-control knob offers a consistent cut and an anti-vibration folding handle allows for easy transport, according to the company. Other features include a five-speed transmission, including two transport speeds; two cutting speeds and power reverse; and a low center of gravity for improved stability.

CIRCLE NO. 207

Irrigation controller
Toro's Custom Command Irrigation Controller incorporates a hybrid design with a large display and color-coded, 10-position dial to ensure easy programming, according to the company. Watering options are available in custom models with 12, 15, 18 or 24 stations.

Watering flexibility is achieved with four independent programs with 16 total start times and a 365-day calendar for odd/even day scheduling.

CIRCLE NO. 208
Deck mowers

Befco's Cyclone Flex mowers are available in 12, 15 and 17 feet. Each model features three floating decks with four wheels to each deck, allowing precise cutting over unleveled terrain, the company says. The mowers hydraulically fold for easy transport, storage and blade maintenance.

A 1- to 5-inch cutting height is adjusted by the use of spacers on the wheel spindle, and a swivel restrictor on the center in-line wheel prevents the mower from sliding down steep grades. The mowers' blade spindles have cast-steel pulleys and are driven by two belts with easy access to grease ports and belt adjustments, according to the company.

Bioremediation treatment

Landa Water Cleaning Systems offers the WaterStax, a bioremediation treatment system to remove oil, grease and hydrocarbons from wastewater. The product processes wash water at a rate of 1,000 gallons a day with peak flow capacity at up to 15 gallons a minute, according to the company. With the product's use of enzymes, the resultant water can either be discharged to the sanitary sewer or irrigated back onto the course.

The system consists of three tanks, a grass clipping removal assembly and automated pumps for controlling the use of BioStax GC, the proprietary solution of microbes that breaks the waste into harmless substances consisting mainly of carbon dioxide and water.

Finishing mower

Farm King's triplex finishing mower consists of three mowers floating independently on a lateral and vertical axis for ground hugging smoothness, eliminating gougés or divots on rolling terrain, according to the company. Each mower has three alloy-hardened blades under a vacuum. The mower is available in three models for cutting widths of 13, 16 and 19 feet.

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Events

FEBRUARY

7-10 Fertilizer Institute Annual Meeting
Wyndam Anatole Hotel, Dallas.
Contact Linda McAbbee, 202/675-8250.

15-17 Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Conference
Naperville, Ill.
Contact 630/932-8443.

15-19 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course
Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg, Va.
Contact David Chalmers, 540/231-9738.

15-28 Long Island Turfgrass Management Short Course
Long Island, N.Y.
Contact 607/255-1792.

18 Connecticut Turf & Landscape Conference for the Commercial Groundskeepers Association
Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, Conn.
Contact 203/791-8615.

17-19 Ohio State University’s Grounds Maintenance Short Course
Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, Ohio.
Contact 614/292-7457.

20-24 Western Canada Turfgrass Association Annual Conference & Show
Penticton Trade and Convention Centre, Penticton, B.C.
Contact 604/467-2564.

20-24 Associated Landscape Contractors of America’s Executive Forum
Weston Mission Hills, Rancho Mirage, Calif.
Contact 800/395-2522.

22-26 Indiana-Illinois Turfgrass Short Course
Willowbrook, Ill.
Contact Bev Bratton, 765/494-8039.

23-25 Athletic Field Construction & Maintenance
Rutgers’ Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, N.Y.
Contact 732/932-9271.

23-25 Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show
Monroeville, Pa.
Contact 814/863-3475.

24 NJ Landscape ‘99
Meadowlands Center, N.J.
Contact Mark Graser, 201/664-6310.

24-25 Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School
Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, Ill.
Contact Ron Cornwell, 618/692-9434.

MARCH

2-4 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, R.I.
Contact 401/848-0004.

4-7 Association of Professional Landscape Designers Winter Conference
San Francisco.
Contact Jack Lagershausen, 312/201-0101.

22 Plant Health Care Seminar
University of California Extension-Riverside.
Contact Jan Crump, 909/787-5804.

23 Basic Turf Management Seminar
University of California Extension-Riverside.
Contact Jan Crump, 909/787-5804.

29-30 Building With Trees Conference
Nebraska City, Neb.
Contact National Arbor Day Foundation, 402/474-5655.

SEPTEMBER

21-23 PGA International Golf Show
Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas.
Contact 561/624-8400.

Let us know about your conference, and we will print the information. Please send information at least four months before the conference date. Information should include event, date, site and contact information (name and phone). Fax information to Golfdom’s Larry Aylward at 440/891-2675 or e-mail to laylward@advanstar.com.
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To say that cigars have been in the news recently would be an understatement. Of course, for aficionados, the stories and jokes can grow tiresome. So instead of presidential peccadilloes, let us focus on the reasons to love cigars and what we are supposed to do with them — smoke and enjoy.

Cigar smoking is a symbol of status in the 1990s. And that status carries guidelines, etiquette and a necessary background. So as you head for the sun and fun of the GCSAA Show in Orlando, take some time out for one of life's best pleasures. If you are unsure what to buy, then take this page as a cheat sheet and let the puffing begin.

Cigars wafted to America in 1762, when Israel Putnam, a British Army officer visiting Cuba, brought cigars back to his Connecticut home. Over the last three centuries, cigars have cemented themselves as symbolic of stature, refinement and the good life, as well as having transformed into a multi-billion dollar industry.

If you are a newcomer to the pleasure of a good smoke and are in Orlando, slide over to Arts Premium Cigars and ask for Joe Sostre, the tobacconist who can tell you everything you need to know about cigars: how to cut, light and smoke them and what type of spirit goes best with each cigar.

Sostre suggests that the following cigars are good anytime:

**La Gloria Cubana** — Full-bodied flavor at a relatively cheap price ($5 to $10) depending on the gauge size (circumference) and the length. Experts say the La Gloria Cubana is as close as you can get to the flavor, texture and quality of Cuban cigars, which are, unfortunately, still illegal in the United States. The cigars are made with a tasty blend of Dominican, Brazilian and American tobaccos. They are perfect after work with a glass of cognac or brandy.

**Padron** — At $3 to $5, the Padron label is an excellent starter cigar. Made with Nicaraguan tobacco, Sostre calls the Padron an exquisite smoke. And if you enjoy the lower-end Padrons, step up to the Anniversary Series — more pricey, but even more tasteful. Enjoy a Padron with the sweetness of port wine.

**OpusX** — A spectacular round or a big promotion calls for the best, even if it costs $20 to $37. The esteemed Arturo Fuente Company in the Dominican Republic makes this family of highest-quality cigars. The medium- to full-bodied cigars of the OpusX family are considered some of the best in the world.

Now that you have the cigar, you need the rich culture, complete with epic histories, recommendations, amusing anecdote and list of well-documented best smokes. To move beyond the novice phase, pick up either Perelman's Pocket Cyclopedia of Cigars (edited by Richard Perelman) or the heavenly hardback, The Ultimate Cigar Book, by Richard Hacker. Both will provide useful information, answer frequently asked questions and offer insight into a culture that refuses to be snuffed out by political correctness.

So whether you're a weekend smoke warrior or a budding enthusiast, keep in mind that the good life of cigars will take some homework. Draw yourself slowly into the culture and watch your enjoyment level increase exponentially.

And remember, despite the news reports, the best cigar is just a cigar.

*Editor's note: Arts Premium Cigars is located at 1235 N. Orange Ave. in Orlando; phone, 407/895-9772.*

Mark Luce is a writer who lives in Lawrence, Kan.
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