Leaders  
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Judy Bell, who made golf history by becoming the first female president of the United States Golf Association, will receive the National Golf Foundation's Graffis Award for 1999. The award is named after Herb and Joe Graffis, who co-founded the NGF in 1936 and also founded the original Golfdom magazine in 1927.

Nancy Lopez, a 48-time winner on the LPGA Tour, will receive the 2000 Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA. The award presentation will take place Feb. 18.

Todd Perkins joined the Professional Products and Services Division of Austin, Texas-based Van Waters & Rogers Inc. as a turf and landscape specialist. The company also named Sandra Casserly as a turf and landscape specialist in its Professional Products & Services business unit.

Robert W. Moore Jr. will manage the new Chapel Hill, N.C-based East Coast office of JMP Golf Design Group.

Parsippany, N.J.-based American Cyanamid Co. named Rich Kalik as national accounts manager for its Professional Turf and Ornamental Products Group.

Jon A. Munson was named senior vice president and chief financial officer of Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Troon Golf. Troon Golf also appointed Hud Hinton as its new president and chief operating officer. Hinton will oversee the day-to-day operations of the company.

David Feherty, a former CBS golf commentator, was named the official spokesperson for Las Vegas-based Walers Golf Co.

Columbus, Ohio-based The Scotts Co. appointed Bernard R. Ford as managing director, Scotts International Professional Business Group, United Kingdom and Ireland.

William Von Sigler received the 1999 Award of Excellence from Sharon Center, Ohio-based Musser Turfgrass Foundation. The $12,000 prize is presented to outstanding scholars who are seeking doctoral degrees in the turfgrass sciences.

Robertsdale, Ala.-based Southern Turf Nurseries named John Hamilton as its consulting agronomist for golf course sales in central and southern Florida.

Amy Ness joined EPIC of Wisconsin (West Bend) as a writer/production assistant to work on "Golf & Environment Video-magazine" and projects for EPIC's clients specializing in the golf industry.

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

Deaths

Roy H. Ladrigan, superintendent of the Kenton County GC in Independence, Ohio, died recently at 62. As a husband and father, he was loving and caring, according to his wife. Ladrigan wanted to ensure that golfers had the best course he could possibly sculpt, his peers said. His dedication will be missed.

Events
SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

OCTOBER
20-22 Southwest Turfgrass Annual Conference & Trade Show Ruidoso, N.M. Contact 505-275-2576.

NOVEMBER
3-5 Eastern Regional Nurserymen's Association Expo '99 Atlantic City, N.J. Contact 800-376-2463.

4-6 National Arborist Association's Tree Care Industry Expo Indianapolis. Contact Carol Crossland, 800-733-2622.

7-9 International Irrigation Expo & Technical Conference Orlando, Fla. Contact Denise Stone, 703-873-3551.


9-12 New York State Turfgrass Association's Conference and Show The ONCenter, Syracuse, N.Y. Contact Beth Seme, 518-783-1229.

17 GCSAA Educational Seminar: Maximizing Job Satisfaction Tarrytown, N.Y. Contact 800-472-7878.


DECEMBER
6-9 Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's Conference & Show Columbus Convention Center, Columbus. Contact 888-683-3445.

7-9 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo Atlantic City, N.J. Contact 732-821-7134.

14 GCSAA Educational Seminar Bentgrass Management and Rootzone Maintenance Oklahoma City. Contact 800-472-7878.

18-20 The Midwest Turf Expo Indianapolis. Contact 765-494-8039.


FEBRUARY
10-12 Turfgrass Producers International's Midwinter Conference San Antonio. Contact 800-405-8873.


Let us know about your conference. Please send information at least four months before the conference date to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio, 44130, or e-mail him at fandorka@advanstar.com. Information should include event, date, site and contact information (name and phone).
Golfdom

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Out Of Bounds

SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

baseball mecca

IS THIS HEAVEN? NO, IT'S COOPERSTOWN.

BY MARK LUCE

It's not heaven, and it's not Iowa. But inside a large, colonial brick building on Main Street in the sleepy hamlet of Cooperstown, N.Y., lies baseball's true field of dreams — the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

And as the boys of summer dwindle to the lucky few who'll play in the Fall Classic, chances are that in this month's World Series you might see someone who, years from now, will be immortalized in bronze among baseball's elite.

So as the golf season winds down, why not pay homage to the dirt and leather, and spikes and sweat of what still is — thanks to Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa — the quintessential American game?

Be advised that there's no simple way to get to tiny Cooperstown — only a winding, two-lane blacktop road dropping south from Interstate 90, about halfway between Albany and Syracuse. But once in the town, and later in the museum, you'll be swept away by the serenity and simplicity of baseball nostalgia.

Whether as a family destination or just a father/son getaway, the Hall of Fame offers perhaps the best way to bridge any generation gap — and an unrivaled historical perspective, not only of the game, but of our country.

Here you'll discover the rag-tag roots of baseball in the late 19th century, when players like the notorious Cap Anson and the lawyerly John Montgomery Ward worked to bring baseball from a lower-class diversion to the mainstream.

The museum section, arranged chronologically, offers a trip down memory lane: The 1919 Chicago Black Sox, the dominance of Babe Ruth's mighty bat and the hitting science of Ted Williams.

Bats, balls, gloves, bases, ticket stubs, scorecards, uniforms, programs and catcher's gear from greats past and present rest inside nicely designed exhibits and are explained in straightforward prose, which allows even the not-so-rabid fans to understand how the game evolved and the space it occupies in our national consciousness. Special exhibits on equipment show the evolution of bats, balls and gloves, from the tiny bat of Hall of Famer Wee Willie Keeler to the so-called "idiot tools" of Yankee great Yogi Berra.

One of the museum's more frightening exhibits — the development of the uniform — has examples of the most garish outfits you can imagine, from the bright orange of the late 1970s Houston Astros to the baseball shorts worn by the Chicago White Sox in 1976.

There's more. Sheets and sheets of baseball cards, some of them the same ones that your mom threw away, and several you've probably never seen, such as an early-century tobacco card of Honus Wagner, worth upwards of $1 million.

The museum also has a contemporary section chronicling the historical feats of the 1990s.

The real draw, though, is the hall of fame itself: The bronze plaques, complete with sculpted portraits and descriptions of players' careers, shine in the well-lit hall. And although the pictures aren’t always of the best likeness, the feelings of awe can still be overwhelming.

There's Bob Gibson, arguably the most intimidating pitcher ever; Roberto Clemente, who finished with exactly 3,000 hits before being killed in a tragic plane crash; and some of the old Negro League greats, including Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell and Judy Johnson.

For more information on the high church of baseball, or to join the congregation, contact www.baseballhalloffame.org.

Mark Luce, a freelance writer based in Lawrence, Kan., has 3,000 hits to go to reach 3,000.
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