Located on the grounds of the Professional Golfers’ Association World Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst, N.C., the Shrine Gardens were created to recognize golf course superintendents’ service and contributions to the game of golf.

Beautifully landscaped, they are situated near the entrance to the Shrine building and include a plaque that dedicates the gardens to golf course superintendents around the world. Begun in 1988 and completed last August, the Gardens were publicly dedicated on November 2. They replace a moat that previously encircled the Shrine area.

According to Mike Hoffman, director of marketing for commercial products for The Toro Company, founding sponsor of the gardens, the project is an effort to provide golf course superintendents with much deserved recognition.

"Golf course superintendents are key members of the golfing industry," he said. "They have made and continue to make major contributions to the game. It is our hope that they will receive the recognition in this special hall of fame that they have earned through hard work, expertise and dedication to golf."

The majority of the golf course superintendents in the United States are members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), an organization of golf course superintendents serving more than 9,000 members worldwide.

The Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) of America, the world’s largest sports organization, is made up of 16,000 members and apprentices and is represented at more than half of the nation’s 12,000 golf courses. Formed in 1916, the association strives to elevate the standards and to promote interest in the game of golf.

TORO IS FOUNDING SPONSOR OF SHRINE GARDENS IN PINEHURST—The Toro Company, Bloomington, Minn., recently became the founding sponsor of the Shrine Gardens at the PGA/World Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst, N.C. The gardens were dedicated to golf course superintendents during a ceremony held at the Hall of Fame. Pictured from left, are Peter Stillwell, director of the PGA/World Golf Hall of Fame; John Szafinski, vice president commercial products, Toro; Mike Hoffman, director of marketing for commercial products, Toro, and Randy Nichols, member, board of directors, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).