

as an agronomist for both the Mid-Continent and the Great Lakes sections, bringing the Green Section's total number of agronomists to 14, not counting the national director.

The Green Section staff made about 1,500 advisory visits to golf courses in 1989. The section also produces recommendations for turfgrass maintenance, provides specifications for greens construction and oversees course preparation for the 13 national championships conducted by the USGA.

### FTGA show brings 'Paradise' to Orlando Sept. 30

**E**xhibitors from all over the United States, Canada and England will welcome Florida's turfgrass managers to the Orlando Civic Center Sept. 30-Oct. 3 for the largest warm-season turfgrass trade show in the Southeast.

Theme of the Florida Turfgrass Association's annual conference and show will be Turfgrass Paradise FTGA 90.

Workshops and seminars will cover environmental regulation and enforcement policies, biological control programs and advanced turf

management practices. Continuing education credits will be offered for selected topics.

"Recognized authorities in Florida's turf industry will present hands-on workshops and seminars," said Ruth Shephard, FTGA show coordinator.

For more information, contact the FTGA at 407-898-6721.

### Permit problems getting serious, say architects

**A**ll but one of the 40 golf course architecture firms responding to a recent environmental impact survey by the American Society of Golf Course Architects said they have experienced difficulties in obtaining permits for golf projects because of environmental concerns by local, state or national agencies.

"This national survey vividly demonstrates the impact that environmental concerns have on the golf industry," said Dan Maples, AGCSA president, "and the need for the industry to work with key agencies to develop mutually acceptable guidelines that will be interpreted uniformly throughout the country."

The respondents, all ASGCA mem-

bers, cited wetlands as the primary problem they encountered in the permitting process.

Other areas of concern in the permitting process, in the order of their ranking by ASGCA members, were habitat, nitrates/chemical contamination, groundwater protection and pesticide usage.

New golf course projects have experienced the most delays because of objections by the Corps of Engineers, the survey found.

The EPA, Dept. of Natural Resources, various environmental groups, local planning commissions, town/city councils, wildlife organizations, and adjacent landowners were ranked behind the COE.

The respondents to the survey said they generally contact agencies in this order: local planning commissions, Corps of Engineers, state commissions, EPA and DNR.

Slightly more than half (52.5 percent) the respondents said that some of their new projects had been delayed from eight to 12 months by the permitting process. One-fourth said hearings delayed their projects three to six months, while 22.5 percent said that several of their projects had been delayed from 15 to 30 months.

The permitting process should take from three to six months, said the



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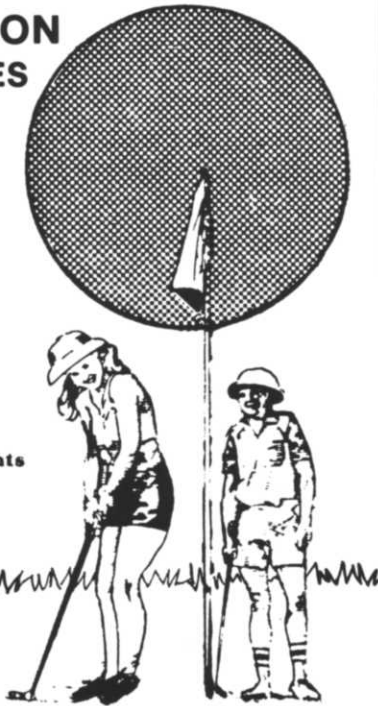
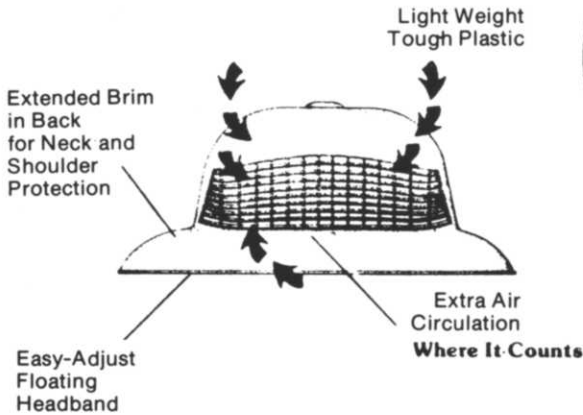
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## TURF NEWS ROUNDUP

respondents, and they suggested that developers factor that period into their planning and financing.

Asked to present actual case histories showing the cost of delays, the architects cited additional costs ranging from \$10,000 to over \$1,000,000. These costs came from additional financing, legal and consulting fees, and rerouting the project.

Half of those responding felt that environmental agencies and commissions impose more stringent provisions on golf course projects than non-golf projects.

In general, the respondents suggested that the golf industry develop a comprehensive public relations program with environmental groups and work out uniform interpretation guidelines with the national agencies, such as the EPA and COE. Those guidelines then could be used by local, state and regional bodies.

Golf architects are environmentalists by nature and training, asserted Maples. He said nearly every AGCSA member, at one time or another, has advised a client to back away from a project that could damage the environment.

"We have not done a good job of explaining to regulatory agencies and the general public how golf courses contribute to the quality of life.

"We must go one step further and work with the EPA and COE to develop guidelines that will help the architect prepare a plan that will be acceptable without a great deal of revision. Key to that, of course, is having national standards on such basic matters as wetland mitigation.

"We need to prepare good preliminary plans that are readily understandable to the laymen who sit on many of the local boards. We must become allies, not adversaries," Maples said.

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The AGCSA is sharing the results of the survey with the Allied Associations of Golf with a view towards setting up a meeting with representatives from key regulatory agencies.

"We are not interested in simply preparing the golf industry's position paper on the environment," Maples said. "We are interested in working with regulatory agencies to fashion a document that can become a working guide for the developer, architect and regulator. Then we will have something that not only will speed the approval process, but help improve the environment throughout the country."

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*Legislation recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives would make some environmental crimes punishable by a \$1 million fine and 15 years in prison.*

## GCSAA donates record \$35,000 for turf research

**A**t the U.S. Open near Chicago last month, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presented a record \$35,000 contribution to the joint USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee to support research into turfgrass breeding and environmental problems.

"We certainly appreciate the support that GCSAA has shown us — not just the financial support, but also the moral support that golf course superintendents have given us," said Dr. Mike Kenna, USGA research director.

Last year, the GCSAA donated

\$25,000 to the committee for general support of turfgrass research and an additional \$25,000 earmarked to fund a full review of all scientific literature on the environmental impact of golf course management practices. Results of that review are now serving as the starting point in the development of a comprehensive manual of best management practices.

GCSAA's 1990 contribution all went into the committee's general fund to support research indicated by the review's findings.

## IPM publication reprinted

**T**he GCSAA has underwritten the cost of reprinting *Integrated Pest Management for*

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