

# TURF NEWS

## ROUNDUP

### ALSO

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### TURF QUIZ ANSWER

Green was unplayable after irrigation. Water covered tops of show soles. Capillary pull in the soil profile was interrupted by three layers of buried thatch.

Soil profile remained constantly wet. Recommended rebuilding to USGA specifications.

Alternatives: deep spiking to break up layers of grooving to physically remove layers.



From left, James Davidson, interim vice president for agriculture and natural resources; Terril Nell, chairman, department of environmental horticulture; Bob Rehberg, FTGA president; John Lombardi, UF president; Bob Yount, FTGA executive vice president.

## Turfgrass industry, researchers break ground for Envirotron

March 11 was a better day for warm-season grasses than warm-season people.

Mid-morning temperatures in the mid-40s chased more than 100 turfgrass dignitaries into a Fifield Hall conference room on the University of Florida campus at Gainesville to “break ground” for the Envirotron. And after about 20 minutes of speeches, more than half the assembly walked outside and braved the bright, crystalline atmosphere to watch five men dig in the dirt.

The Envirotron is really going to happen.

UF President John Lombardi opened the ceremonies with a summary of the \$700,000 research facility’s scientific and educational mission.

“I’m reading this,” he noted candidly, “because frankly I don’t have a clue what an envirotron does. I’ll wait until it’s finished and I can look at it.

“But we all know that the scientific study of turfgrass is important to this state and its environment. Turfgrass in the state of Florida is a big-time industry and everyone will be very interested in the research that takes place here and all of us will share in the benefits.”

Jim Davidson, UF interim vice president for agriculture and natural resources, brought down the house with the observation that “the University of Florida was not able to win an SEC football

championship until we put turf back in our stadium.”

He then recited the litany of the industry’s economic importance (\$5 billion in Florida), noting that Florida had only 125 golf courses in 1953, the year of the state’s first turfgrass conference. “Now there are more than a thousand.

“Environmental factors dictate that we take a holistic approach to turfgrass maintenance. We must not only find ways to control and eliminate pests and diseases but we must come to solutions that are acceptable to our society while protecting our environment

“The Envirotron will enable us to better serve the state and its citizens.”

Science and education will be the major contributions of the Envirotron, said FTGA President Bob Rehberg in the main address.

“One thing this facility will allow us to do is recruit first-class graduate students. We have built living facilities within the Envirotron so that first-class students can live there as well as study there.

“The leaders of tomorrow are the students of today.”

Living quarters and all the other bells and whistles in the original concept survived the design and budget process, although the final ver-



sion looks nothing like the original "artist's conception" used in fund-raising efforts spearheaded by FTGA Executive Vice President Bob Yount.

In fact, the rhizotron — the rootstock from which the entire project sprang — is not even part of the main building. The subterranean laboratory which enables researchers to study the interaction between roots and soils to a depth below six feet is now a separate facility more than 100 feet away from the laboratory, classrooms, head room and living quarters.

"It had to be that way because otherwise shadows would have interfered," said Jack Ponikvar, associate of the Lewis Brown Jr. architectural firm that designed the building. Ponikvar, who has designed several other facilities for IFAS, was the lead designer of the Envirotron.

Construction will begin this autumn and is expected to take about eight months. The facility will be "functional" by late 1993.

"Now we have to raise the money to equip the lab," said Yount, as the participants and onlookers scattered to the warmth of their offices and automobiles.

— Larry Kieffer

## Springtime education brings opportunities around the state

For those clubs and superintendents who strive to be the best, there are educational opportunities aplenty this spring. If you weren't able to travel to the FTGA Conference in Jacksonville last fall or the GCSAA Conference in New Orleans this past February, there are some outstanding local seminars on tap to help you catch up on what's going on in the world of turf management.

**MARCH.** The USGA scheduled the annual Green Section Conference in West Palm Beach at the Royce Hotel on March 10 and at the Marriott Hotel on International Drive in Orlando on March 12. Because of the increasing demand for this quality program, this is the second year that the conference was held in two locations.



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**APRIL.** On April 9, there will be two blockbuster programs to choose from.

On the east side of the state the **South Florida Chapter** is hosting the Otto Schmeisser Research Green Exposition at the Rolling Hills Golf Resort in Fort Lauderdale.

This is a combination event with a morning Turfgrass Workshop with **Dr. Joe Vargas**, Michigan State University, speaking on "Prevention of Black Layer and Fungicide Resistance", and **Dr. Robert Dunn**, University of Florida, discussing "Nematicides: Promises and Problems in Golf Course Management".

Following the workshop, there will be product displays and equipment demonstrations. This event is the original and primary fund raiser for the building and maintenance of the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the IFAS Research Station in Fort Lauderdale. It is the only research plot in the state where tests are conducted on turf maintained under playing conditions. For registration information call the FGCSA office at (407) 692-9349.

**Meanwhile** on the west coast at the Bonita Bay Club, the **Everglades Chapter** hosts a Spring Seminar that is loaded with turfgrass talent! The all-day program includes two presentations by renowned author and Texas A & M researcher, **Dr. James Beard**, "Water Conservation & Turfgrass" and "Bermudagrass Greens Management".

Other speakers include: **Bob Rehbarg**, President of the FTGA; **John Foy**, USGA Green Section director for the Florida region; **Dr. Bert McCarty**, U. of Florida, "Herbicides and New Compounds"; **Dr. William Hagland**, Washington State University, "New Technologies in Nematode Control," and **Dr. Wayne Hannah**, USDA Research Geneticist, "Bermudagrass Breeding and Quality Analysis." For registration information call David Fry, CGCS at (813) 624-6204.

**Both of the April 9 Seminars** will provide CEU credits for renewing Restricted Use Pesticide Licenses.

**Superintendents in North Florida** can look forward to the **46th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference** to be held in Tifton, Georgia on April 13

and 14. There will be a golf tournament sponsored by the Georgia GCSA at 1 p.m. at the Spring Hill C.C. on Monday. For those not playing golf registration and inspection of Experiment Station research plots will be available from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.. There will also be a fish fry lunch at Spring Hill and a 6:30 p.m. putting tournament and barbeque at the Tifton Family GC. On Tuesday, April 14 there will be an educational program for golf course superintendents. For more details, you may call (912) 386-3353.

**MAY.** This magazine won't be out in May so you better check this out now! On May 7, the University of Florida will hold its **Annual Turfgrass Research and Educational Field Day** from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at the Horticultural research Unit on Northwest 71st Street in Gainesville. This is an excellent opportunity to talk one-on-one with the state's leading turfgrass specialists. The event is free but there is a \$5 charge for the noon barbeque. Call Marie at (904) 692-1831 and let them know you'll be eating so they can plan the food. After lunch, the first Gator-Turf Golf Tournament will be held at the University of Florida's Golf Club on Southwest Second Avenue. Entry fee is \$20. The number of participants is limited so please call Dr. Bert McCarty's secretary, Marie, at (904) 392-1831 to insure registration.

*If you can't make any of these events, then you aren't trying hard enough!* Education is the key for the continued success and survival for every golf club and superintendent in the state.— *Joel Jackson.*

## **Golfweek reader poll taps Lecanto's Black Diamond Ranch as Florida's best course**

Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto was named the best golf course in Florida in the 13th annual reader survey by *Golfweek*, the weekly golf newspaper.

"We believe the true test of a course's greatness is the appreciation by golfers of all skill levels," wrote *Golfweek* Publisher Tom Stine in the Jan. 18 edition.

Each *Golfweek* subscriber was asked to rank the 10 best golf courses in whichever

state he was most familiar with.

"No restrictions were placed on the voters. We asked that they consider "design, distinctiveness of holes, memorability, condition, fairness, difficulty, playability, and personal preference. The weight given to each category was up to the individual voter."

### **The rankings:**

1. Black Diamond Ranch, Lecanto
2. Innisbrook (Copperhead), Tarpon Springs
3. TPC at Sawgrass (Stadium), Ponte Vedra
4. Bay Hill Club, Orlando
5. Doral CC (Blue), Miami
6. Grand Cypress (North/South), Orlando
7. Bonita Bay Club (Marsh), Naples
8. Hammock Dunes Links, Palm Coast
9. Seminole, North Palm Beach
10. Bloomingdale Golfers Club, Valrico
11. Jupiter Hills (Hills), Jupiter; 12. Ravines, Middleburg; 13. Golden Ocala, Ocala; 14. Fiddlesticks CC (Long Mean), Fort Myers; 15. Grenelefe G&RC (West), Haines City; 16. Walt Disney World (Magnolia), Lake Buena Vista; 17. Old Marsh GC, Palm Beach Gardens; 18. Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills; 19. Indigo Lakes, Daytona Beach; 20. Grand Cypress (New), Orlando.
21. Walt Disney World (Palm), Lake Buena Vista; 22. Pine Tree GC, Boynton Beach; 23. Lake Nona CC, Orlando; 24. TPC at Eagle Trace, Coral Springs; 25. TPC of Tampa Bay, Tampa; 26. Emerald Dunes, Palm Beach; 27. Innisbrook (Island), Tarpon Springs; 28. Sawgrass CC (Oceanside), Ponte Vedra Beach; 29. The Loxahatchee Club, Jupiter; 30. Bluewater Bay CC, Niceville.
31. Avila CC, Tampa; 32. PGA National (Champion), Palm Beach Gardens; 33. Key Biscayne, Miami; 34. The Reserve, Port St. Lucie; 35. Amelia Island Plantation (Long Point), Amelia Island; 36. Hawk's Nest, Vero Beach; 37. JDM CC (East), Palm Beach Gardens; 38. Mayacoo Lakes CC, Palm Beach; 39. Eagle Creek CC, Naples; 40. Palm Beach Polo (Cypress), West Palm Beach.
41. Hunter's Green, Tampa; 42. River Wilderness, Parrish; 43. Wildcat Run, Estero; 44. Errol CC, Apopka; 45. Club at Pelican Bay, Naples; 46. Adios CC, Coconut Creek; 47. Kissimmee Bay CC, Kissimmee; 48. Pelican's Nest, Bonita Springs; 49. Harbor Hills G&CC, Lady Lake; 50. DeBary Plantation, DeBary.

Two weeks earlier, the publication named 17 Florida courses in its annual list of the "50 most distinctive development courses in the Southeastern United States."

No selection criteria were listed but Black Diamond made that list as well.

### **The honorees, in alphabetical order:**

Alaqua CC, Longwood; Black Diamond



Ranch, Lecanto; Bloomingdale Golfers Club, Valrico; Bonita Bay Club, Bonita Springs; Cobblestone CC, Palm City; Emerald Bay, Destin; Hammock Dunes Links, Palm Coast; Ibis G&CC (The Legend), West Palm Beach; Ironhorse CC, West Palm Beach;

Lake Nona Club, Orlando; Lely Resort (Flamingo Island); Magnolia Point, Green Cove Springs; Old Mash GC, North Palm Beach; TPC of Tampa Bay, Tampa; Weston Hills, Fort Lauderdale; Wildcat Run, Estero; Willoughby GC, Stuart.

**PGA National to be featured on TV show**

PGA National GC in Palm Beach Gardens will be one of the courses featured in the PGA of America's nationally syndicated TV program, PGA's Golf Almanac.

In its third year, the series will expand from 10 to 13 weeks for each of the PGA's 41 sections. The 30-minute shows will air in both Florida sections beginning the weekend of April 4 and ending June 27.



Robert Trent Jones Sr. in oil portrait by Arthur Weaver

**USGA honors Robert Trent Jones Sr. with portrait for permanent display in Golf House**

An oil portrait of golf architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. by renowned British artist

Arthur Weaver was unveiled during the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association in Palm Beach in February.

"It was an occasion I will always remember," Jones said. "I was simply delighted with Arthur Weaver's work and am honored the USGA will display it."

It was the first of two February honors for the architect. He received the Don Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans.

Jones's portrait will hang at the USGA's Museum, Golf House, in Far Hills, N.J. He becomes the 17th golf dignitary — and the first golf architect — honored with a portrait. Others include Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet, Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Gene Sarazen and Glenna Collett Vare. A selection of Arthur Weaver's landscapes was exhibited at Golf House last summer. The museum is open from 9 to 5 weekdays and 10 to 4 on weekends.

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## ASGCA honors Paul Fullmer with 1992 Donald Ross Award

Paul Fullmer, who has guided the development of the American Society of Golf Course Architects for the past 22 years in his role of executive secretary, has been named the 1992 winner of the organization's Donald Ross Award.

"Paul has been at the helm during one of the most dynamic growth periods in the history of golf course architecture in this country," President Tom Clark explained, "and his steady hand has enabled the society and its members to achieve recognition throughout the world as the premier design source. The Society has experienced rapid growth during the past decade and has become a high-profile member of the Allied Associations of Golf, and we wanted to recognize his consistent counsel and pro-active programs by awarding Paul the Ross Award — the highest honor we can bestow."

Fullmer now joins others including Robert Trent Jones and Geoffrey Garnish as ASGCA recipients of the coveted Ross award. The ASGCA presents the Ross Award annually to someone who has made a significant contribution to the game of golf, and specifically golf course architecture.

Fullmer became ASGCA executive secretary in 1970. His golf connection developed through his wife, Sandra, and her father, Percy Clifford, who was an ASGCA Fellow and one of the



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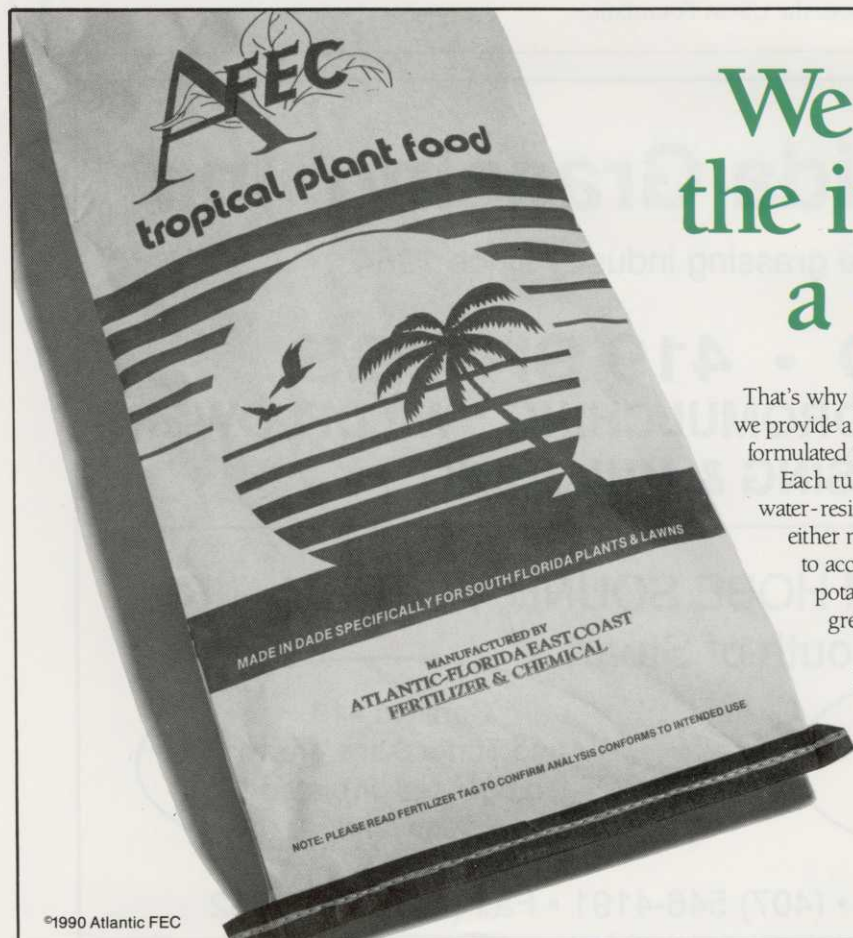
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"Quite simply, I am deeply honored by the Ross Award," Fullmer said.

"I am well aware that staff people seldom are recognized with their organization's highest honor, and this recognition certainly is one of the highlights of my life, especially because it comes from such great friends."

### **USGA presents C. Richard Skogley Green Section Award**

A turfgrass breeder and educator responsible for several varieties of bentgrass and fescue, including Providence and Jamestown, was presented the USGA's 1992 Green Section Award at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans Feb. 10-17.

"I'm very proud to receive the acknowledgement of my peers for my years of research in turfgrass," said Dr. C. Richard Skogley, who has spent most of his 40-year career as director of the Uni-

versity of Rhode Island turfgrass program.

The award has been presented annually since 1961 to recognize distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

An author or co-author of many articles for scientific journals and the public press, Skogley has been a featured speaker at turfgrass programs throughout the world.

He has received many honors, including the Oregon Seed Trade Association Man of the Year Award and the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award.

Skogley retired from URI in 1990 but he continues to provide consulting services.

### **USGA Foundation grants funding to youth golf programs**

A Florida-based program to introduce underprivileged youngsters in 125 cities around the nation to golf has received a grant from the USGA Foundation.

"Hook-a-Kid-on-Golf," run by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association based in West Palm Beach, and the LPGA/American Athletic Foundation Junior Golf Program in Anaheim, Calif., which will teach the game to disadvantaged youths in Southern California.

Both received major funding from the USGA series of grants designed to assist in developing youth and education programs.

Several programs for physically challenged golfers also received support this year, including Special Olympics International; Fore Hope, Inc, of Columbus, Ohio; National Amputee Golf Association, of Amherst, N.H.; and the Physically Limited Golfers Association in Duluth, Minn. Funds for these programs were raised through USGA sales of greeting cards in 1991.

The National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association, in Phoenix, Ariz., was awarded a grant to assist with its scholarship program for financially disadvantaged high school golfers.

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