



New UF/IFAS faculty member Dr. Carol Stiles was introduced by Dr. Everett Emينو at the IFAS Overseeding Field Day held in March. Stiles's specialty is turf pathology and she is looking for input from superintendents on their current disease problems. Photo by Joel Jackson.

48th Annual FTGA Conference and Show

Monday, Aug. 14

8:00 AM Registration

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Workshops (2 hours each). Topics include: Weed ID & Weed Control; Lawn, Trees or Shrub Maintenance; Turfgrass Insect Control; Ornamental Troubleshooting; Sprayer & Spreader Calibration; Sod Production; Landscape Beautification; Vertebrate Pests; Personal Protection Equipment; Pest & Weed Control in Sod Production.

2:30 PM University Tour (Includes the Envirotron, athletic fields, turf plots)

12:00 PM to 6:00 PM Golf Tournaments

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Toro Corn Boil on the Touchdown Terrace

Tuesday, Aug. 15

8:00 AM Registration

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Equipment Technician Seminar. Buses to Lake City CC.

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM GCSAA Leadership Series Seminar - .35 CEU's available.

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM Long Grass Concurrent Sessions. Topics include: Sod Certification; Annuals; Athletic Field Management; Biostimulants; Florida Fertilizer & Seed Laws; Worker Protection Standards; How To Legally Hire An Employee; Pest Control In Outdoor Structures. Some of the Monday Workshop topics will be presented in a condensed format.

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM UF/IFAS Research Reports

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM UF/IFAS Research Reports

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Protecting Our Natural Resources. Special presentation by Wes Skiles. John Wildmon helped in this project which was filmed and shown on the A&E cable network.

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Reception and Trade Show Grand Opening

Wednesday, Aug. 16

8:00 AM Registration

8:30 AM to 11:30 PM Short Grass Concurrent Sessions. Topics include: Crisis Management Plan; Management Practices for USGA vs California Sand Based Greens; New Seashore Paspalum Grass. Some of the Monday Workshop topics will be presented in a condensed format.

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Trade Show Open

Miller demonstrated the methods used to determine damage to soccer field turfgrass based on cleat design.

There were plenty of replicated plots of seed varieties and fertilizer combinations to give the audience a good look at performance differences.

Dr. Everett Emينو, assistant dean of research administration, introduced the newest member of the IFAS turf team, pathologist Dr. Carol Stiles. Dr. Stiles didn't waste any time getting her feet wet as she distributed a questionnaire asking for turf disease input from the attendees.

Then everyone traveled over to the Envirotron where Emerald Island Turf served up another delicious barbecue lunch. Those guys are putting a lot of miles on that tow-behind grill. Mr. McCall, thanks for the grub.

Before lunch, however, there were more turf plots and greenhouse experiments to check out dealing with *Poa trivialis* seeding rates, nutrient concentrations and leaching, light intensity and cutting heights on ultradwarf greens, soil amendments, tropical signalgrass and torpedograss controls and shade tolerance of St. Augustine.

Principal investigators on these projects include Drs. Grady Miller, Laurie Trenholm, Jerry Sartain, Russell Nagata, John Cisar, and Bert McCarty; plus researchers Jan Weinbrecht, J. R. Higby, Ray Snyder, Travis Shaddox, Jason Kruse, Eric Brown, and Jeff Edenfield.

Attending one of these field days is always a good reminder that turf research is on-going and time consuming. There's very little instant gratification in research. It is a body of work in progress that takes our continual support.

USGA REGIONAL SEMINAR

Topics Are Up, Attendance Down

The 2000 USGA Regional Conferences held in Palm Beach and Tampa this year were chock full of interesting information as usual, but



Scott Gillihan, Director of the Colorado Bird Observatory told the audience at the USGA Regional Conference in Tampa that golf courses have an opportunity to send a very positive message about bird habitats to the general public. Photo by Joel Jackson

USGA officials were disappointed the attendance numbers were down from previous years.

The presentations this year offered a wide variety of topics. Some of the maintenance highlights from the Tampa conference:

•Behind the scenes of a major championship - Tim Morahagn, director, USGA Championship Agronomy, had this to say about charges that the USGA tricks up U. S. Open courses to run up the scores, "Some people say we try to embarrass the best players in the world. We say we try to present conditions which identify the best players in the world."

•Regrassing: It's more than picking the right variety - Chris Hartwiger, USGA agronomist Southeast and Florida Regions, focused on making sure greens locations had adequate sunlight to grow grass. He talked about plotting sun and shade patterns before you install the new turf. Other-

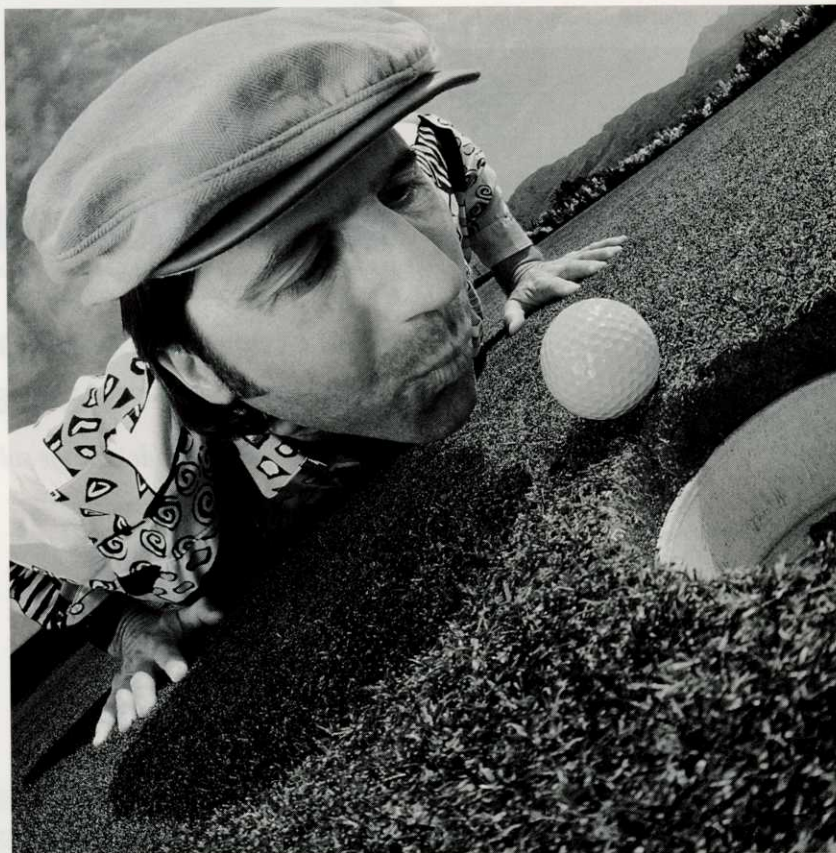
wise the new grass will be doomed to fail as well.

•Digital Imaging: See it before you do it - Keith Harpp, USGA agronomist Mid-Atlantic Region had a great presentation of how superintendents and clubs can view projects before and after the fact on screen to avoid mistakes discovered only in hindsight.

One example was the planting or removing of trees. Computer software makes it possible to install and grow a tree to see the effect it will have on shot values on a digital picture of your golf hole.

•Sharing your golf course with birds - Scott Gillihan, director of the Colorado Bird Observatory had a very hopeful message for golf courses. He has come to regard golf courses as one of the best potential habitats for birds as they become the obvious refuges in the urban sprawl.

He went on to say that domestic cat



Results have a way of weeding out the amateurs.

It can be pretty comical. Until it comes to your course's turf needs. Then it's no laughing matter. So get serious with professional solutions from the turf pros at Southern States. Solutions like proven turf blends adapted to your specific climate and growing conditions. Solutions like special fertilizers and crop protectants to keep your course in top shape. Professional solutions that deliver professional results.

Call the Turf Division of Southern States today at 1-877-383-3199. We'll connect you to a no nonsense local turf pro, because your turf is serious business.

 **SOUTHERN STATES**

Visit our web site at www.turfnotes.com

Growing Solutions in Turf



Dr. Bryan Unruh, IFAS Extension Specialist at the West Florida Research & Education Center in Milton presented an update on his research into Methyl Bromide alternatives at the USGA Regional Conferences this year. Photo by Joel Jackson

Drought Outlook Worse Than 'Severe'

The winter, spring, and early summer are the normal dry season in Florida. However, since late fall of 1999, a large portion of the state has not received any significant rainfall. A recent assessment published by the Climate Prediction Center has more than two-thirds of the state rated as being in a D2+ condition. D2 is the designation for a severe drought condition and the + indicates that the forecast calls for further intensification.

With day and night temperatures building, water requirements of turfgrasses also are increasing quickly. The net result experienced at a large number of courses around the state is growing problems maintaining a uniform green turf cover.

The base bermudagrass turf cover of Florida golf courses is considered to have excellent drought resistance. Bermudagrass is able to survive prolonged dry periods by going into a dormant stage, and then breaking dormancy when adequate soil moisture redevelops. As the bermudagrass enters into dormancy, it quickly loses its green color, but an acceptable playing surface still can be maintained.

Of greater concern at this point is completing the transition process out of winter overseeding cover. With hot daytime temperatures, any remaining overseeding material will quickly burn out. If the base bermuda is under drought stress, recovery will be prolonged.

The following is a review of some basic agronomic principles about managing grass during a drought.

1. **Control traffic.** Heavy traffic on grass under wilt/drought stress can cause permanent damage. Restrict traffic to paths, minimize traffic on roughs to the extent possible, do not allow crossover or the "90 degree rule," and even encourage walking.
2. **Raise mowing heights** and mow less often. After all, the grass should be growing slower.
3. **Use plant growth regulators.** Where

As the bermudagrass enters into dormancy, it quickly loses its green color, but an acceptable playing surface still can be maintained.

appropriate, apply or continue using growth-regulating chemicals. These products can reduce water use rates by as much as 30 percent.

4. Pest management. On a positive note, insect (mole cricket) and disease activity is reduced.

5. Fertility. Defer fertilizer applications, especially granular, readily available nitrogen materials, until the weather moderates. Guard against stimulating too much growth. Sprayable forms of fertilizers can be beneficial when applied in a timely fashion. Maintaining adequate potassium is helpful for increasing stress tolerance.

6. Irrigation water quality. Regardless of the source, it would be advisable to check the irrigation water for sodium/salt build-up. In several locations, salt intrusion is a growing concern.

7. Renovation/Reconstruction. Rethink renovation or reconstruction projects. In general, do not disturb the turf unless you have the ability to irrigate these areas. Be patient, wait for better weather, and monitor district and local regulations covering renovation and turf establishment.

Remember that all golf courses represent the turfgrass industry and the game of golf. Respect irrigation regulations and requests for voluntary conservation. While individual conditions vary, we are in a serious drought, and unfortunately no relief is in sight. Hopefully, these points will help golf courses manage their turfgrass through a difficult period. If any specific questions arise, feel free to call our office at 561-546-2620. Good luck and let's pray for rain.

JOHN FOY
Director, Florida Region

predation accounts for 300 million bird deaths a year. Gillihan has authored a book titled *Bird Conservation on Golf Courses: A Design and Maintenance Manual*.

The book is available from Ann Arbor Press, 800-487-2323. It makes a great companion to Ron Dodson's book, *Managing Wildlife Habitat on Golf Courses*, also available from Ann Arbor Press.

•Methyl bromide and ultradwarf updates - Dr. Bryan Unruh, assistant professor UF/IFAS extension specialist told the audience that while a couple of products hold out some hope for being used as a fumigant, nothing has come along yet that matches methyl bromide's effectiveness.

He also reported that California representative Richard Pombo has introduced bill H.R. 4215 to try to delay the ban on MeBr until 2010 to give scientists more time to develop a viable alternative.

Until something is found, MeBr production will decrease and product will become more expensive as we head toward the current ban date of 2005.