Field in Landover Md., the Georgia Governor's Mansion, and the lush fairways of the Sunset Course at Mirasola Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, home of this year's Honda Classic.

TifEagle bermudagrass, which Dr. Hanna released in the spring of 1998, is the third generation of bermudagrass varieties developed exclusively for golf greens at the Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton, Ga. While Tifdwarf had been the warm-season standard for putting greens during the last three decades of the 20th century, TifEagle was bred to meet the challenges faced by today's golf superintendents and the expectations of a new generation of golfers. It can tolerate the intense management program necessary to deliver the putting speed and consistency even club players have come to expect. Traditional grasses, and even many of the new superdwarfs, can't stand up to the physical stress of the lower mowing heights and frequent verticuttings

required to control thatch build-up. TifEagle recovers quickly from mechanical injury, has excellent color, and is extremely cold hardy, drought tolerant and disease resistant.

Dr. Hanna has another legacy, perhaps just as important as his meticulous breeding work. From the beginning, he has insisted that stringent oversight protocols be established for all of his new grasses. TifSport, TifEagle and TifBlair are patented varieties that can only be sold as certified sod, sprigs or seed (TifBlair), and only by licensed sod producers who are required to become members of carefully monitored growers associations. In short, Dr. Hanna has made sure his grasses are grown, inspected and sold under a rigorous set of rules and guidelines designed to promote ongoing purity and uniformity. This concern for the maintenance of varietal purity was a major factor leading to the development of the International Turfgrass Genetic

Assurance Program (ITGAP), the firstof-its-kind effort to maintain the integrity of certified varieties in international turfgrass markets.

Dr. Hanna is currently working on a new shade-tolerant bermudagrass, which he hopes to release in 2007.

#### **GCSAA UPDATE**

## Kuehner Picks Winners in GCSAA Elections

In this year with a slate of very strong and qualified candidates, it is amazing that the FGCSA voting delegate, Dale Kuehner, CGCS, was able to handicap the field so accurately. Kuehner's recommendation to support Pat Finlen and Sanford "Sandy" Queen was prophetic as they emerged as winners of the two director seats out of five candidates. See election results below.





#### INDUSTRY NEWS

Meanwhile, Sean A. Hoolehan, certified golf course superintendent at Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Ore., was elected the 70th president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the association's annual meeting, Feb. 10 in Atlanta.

The annual meeting was among the activities conducted during the 2006 GCSAA Education Conference, Feb. 6–11. The conference is the education complement to the Golf Industry Show held Feb. 9 – 11.

Elected vice president was Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager and director of grounds at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, Texas, while David S. Downing II, CGCS at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C., was elected as secretary/treasurer.

Two new directors were elected to the board: Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf maintenance operations, Olympic Club, San Francisco, Calif.



Sean Hoolehan, CGCS elected president of GCSAA in Atlanta.

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf course operations, Overland Park (Kan.) Golf Club

Those remaining on the board and fulfilling their terms include

Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds, Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.; James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Course, North Quincy, Mass; and our own Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds, Boca Rio Golf Club, Boca Raton.

Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien (Conn.), also remains on the board as immediate past president.

#### METHYL BROMIDE TOPIC DISCUSSED IN ATLANTA

A special meeting of GCSAA staff, including CEO Steve Mona, GCSAA directors, industry officials and a delegation from Florida including Dr. Bryan Unruh and FGCSA members met Feb. 11 to discuss the methyl bromide issue and the possibility of re-submitting a critical-use exemption application. The group achieved a consensus to



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work together to address the two main EPA objections to previous applications (1) No evidence of a significant market disruption if golf doesn't have MeBr and (2) the technical feasibility of some alternatives to MeBr. A task group will be formed to coordinate efforts to submit a more compelling application.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TO BEGIN THIS SPRING

Editor's note: Given the growing trend for counties and municipalities to consider a patchwork of individual ordinances to deal with perceived problems with fertilizers and pesticides, it behooves every golf course to participate in the GCSAA's series of baseline data surveys to solidify and document the true scope and nature of what we do on golf courses. Make it a point to go out of your way to support this data collection effort. It's only your job and golf course at stake.

Despite a growing database available to aid the golf industry in making

decisions, GCSAA is aiming to fill a significant void by embarking on a project this spring that will evaluate golf course environmental performance.

This multi-year project, the Golf Course Environmental Profile, is designed to collect information that will ultimately allow golf course superintendents and others to become better managers, help facilities operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices. The project is being funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf, thanks in large part to a grant from the Toro Foundation.

"Organizations such as the USGA Green Section, GCSAA, universities and private industry have funded and administered research that has be invaluable for the game," said outgoing GCSAA President Timothy O'Neill, CGCS. "We know that golf courses are compatible with the environment, but we also know that there are gaps in the data, especially in the collection of aggregate golf course information. We believe the data will be helpful on many fronts."

The most glaring absence comes in collective golf course performance data. Existing data is limited and not complete, uniform or centralized. GCSAA officials contend that this multi-year initiative will not only benefit superintendents and golf facilities, but communities and golfers as well.

## Blue Tag Rebate Program Nets Donation to FGCSA

The PGA National Golf Club turned in their blue seed tags from their 2005 seed purchases from Turf-Seed,

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