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from page 9

in Central Florida, have made my 1989-90 term a very memorable year.

This past year has perhaps been filled with more reflection than satisfaction, but it has been a positive experience. It has been positive because I have seen and heard the con-

cerns of our members as they seek to become responsible turfgrass managers in the 1990s. It has also been positive because I have seen the high regard which other associations have for the FGCSA. I recall that last August in my presidential acceptance

speech, I noted some of the qualities I admired in my peers. Qualities that made me proud of our industry. It is those qualities that reflect resourcefulness and determination that will help us persevere in the days to come.

I thank you for the opportunity and privilege of serving you this past year.

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NATURAL BALANCE

In the beginning

*There was Earth, beautiful and wild;
And then man came to dwell.*

*At first, he lived like other animals
Feeding himself on creatures and
plants around him.*

*And this was called, "In balance with
Nature."*

Soon man multiplied.

*He grew tired of ceaseless hunting for
food;*

He built homes and villages.

*Wild plants and animals were
domesticated.*

*Some men became Farmers so that
others might become
Industrialists, Artists or Doctors.
And this was called Society.*

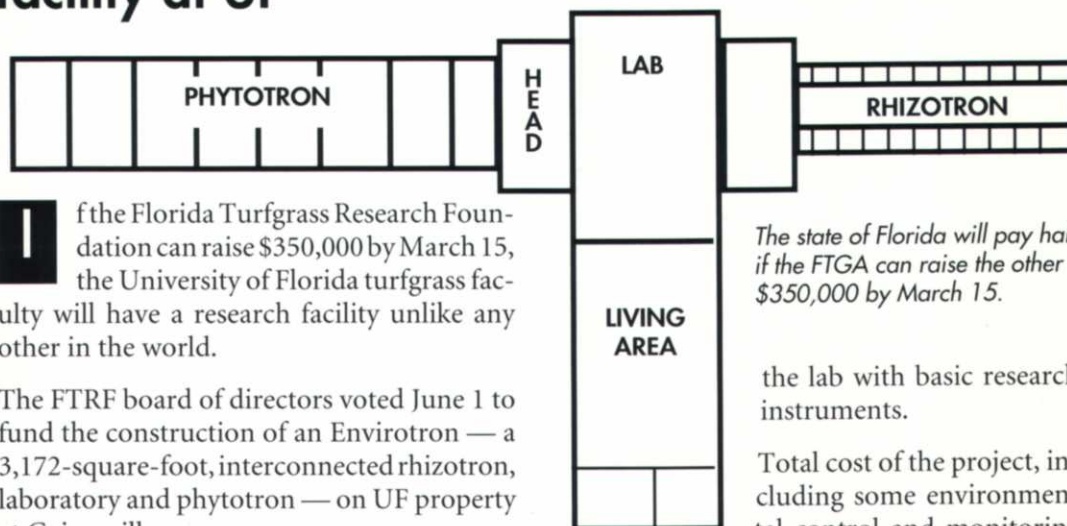
Man and Society progressed.

*With his God-given ingenuity, man
learned to feed, clothe, protect,
and transport himself more
efficiently so he might enjoy Life.*

*He built cars, houses on top of each
other and nylon.*

continued on page 80

FTGA wants to fund world-class research facility at UF



If the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation can raise \$350,000 by March 15, the University of Florida turfgrass faculty will have a research facility unlike any other in the world.

The FTRF board of directors voted June 1 to fund the construction of an Envirottron — a 3,172-square-foot, interconnected rhizotron, laboratory and phytotron — on UF property at Gainesville.

“There are some phytotrons (elaborate greenhouses) around and quite a few rhizotrons (underground facilities for observing roots and soil), but I don’t know of another place in the world that has them both at one spot and all connected to a laboratory,” said Dr. Ed Freeman, a UF plant pathologist. “This facility would put us right at the top of the heap. We’re *very* excited.

“To have such a thing would be a significant achievement for the whole turf industry in Florida.”

In addition to the rhizotron, which will include living quarters for researchers conducting short-term projects or graduate assistants monitoring projects which require frequent checking, the board also voted to construct an automatic, retractable rain shelter for the rhizotron, to purchase turf maintenance equipment, to install an irrigation system and hazardous materials storage area, and to equip

The state of Florida will pay half if the FTGA can raise the other \$350,000 by March 15.

the lab with basic research instruments.

Total cost of the project, including some environmental control and monitoring equipment, will be \$700,000.

Under the current state guidelines, The Florida Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund will match donations dollar for dollar, meaning that if the FTRF raises \$350,000, the trust fund will match the donation.

The money must be raised by March 15 in order for the trust fund to agree to match it before the Florida Legislature, which must then approve the project, convenes April 1.

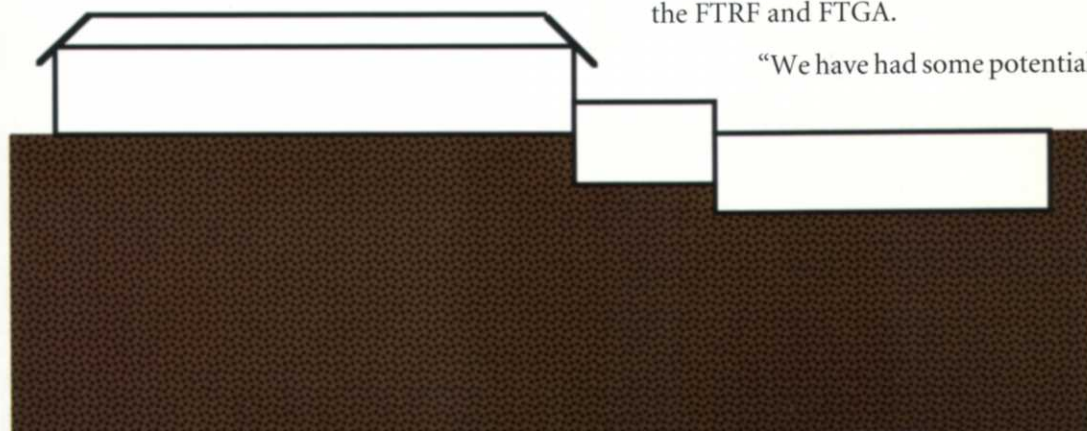
If all goes well, construction could begin next summer and “we could be seeing some research results within three years,” said Freeman. “I’m no construction expert, but I don’t think it will take that long to build it and we have some projects waiting for the facility that could be yielding some results rather quickly.”

“I want to emphasize that fund-raising for this project will not take the place of our Arnold Palmer Endowment program, which is on schedule and will continue that way,” said Bob Yount, executive director of both the FTRF and FTGA.

“We have had some potential

.....
CORRECTION

It’s been spelled SARA, SERA and even CERA, but the correct spelling of the federal law requiring facilities which store hazardous materials to notify local emergency planning groups is SARA. The letters stand for Superfund Amendment Re-authorization Act. We picked one of the wrong spellings for a story in the last issue.



donors who could help us in a large way who were looking for some bricks and mortar they could fund. This (the Envirotron) gives them that opportunity.”

According to Dr. Everett Emino, another UF turfgrass faculty member, the word “Envirotron” comes from the Latin *environ* — to encircle — and the Greek *tron* — instrument.

“We arrived at the name during a faculty meeting at which we were discussing the possibility of getting a rhizotron here,” said Freeman. “Then somebody — and I honestly can’t remember who it was — said we really needed a facility to study the complete environment surrounding turfgrass.

“And that’s how we coined the word, ‘Envirotron’.”

USGA Green Section makes Florida a separate region

Five years ago, Florida did not have a United States Golf Association agronomist to call its own.

Now the USGA Green Section has made Florida its seventh region, the only state to comprise a region on its own, and soon it will have two agronomists assigned to the state full time.

John Foy, hired in 1985 as the first Green Section agronomist in the Southeast Region assigned full-time to Florida, was named director of the new Florida Region April 16.

The Florida Regional office will stay

in Hobe Sound, where Foy will be assisted by an agronomist who was being hired as this section went to press.

“Two factors led to the decision to make Florida its own region,” said Foy. “First, the agronomic conditions and environmental problems in Florida are unique.

“Second, I made 186 official course visits last year and we could have made more if we had had another agronomist down here to make them.”

Foy’s appointment was one of six announced by the USGA Green Section in mid-April, highlighted by the promotion of Jim Snow, former director of the Northeast Region, to national director, succeeding Bill Bengueyfield who retired March 31.

Snow joined the USGA in 1976 as an



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agronomist and took over the Northeast Section in 1982. A native of Trumansburg, N.Y., he was graduated from Cornell University in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture and received his master's degree from Cornell two years later.

As national director, Snow will be responsible for directing the Green Section's national program and its agronomists, supervising the championship course preparation program, and editing the magazine, *The Green Section Record*.

He also will succeed Benegayfield as chairman of the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee, now involved in developing low-maintenance grasses.

Mike Kenna, who held the Young Scientist Chair on the USGA Research Committee for three years, was named the Green Section's first director of research.

Kenna, formerly director of the turfgrass program for Oklahoma State University's Extension Service, originally had been hired to help Foy in Florida but took the new post when it was created.

"He has outstanding credentials," said Foy. "I was looking forward to working with him down here, but the whole program will benefit from Mike's expertise now."

Dean Knuth, the USGA's director of handicapping, was given the added responsibility of director of Green Section administration, succeeding Charles Smith, who also retired March 31. Knuth directed the development of the USGA's new Slope handicap method.

David Oatis, formerly an agronomist in the Mid-Atlantic office, was named to succeed Snow as director of the Northeast Section.

Finally, Robert C. Vavrek, Jr. was hired

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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

Exhibitors 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

All 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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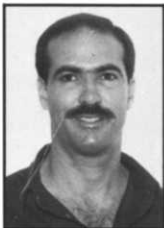
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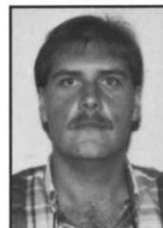
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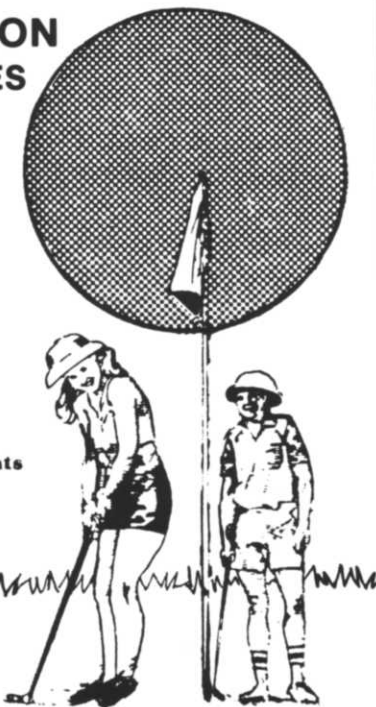
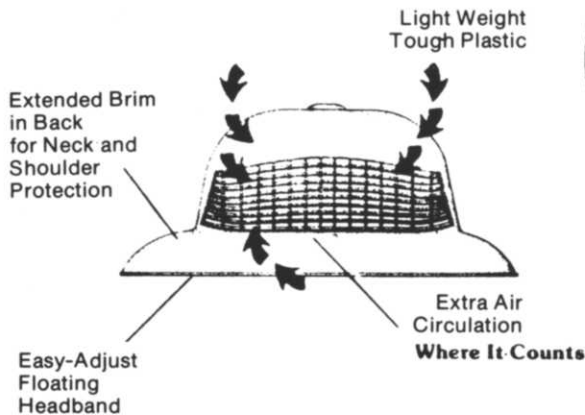
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TURF NEWS ROUNDUP

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."

.....
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

At 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

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

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Turfgrass and Ornamentals, a compendium of articles on IPM collected by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The book contains articles that explain how to avoid unnecessary use of chemicals by advocating careful monitoring of pesticide applications. By stressing the judicious use of pesticides and herbicides through an IPM philosophy, golf superintendents can reduce their reliance on chemicals in maintaining their courses.

The book is available through the GCSAA office of government relations at \$10 for members and \$2 more for nonmembers.

.....
U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) has introduced legislation that would require pesticide applicators to keep records of ALL applications.

Minn. woman becomes 10,000th member

The Golf Course Superintendents Association gained its 10,000th member in late May when Norma M. O'Leary, superintendent at Silver Bay (Minn.) CC joined the 64-year-old organization.

The organization has 901 members in Florida, more than in any other state. California is second with 737.

O'Leary said her membership "will keep me in touch with current events in turf management, and the education and information programs will help me stay on top of my job."

According to Pat Jones, GCSAA director of communication, the association does not keep track of its

members by gender.

The GCSAA, which had fewer than 5,000 members in 1983, passed the 9,000 mark last October.

The GCSAA was founded in 1926 as the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. Today it is the only international organization that serves the professional golf course superintendent, with special emphasis on working with legislators and regulators to promote environmental protection and to communicate the importance of sound ecological management to its members through education and research.

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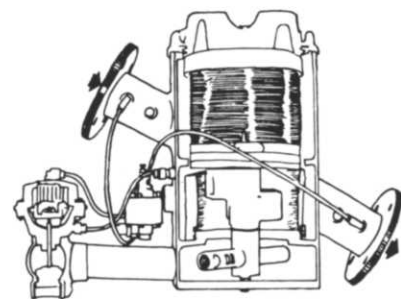
the root system.

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