

## **USGA Green Section, Society of Architects, Owners pass out kudos**

Dr. Joseph Troll, a renowned turfgrass educator, was presented the 1991 USGA Green Section Award at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas last month.

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

During his tenure at the University of Massachusetts, an estimated 1,100 students were graduated from the program he directed. Most became golf course superintendents.

Troll helped establish the Turf Research Center in South Deerfield, Mass., which is active in all aspects of research and testing new grass varieties.

Although he retired from the university in 1988, Troll remains general chairman of the Massachusetts Turf Conference and assists the Northeast Region of the USGA Green Section on its advisory visits.

He was awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1983.

• **Michael F. Bonallack**, secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

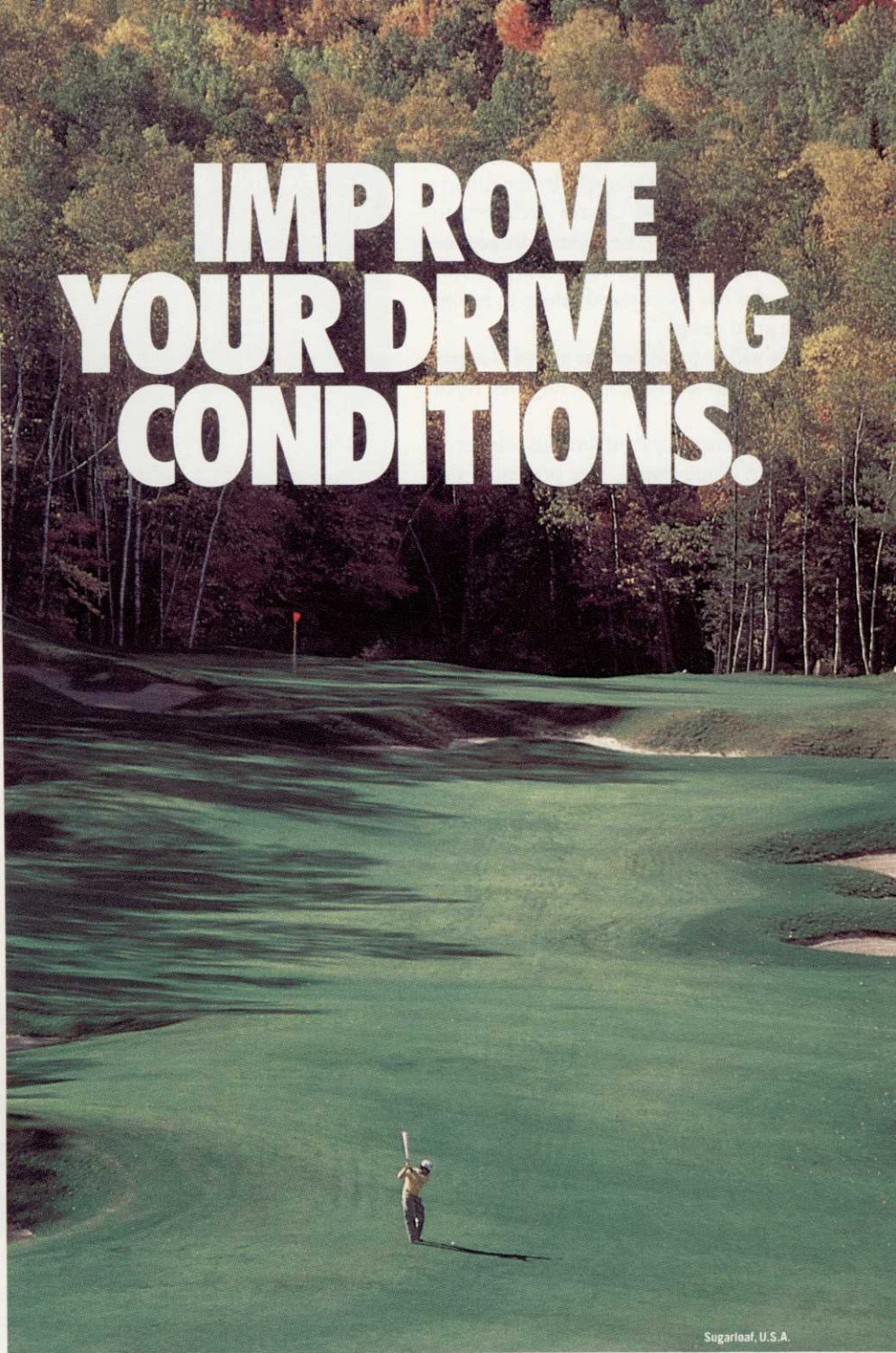
### **PREVIOUS WINNERS**

**USGA Green Section Award:** John Monteith Jr., Lawrence S. Dickinson, O.J. Noer, Joseph Valentine, Glenn W. Burton, H. Burton Musser, Elmer J. Michael, James L. Haines, Fred Grau, Eberhard R. Steiniger, Tom Mascaro, Herb and Joe Graffis, Marvin H. Ferguson, Howard Sprague, Fanny-Fern Davis, James R. Watson, Edward Casey, Jesse DeFrance, Arthur A. Snyder, C. Reed Funk, Joseph M. Duich, Charles G. Wilson, Alexander Radko, William Daniel, Dr. Victor B. Youngner, James B. Moncrief, Sherwood Moore, Roy Goss, James B. Beard, Chester Mendenhall, Joseph Troll.

**Donald Ross Award:** Robert Trent Jones, Herbert Warren Wind, Herb and Joe Graffis, Joe Dey, Gerald Micklem, James Rhodes, Geoffrey Cornish, Al Radko, Dinah Shore, Peter Dobreiner, Dean Beman, Charlie Price, Frank Hannigan, Dick Taylor, John Zoller.

**Award of Merit:** Calvin Peete, Kathy Whitworth, Jack Kidwell, Bob Hope, Chi Chi Rodriguez, National Golf Foundation, Nancy Lopez, CBS Sports.

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## TURF NEWS ROUNDUP

since 1983 is the 1991 recipient of the Donald Ross Award, given annually by the American Society of Golf Course Architects to "an individual who has acknowledged the importance of golf architecture to the game and who has encouraged others to recognize great design."

He will be presented the award at a special banquet in Broughton, England, April 23.

• Golf instructor **Paul Runyan**, winner of 28 PGA Tour events, was presented the Award of Merit by the National Golf Course Owners Association during its annual meeting at the Registry Resort in Naples Jan. 7. The award recognizes "achievements which reflect the proud traditions, elevate public awareness, and contribute to the advancement of golf as a lifelong recreational and competitive activity."

### Florida still leads nation in course development

Florida opened more new golf courses in

## LEADING STATES IN GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT 1990

Openings	Under Const.	Planing	Total
1. Florida ..... 41	1. California ... 43	1. California ..... 116	1. Florida .... 1,011
2. South Carolina ... 21	2. Michigan .... 42	2. Florida ..... 93	2. California ... 853
3. California ..... 17	3. Florida ..... 39	3. Michigan ..... 35	3. New York ... 781
4. Michigan ..... 15	4. Georgia ..... 28	4. Pennsylvania ... 38	4. Texas ..... 756
4. North Carolina ... 15	4. Ohio ..... 28	4. Virginia ..... 30	5. Michigan .... 749

Source: National Golf Foundation

1990 than the next two states combined, according to the National Golf Foundation. With 41 openings last year, compared to South Carolina's 21 and California's 17, Florida now has 1,011 golf courses. California is second with 853.

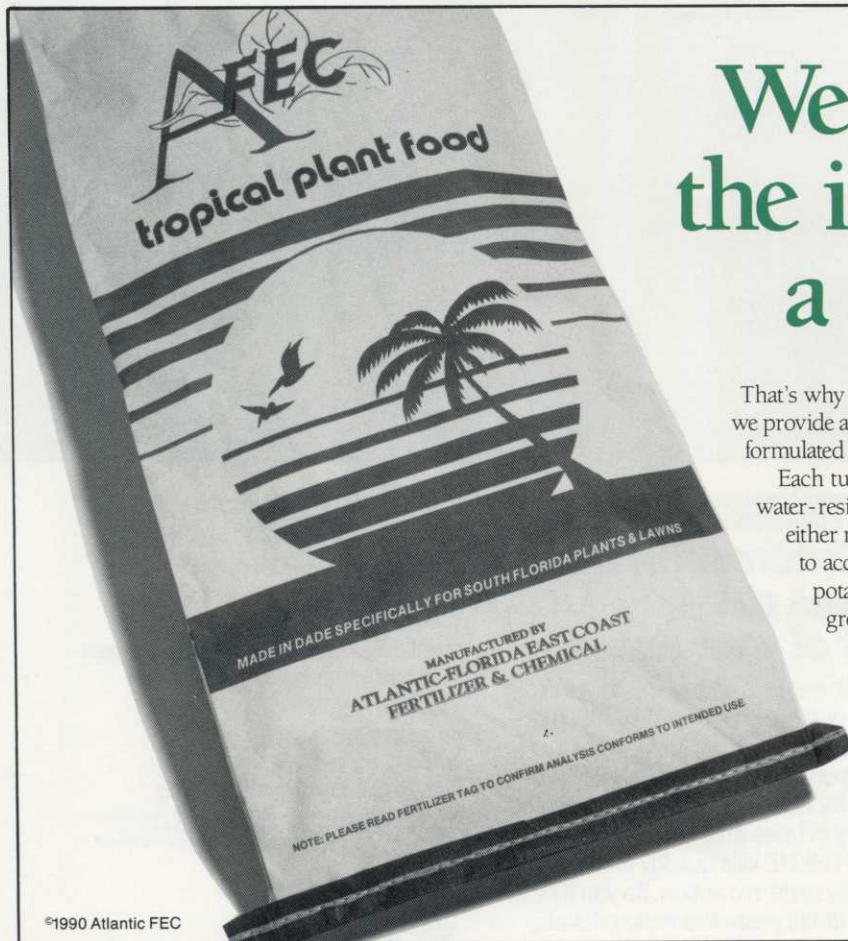
Another 39 courses were under construction in Florida as of Jan. 1, the NGF reports, with 93 others in the planning stages.

California (43) and Michigan (42) were

slightly ahead of Florida in the number of courses under construction while California also led the Sunshine State in the number of courses in planning with 116.

Nationally, 289 courses opened for play in 1990, one short of the 290 that opened in 1989. In 1988, the total was 211. Prior to that, the nation had been averaging fewer than 150 course openings per year.

Despite the economic slowdown at the end of the year, a total of 560 courses were



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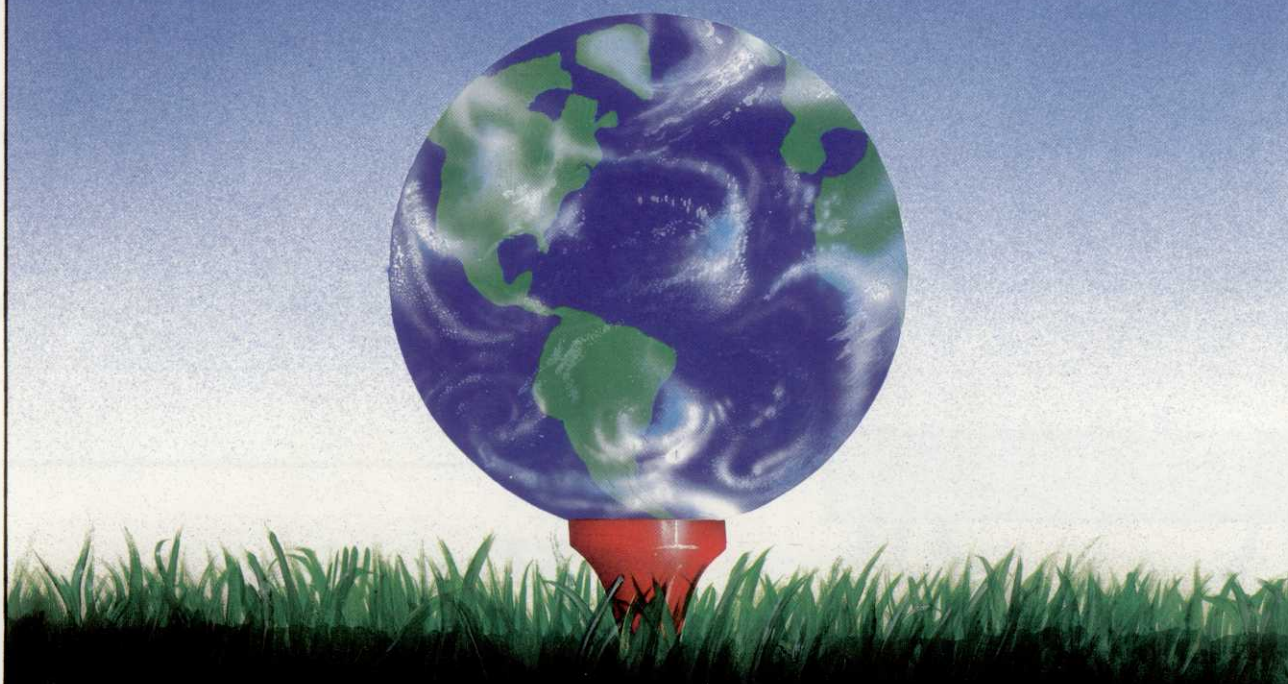
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under construction across the nation, the NGF says, significantly more than the 463 under construction at the end of 1989. The number of courses in the planning stages also rose from 603 to 781.

Of the 289 course openings last year, 206 were new facilities and 83 were expansions (nine holes or more) of existing facilities.

A significant number of the courses now listed under construction are carryover projects from 1990 that had set opening dates in the third and fourth quarters but were unable to meet them. The NGF attributed the delays to weather, financing, and environmental and other permitting difficulties.

A recent membership survey by the American Society of Golf Course Architects revealed that virtually every firm is experiencing increased difficulty in getting permits because of environmental considerations... with some encountering delays of several years.

The NGF's analysis of its data revealed three major points:

- Real estate continues to drive golf course development in Florida to a significantly greater extent than the national average. Of Florida's 41 new courses, 31 (76 percent) were linked to real estate projects, compared to the national average of 47 percent.

- On the other hand, more than half of Florida's new courses (22) are open to the public in some manner, reflecting the ratio of public to private among the state's existing courses. Nationally, 70 percent of all new courses were accessible by the public.

- Among the 206 new courses opened for play in 1990, 60 were nine-hole courses, of which 38 had no plans for further expansion. In Florida, 10 of the 41 new courses were nine-holers. Overall, nine-hole courses today make up 40 percent of the nation's supply of 13,951 golf courses. In Florida, 102 of the state's 1,011 courses — just over 10 percent — are nine-holers.

### **Florida's Taylor retains USGA post; Michigan owner to head NCGOA**

C. Grant Spaeth, an attorney from Palo Alto, Calif., was elected to a second one-year term as president of the USGA at the association's annual meeting in January.

Among the nine members of the executive committee re-elected was F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor of Hobe Sound, longtime member of the Green Section Committee.

Jeff Hoag, owner of Scott Lake CC in Comstock Park, Mich., was elected president of the National Golf Course Owners Association at its annual meeting in Naples in January.

Vince Alfonso, The Rail GC, Springfield, Ill., was elected vice president and Gibson Lunt, Lakeshore CC, Rochester, NY, was elected to another term as secretary/treasurer.

The NCGOA serves about 100 public golf course owners in Florida.



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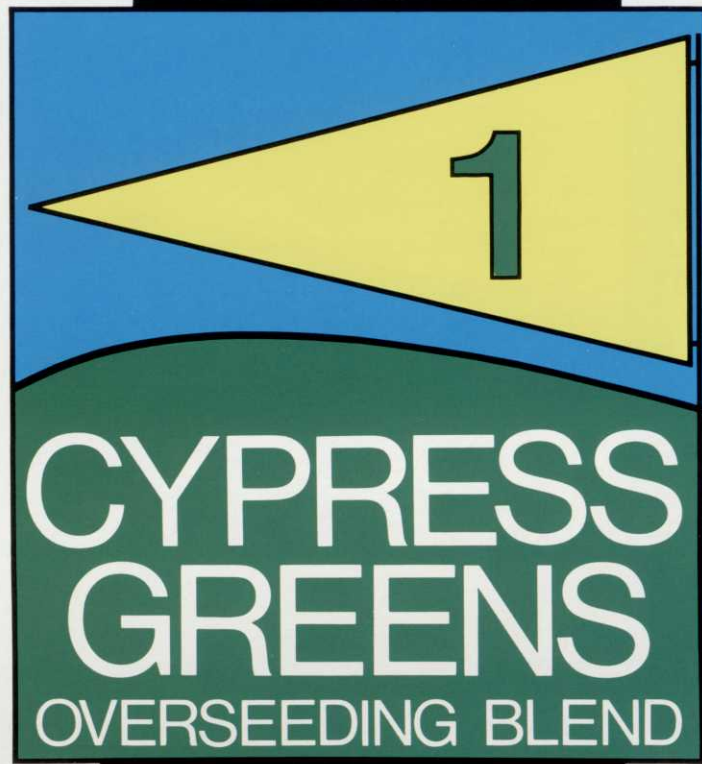
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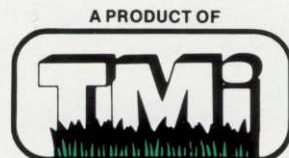
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Ryegrass Blend	265,000	30
Streaker Redtop Bentgrass	4.8 million	5
Creeping Bentgrass	6 million	5



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“From a design standpoint, my number-one concern wasn’t wetlands and the natural areas, but the wind. You can’t see or touch the wind... it doesn’t belong to the terrain of the course, and yet the wind has a lot to do with how the holes were designed and how these holes are played.”

Tom Fazio

# Welcome to

*At the Hammock Dunes Links is the number-one concern.... a*

BY KIT BRADSHAW

There are cranes, alligators, snakes, egrets, otters, bobcats and deer — including 8 to 10-point bucks — flying, scampering, slinking and bounding across more than a hundred acres of multi-million-dollar oceanfront property in Palm Coast.

They establish territories, splash in lakes, make nests, and even cavort across bunkers and nibble on the carefully tended flowers.

David Portz doesn’t care. “This is Audubon heaven,” says Portz.

“You see birds and wildlife here all day long. The humans just learn to cohabitate with nature.”

You’d think the man whose responsibility it is to maintain this precious 100 acres called the Hammock Dunes Links Course would be more concerned when he sees his flowers become a snack for a passing deer. But he isn’t.

Portz revels in the challenge.

“I’m environmentally conscious of everything in nature. I’ve always wanted to give a lending hand to



# Audubon heaven!

*Course along the Atlantic Ocean, sensitivity to the environment and Superintendent Dave Portz likes it that way.*

the management of some area of God's good earth. And I don't think there is any surrounding more beautiful than a golf course," he says.

Tom Fazio's name may appear as the course designer but his "area of God's good earth" captures its character from the wind and the sea, the lowlands and the hammocks.

"From a design standpoint," says Fazio, "my number-one concern wasn't wetlands and the natural

areas, but the wind. You can't see or touch the wind... it doesn't belong to the terrain of the course, and yet the wind has a lot to do with how the holes were designed and how these holes are played.

"After that, the predominance of the ocean at the site and the sensitive areas of the course — hammocks of oak trees, the wetlands and the water quality issues and drainage of the site — became important factors in placing the golf course in the

ground," Fazio says. "I think the way the course fits into the natural terrain of the site is not new, but to me has become standard. We have learned a lot more about the environment recently."

"Fazio," says Portz, "created a golf course that is extremely sensitive to the environment, could qualify as a PGA Tour course, and yet is enjoyable for the average golfer."

Maintaining this natural beauty on a golf course has its own set of





Portz uses a light pen to program his irrigation system on a personal computer. Balancing the marketing requirement to keep the golf course green and lush against the state's increasing regulation of its dwindling water resources is the primary challenge of his job. A graduate of Penn State University, Portz has held several offices in the Central Pennsylvania GCSA and Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. He hopes to become active in Florida organizations as time permits.

difficulties, according to golf course superintendent Portz.

"To the best of my knowledge, we have more restrictions than any other golf course in the state as far as pesticide usage and use of chemicals on sensitive areas are concerned.

"For instance, Orthene is approved because it is not a chemical that persists in the environment and yet it gives us the control we need. But we can't use Triumph on the greens because of its possible effects on the environment.

"This is a challenge," he adds, "but I've always advocated the advantages of good aerification, top dressing, maintaining good fertility levels and keeping a balanced soil to allow the environment to be as healthy as possible for good grass growth. If you have healthy turf, you have less chance for infestation."

The course has five types of grasses:

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fairways, Tifton 328 bermudagrass tees, zoysia around the sand bunkers and in waste bunkers, and St. Augustine in the roughs.

Portz says that his degree from Penn State and his 17 years at Brookside CC in Allentown, Pa., prepared him well for his duties at Hammock Dunes, where he began work in October.

"In this part of Florida, you have cool season grasses and warm season grasses, which is what we had in Pennsylvania. In the North, I think golf course superintendents get a little complacent because they can put their courses to bed part of the year and plan their vacations for the winter. I think growing grass in Florida is a lot of fun, even though it's a 365-day-a-year job. At least that's what I think now," he says. "Ask me again in five years."

Although the grasses may be similar, the type of golf course communities prevalent in the South and the North greatly.

"Much golf course development in Florida is community development, property development," says Portz. "And prop-



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