

# CALENDAR

## February

6-8 — South Carolina Landscape & Turfgrass Association's 14th annual Grounds Maintenance Conference and Trade Show at the Sheraton Charleston Hotel. Held in cooperation with Clemson University, the conference is designed for the green industry, especially businesses and educational institutions involved in lawn care application and maintenance, turfgrass management, landscape design and implementation, maintenance of ornamental gardens for public use and recreation, and nurserymen. Contact SCLTA at P.O. Box 325, Clemson, S.C. 29633.

9-11 — United Golf Exposition and Trade Show in Fort Wayne, Ind. For further information call 800-421-SHOW.

14-16 — The American Sod Producers Association's Midwinter Conference and Exposition at The Hilton at Walt Disney World Village in Orlando, Fla. Contact Sharon Topel, meetings administrator, ASPA, 1855 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008; 312-705-9898.

15 — Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference at the Hartford Civic Center. Contact the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, Inc., P.O. Box 876, Bethel, Conn. 06301; 203-791-8615.

21-22 — Crittenden Golf Real Estate Development Conference in Palm Springs, Calif. Contact Crittenden at P.O. Box 1150, Novato, Calif. 94948; 415-382-2486.

19-26 — 61st International Golf Course Convention and Show, sponsored by the GCSAA at Orange County Convention/Civic Center in Orlando, Fla. \*

28 — New Jersey Landscape 1990, hosted by the Bergen County Landscape Contractors Association, will be held at The Stadium Club at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. More than 80 exhibitors will be present and guest speakers and educational seminars are planned. Contact Skip Powers at 201-664-5228 or Jim Stewart at 201-327-0820.

## March

6-7 — GCSAA seminar on Landscape Plant Materials at Lafayette Hill, Pa. \*

15 — The third general American Society of Irrigation Consultants' Northeast Chapter will conduct a membership dinner meeting at 6:45 p.m. at the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Springfield, Mass. Following the 7:30 p.m. dinner, Irrigation Supply Co. President James Kirchdorfer of Louisville, Ky., will speak on "Use of HD poly pipe in large landscape and golf course applications." Reservations should be made through Mike Agram, P.O. Box 3704, Milford, Conn. 06460; 203-878-0650.

15-16 — GCSAA seminar on Insect Pests on Golf Course Trees and Shrubs at Cromwell, Conn. \*

19-20 — Maine Turfgrass Conference, sponsored by the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Contact committee chairman Kevin Ross at 207-829-3880.

19-20 — GCSAA seminar on Business Communication and Assertiveness Techniques at Minneapolis, Minn. \*

25-29 — American Society of Golf Course Architects' 44th annual meeting at the Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, Calif. Contact the society at 221 North La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601; 312-372-7090.

## April

16 — GCSAA seminar on Calculations  
*Continued on page 37*

# Golf Course Marketplace

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and Practical Mathematics in Golf Course Management at Renton, Wash. \*

18-19 — Crittenden Golf Real Estate Development Conference in Orlando, Fla. Contact Crittenden at P.O. Box 1150, Novato, Calif. 94948; 415-382-2486.

24-25 — Crittenden Golf Real Estate Development Conference in Washington, D.C. Contact Crittenden at P.O. Box 1150, Novato, Calif. 94948; 415-382-2486.

26-27 — Golf Course Development conference, conducted by the Institute for International Research, Inc.'s Real Estate Division, at

Stouffers Esmeralda Resort in Indian Wells, Calif. Contact Conference Administrator, Institute for International Research, 437 Madison Ave., 23rd Floor, New York, N.Y. 10022-7001.

### May

23 — Crittenden Golf Real Estate Development Conference in Chicago, Ill. Contact Crittenden at P.O. Box 1150, Novato, Calif. 94948; 415-382-2486.

### June

11-13 — FIS Congress in Seville, Spain.  
14-15 — ASSINSEL Congress in Seville, Spain.

### September

4-6 — Sports & Leisure World Trade Exhibition at the East of England Showground in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom. For more information contact Milton Keynes at The Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church St., The Agora, Wolverton, Buckinghamshire MK12 5LG; telephone 0908-312511.

\* — For more information or to register, call the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at 800-472-7878 or 913-841-2240. The seminars are dependent upon the availability of the instructors, and are therefore subject to change.

## Dannenberger, Silva, others on agenda

The Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show, featuring talks by Dr. Karl Dannenberger of Ohio State University, golf course architect Brian Silva and superintendent Patty Knaggs of Westchester (N.Y.) Country Club, will be held March 19-20 in Portland, Maine.

The conference and show, sponsored by the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, will be held at Holiday Inn by the Bay.

Dannenberger will speak on green speed and poa annua seed heads, while Knaggs will talk on employee training, and Silva on recovering from winter damage.

Other conference highlights are talks by Dr. Noel Jackson of the University of Rhode Island on new diseases and control methods; Dr. John Roberts of the University of New Hampshire on turf covers and turfgrass maintenance practices; Dr. Stan Swier of the University of New Hampshire on turfgrass insects and their control; Dr. Louis Stack of the University of Maine on annual flowers and bed design; and Dr. Richard Hull of the University of Rhode Island on minimizing nitrate leaching from turf to ground water.

Also, certified superintendent George Howe will speak on winterizing irrigation systems; certified superintendent Chuck Ravis on winter damage; and certified superintendent Pat Lucas on deep drill aerification.

# Parker, plus plastic, puts end to encroaching

BY PETER BLAIS

Ask 100 people what they'd most like to do on a sweltering, mid-August Dallas afternoon and it's doubtful any would choose to get down on hands and knees and clip fairway grass around a green with a pocket knife.

That type of tedious work is an expensive and time-consuming proposition. But until last April it was the only dependable way to stop fairway grass from encroaching onto the greens at Dallas Country Club.

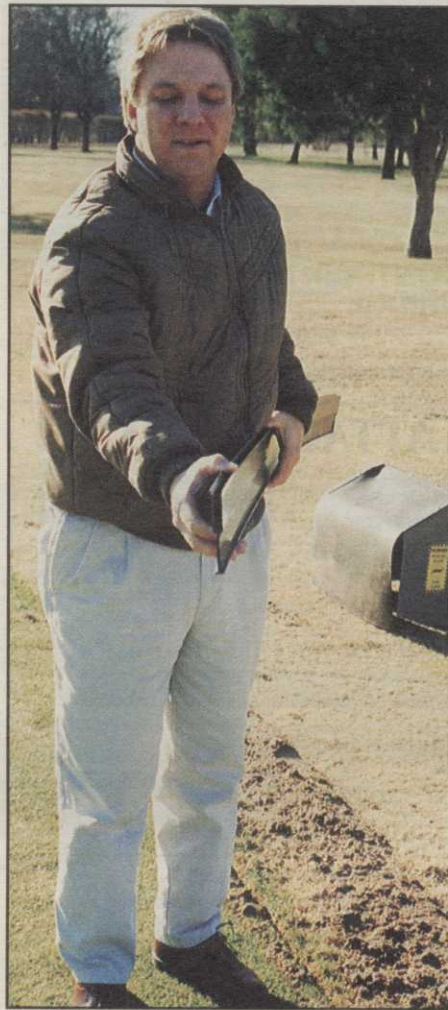
That's when superintendent Scott Parker installed a plastic liner he'd developed around the edge of one of his greens. The liner comes in 10-foot sections, is 5/8-inch wide and four inches deep. Running a regular, manual sidewalk edger through the track, he was able to keep the offending bermudagrass off his bentgrass putting surface all summer.

The system proved so effective, Parker encircled two more of his own greens and convinced superintendents at several other courses to test it. Encouraged with the results, Parker has begun marketing his greens encroachment device through the Arlington, Texas firm Sports Turf Supply.

"It's working just fantastic," said Bruce Hospes, superintendent at Southern Trace CC in Shreveport, La. "We've got it around two greens now and this summer we're doing the remaining 16."

The total cost of that job should run Hospes in the vicinity of \$10,000. Parker believes that's a small price to pay compared to the time and effort involved in trimming by hand, the price of similar products (as much as \$50,000) currently on the market, or (heaven forbid) the cost of ripping up and replacing sod.

"The problem with encroachment is you



Scott Parker with his greens encroachment device

don't see its effects for six or seven years. It happens so gradually that you don't really notice it until it's too late. Then you have to gas it, remove the old sod, and replace it. At \$1.25 per square foot, that's about \$4,000

for the sod alone to replace a 30-inch strip around an average green. That's not even counting the labor and gas," said Parker.

Parker speaks from a decade's experience. After graduating from Mississippi State University in 1981, he went to work as assistant superintendent at Dallas' Brookhaven CC until 1984. He served another three years as assistant at Dallas CC before getting his first head job at Southern Trace.

After a year in Shreveport, he returned to Dallas CC where he has been the head superintendent since 1988.

Parker developed his device as an alternative to chemicals used to discourage the growth of encroaching fairway grasses.

"They've had varying degrees of success. But they don't work on everything," he said.

That left hand trimming as Parker's only option. But since no two people trim exactly the same way, the shape of the greens changed with different trimmers, he explained.

"What we needed was something permanent we could put in the ground," said Parker. "I went to several different plastic companies and gave them my idea. I finally came up with a local company that made a dye for me and produced about 200 feet to try out. We put it in last April. It's worked well. And except for the people who do the trimming, no one knows it's there."

The top of the plastic strips are placed a cleat-length below the ground so golfers won't trip or balls be redirected. The liner extends another four inches into the turf so the fairway grass can't grow underneath and onto the green.

Parker recently developed connectors that will snap onto and firmly connect the ends of the 10-foot plastic liners.

"If they don't butt perfectly, it's possible the bermudagrass could grow through the

opening. That's something he'll have to correct," said Hospes.

Once the connectors are available, Parker said he'll have an inexpensive, easy-to-install product that should take two course workers about three weeks to put in on 18 holes. Plans are to market the device to bentgrass courses throughout the South and Southwest.

If you have a solution to a problem, or an innovation, or a "funny-thing-happened" story to share with other superintendents, we will pay \$50 for the story or idea. Just write to: *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine, 04096, or call Mark Leslie at 207-846-0600.

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