

Award honors Don Rossi

The Golf Course Builders of America awarded the first Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award to its namesake, former builders society director Donald Rossi.

Saying Rossi "inspired a lot of people," GCBA President Perry Dye presented the award to Rossi's widow, Ruth.

"It is especially appropriate that an award bearing his name be a humanitarian award, because what we remember is that he embraced people," Ruth said. "We all brought our problems to him and he relished finding solutions as much as he relished charitable contributions. Every

acquaintance was a friend, a part of his extended family. His love of people was boundless and contagious, and it is this quality that this award will perpetuate."

Joe Much, who worked with Rossi during Rossi's tenure as executive director of the National Golf Foundation, cited his service to the industry, including organizing the allied associations of golf. "His warmth, his sincerity and his humanitarian side were his dominant characteristics," Much said.

The Rossi daughters—Gail, Mary and Betsy—were in attendance while his son, Michael, was in Japan.



Ruth Rossi, with daughter Betsy and GCBA President Perry Dye, holds up the Donald Rossi Humanitarian Award
Photo courtesy of Ken May/Dye Designs

Bermuda super makes do with less

By Peter Blais

John Perham sympathizes with fellow superintendents in Florida, Arizona and California struggling with shortages. But he has some encouragement.

"You can make do with a lot less," said the superintendent of St. Georges Golf Club in Bermuda.

The president of the 14-member Bermuda Golf Course Superintendents Association, certified as a regional superintendents association by the GCSAA in November, Perham

spoke at the International Roundtable during February's GCSAA International Conference and Show in Las Vegas, Nev.

Perham said he uses an average of 10,000 gallons a day "when I can get it" to water his 75-acre, 18-hole course on the water-tight island. While occasional brown spots occur, especially during the six-week stretches where the rains refuse to fall, "usually my course looks as good as anybody's."

Perham remembers pumping as much as 300,000 gallons a day on courses he once managed in Florida, most recently Meadowood in Ft. Pierce. But even when water was plentiful, he tried to conserve, a trait that has served him well in Bermuda.

To save water, Perham irrigates just his greens. He has an automatic irrigation system, but instead hand-waters them, a practice he believes cuts evaporation losses in half. It increases labor costs, which are especially high on Bermuda where a beginning laborer makes \$14 an hour. But the water savings are worth it.

Rather than water-in fertilizer, he listens to mainland U.S. weather reports and fertilizes when a storm system appears headed his way.

Islanders trap rain water that falls on roofs for drinking water. St. George GC also collects storm water falling on its parking lot and stores it for irrigation.

The club's 50 wells have salt levels approaching 2,000 parts per million, Perham said. While that is considered too high at most U.S. courses, St. George continues to use it with no ill effects, he added.

Inevitably, parts of the course turn brown, Perham said. But tourists and natives accept it with little complaint.

"The way to attack the issue is to go to the people and change their attitudes," Perham said. "There is no reason a course has to be green all the time. Golfers have to start accepting the fact courses are going to be brown a couple of times a year."



John Perham

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