

Briefs



GCSAA ELECTS OFFICERS

William Roberts of Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America replacing outgoing President Stephen Cadenelli during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Conference and Show last month in New Orleans.

Randy Nichols of Cherokee Town & Country Club in Dunwoody, Ga., was elected vice president and Joseph Baidy of Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio secretary/treasurer.

Elected to two-year terms on the board of directors were incumbents Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill., and Randall Zidik of Rolling Hills Country Club in McMurray, Pa., along with newcomer Paul McGinnis of Union Hills Country Club in Sun City, Ariz.

SOD FARM INTERNSHIPS OFFERED

Turfgrass management students or those in related programs who are interested in working on a sod farm can submit resumes to the American Sod Producers Association's Summer Intern Program.

Students should send resumes to ASPA Program Administrator Tom Ford at 1855-A Hicks Road., Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008.

Sod farms seeking seasonal employees can contact Ford at 708-705-9898 or check listings in the association's bi-monthly Turf News magazine.

"Sod farms will benefit from this program by being able to easily identify and employ qualified, interested individuals, while the students will benefit by gaining significant hands-on experience in turfgrass sod operations," the ASPA said.

POLYMER TEST DETERMINES APPLICATION

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Aque Gel International, a distributor of polymers, now has a laboratory test that can accurately determine optimum application rates for polymer usage in all soil types and conditions.

Polymers are a water conservation material which, when used in turfgrass or agriculture, prove cost-effective in managing scarce water resources.

LOFTS AWARDS EIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

BOUND BROOK, N.J. — Eight \$1,000 Peter Selmer Loft Memorial Scholarship Awards were awarded at the New Jersey Turf Expo.

Rutgers University students who received grants, based on high academic achievements in turfgrass science, are Christopher Boyle, Suichang Sun, Karen Plumley, Victor Nemeth, Mirta Guglielmoni, James Campbell, Lora Betts and Chan Seok Oh.

Royalties from sales of Tribute tall fescue, royalty contributions from Lofts Seed, as well as donations from other corporate and private sources, generate the scholarship funds.

Bennett overcomes great odds to win title

By Vern Putney

Super Bowl Sunday was far from super for Gary Bennett. The 43-year-old course superintendent at Crickentree Golf Club in Columbia, S.C., was felling trees at his home to make way for a swimming pool. A crashing limb crushed Bennett's right pinky finger. He drove 25 miles to a hospital, where an intern reset the bone and reattached the finger hanging only by skin.

The injury Jan. 26 appeared devastating. Bennett was scheduled to play 15 days later in the championship flight of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 36-hole medal play tournament at two of four demanding Sawgrass courses in Jacksonville, Fla.

One of 11 scratch players in that select field of 100, Bennett's dim competitive chances seemed hopeless four days later when his damaged digit was re-examined.

Bennett inquired of the possibility of playing. The answer was a vehement "No!" despite Bennett's assurance that he had a high pain threshold.

The physician finally said, "OK" but don't attempt to play until tournament day." Perhaps it would do no great harm if Bennett made a token appearance, he said.

Bennett sneaked in two practice rounds here, then spreadeagled the field with a five-stroke victory. He opened with a 76 at Sawgrass Country Club, and added a 73 at TPC of Sawgrass. Par is 72 on both courses.

Jim Sparks, 6-4, 225-pound powerhouse from Champion Hills Club in Hendersonville, N.C. carded 78-76 — 154 for runner-up honors in his tournament debut.

Tied for third at 155 were Jim Dusch, Robert Kronn and Frank Maxwell Jr.

Dave Wright Powell of Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., winner in 1985, 1988 and 1989, shared sixth place at 158 with David B. Oliver, 1986 winner from Martin Downs Country Club in Palm City, Fla.; Mark Hopkins and Tommy Robinson.

Roger Null of Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, seeking his third straight crown,



GCSAA championship winner Gary Bennett, left, is congratulated by runner-up Jim Sparks.

Vern Putney photo

struggled to a 163.

Host superintendent Fred Klauk battled back from an 84 at Sawgrass County Club for a 77 and 164.

Georgia won the team total by one point using the Stapleford Scoring System. Team members, Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town & CC, Dunwoody; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC in Kennesaw; Mike Wilson, Braelinn GC, Newnan; and Randy Waldron, GC of Georgia, Alpharetta. Waldron also won the first flight and Mark Esoda, Ansley GC, Atlanta won the second flight.

The Carolinas, the runner-up foursome, comprised Bennett; Powell; Brad Brooks, Benevenue CC, Rocky Mount, N.C.; and Paul Jett, Duke University GC, Durham, N.C. The Louisiana-Mississippi team was second.

Bennett, who has competed in all but one national tournament since 1979, was runner-up in 1987 at Phoenix and also placed third and fourth.

Despite discomfort and some pain upon ball contact, Bennett didn't let this opportunity to be No. 1 slip away. He posted an under-par 35 on the back nine. Highlights were birdie putts of 12 and 22 feet on the 10th and 14th holes, respectively.

Aware he had amassed a sizable stroke bulge, he played the par-4 18th safely, finding the pot bunker to the right of the green but avoiding water trouble on the left. Bennett was content with a harmless bogey.

Until this sparkling performance in an adverse circumstance, Bennett's top title credit had been as Louisiana State University Invitational tourney low in 1969.

He was for eight years course superintendent at Deer Track Golf Course in Myrtle Beach, S.C., before moving to Crickentree five years ago.

Crickentree members receiving word of Bennett's feat must have responded with a

Continued on page 16

Retirement program established by GCSAA

Association works plan for members with Merchants National Bank

TOPEKA, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Merchants National Bank of Topeka have established a retirement program for members. The program offers a wide choice of investment options.

A 1990 survey indicated that only about 20 percent of GCSAA members had any sort of formalized retirement plan. The survey also showed a strong interest in a plan sponsored by GCSAA.

Financial planners estimate that retirees need from 70 to 100 percent of pre-retirement income in order to maintain their current standard of living.

The GCSAA Retirement Program combines the tax advantages of insurance contracts and the investment opportunities of mutual funds, with no load or sales charge design. The specific investment products are being offered through the Guardian Insurance and Annuity Co., Inc., a subsidiary of Guardian

Life Insurance Company of American. Guardian Life was listed as one of the 11 safest life insurance companies in the U.S. by Money Magazine in July 1991 and has received the highest ratings for safety and quality from Standard & Poors (AAA), A.M. Best (A+) and Moodys (Aaa).

To request additional information on the program, contact Stephen R. Page, registered rep, at 913-291-1001 or Sharon Johnson, registered rep, at 913-291-1003.

Position papers address wildlife, wetlands, other topics

Zidik, Passios, GCSAA staff draft GCSAA statements

The GCSAA board of directors recently approved four position papers that will solidify the association's stance on the environment.

The papers were drafted by board government relations liaisons Randall P. Zidik and Charles T. Passios, and the government relations staff at Golf Course Superintendents

Association of America headquarters.

The papers — titled Applicator Certification, Endangered Species, Wetlands and Other Aquatic Habitats, and Posting and Notification — will be distributed upon request as tools to help educate people and to inform the golfing and non-golfing public about the GCSAA's stance on these issues.

The applicator certification paper stresses the importance of training for pesticide applicators.

The endangered species paper notes that the GCSAA fully supports efforts to implement a successful endangered species program and encourages cooperation with the EPA.

The Wetlands paper recognizes the need to protect wetlands, notes how courses can enhance and protect urban wetlands, and offers a definition of wetlands.

In the posting and notification paper, the GCSAA supports reasonable efforts to notify the public about pesticide applications.