

Briefs



HI-LO LINES UP MAJOR SPEAKERS

Drs. Terry Riordan and Joe Duich will be featured speakers at a special spring seminar Hi-Lo Desert Golf C Course Superintendents Association is sponsoring May 19 at Doubletree Resort in Desert Springs, Calif.

Riordan, of the University of Nebraska, will talk on "Water Conservation and Buffalograss" and on "Selection of Cool-season Turfgrass for Tees and Fairways."

Duich, recently retired from Pennsylvania State University, will lead an open discussion on "An Adventure in Japan."

Others speakers will be John Laverder of Waste Management of the Desert on "Green Waste Laws and Regulations—Time To Recycle"; Ron Dodson of the United States Golf Association on "Wildlife and Golf—Audubon-sanctioned Cooperative Program"; Kai Umeda of American Cyanamid on "Pesticide Re-registration Consequences"; Dr. Paul Beaty of Southwest Aquatics on "Aquatic Management with Minimal Use of Pesticides"; Steve Cockerham of the University of California-Riverside on "Perennial Ryegrass Persistence"; and Dr. Nelroy E. Jackson of Monsanto on "Golf Course Use of Pre- and Post-emergent Herbicides."

No registration will be taken at the door. People must register in advance by contacting Jeff Markow at 619-568-2646 or Bud Lombard at 619-773-9224.

SEED RESEARCH HONORS DUICH

Dr. Joseph Duich, professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University, received the "Excellence in Teaching and Research" award from Seed Research of Oregon. This award was given to Duich because of his outstanding commitment to the teaching of future golf course superintendents and other turf professionals.



Dr. Joe Duich

"We are very pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Duich. He has become a legend in the golf course industry," said Mike Robinson, President of Seed Research of Oregon.

The award was presented at the 1992 GCSAA Show and Convention in New Orleans.

PETROVIC, SHETLAR JOIN ETS INC.

A. Martin Petrovic, Ph.D., and David Shetlar, Ph.D., have joined Environmental & Turf Services (ETS) Inc. as senior research associates.

Petrovic is an associate professor of turfgrass science at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., while Shetlar is an assistant professor of entomology at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Turf experts on search mission to China

By Peter Blais

A small group of turfgrass researchers hopes to travel to mainland China next year to collect native, warm-season grasses that could be used on U.S. golf courses.

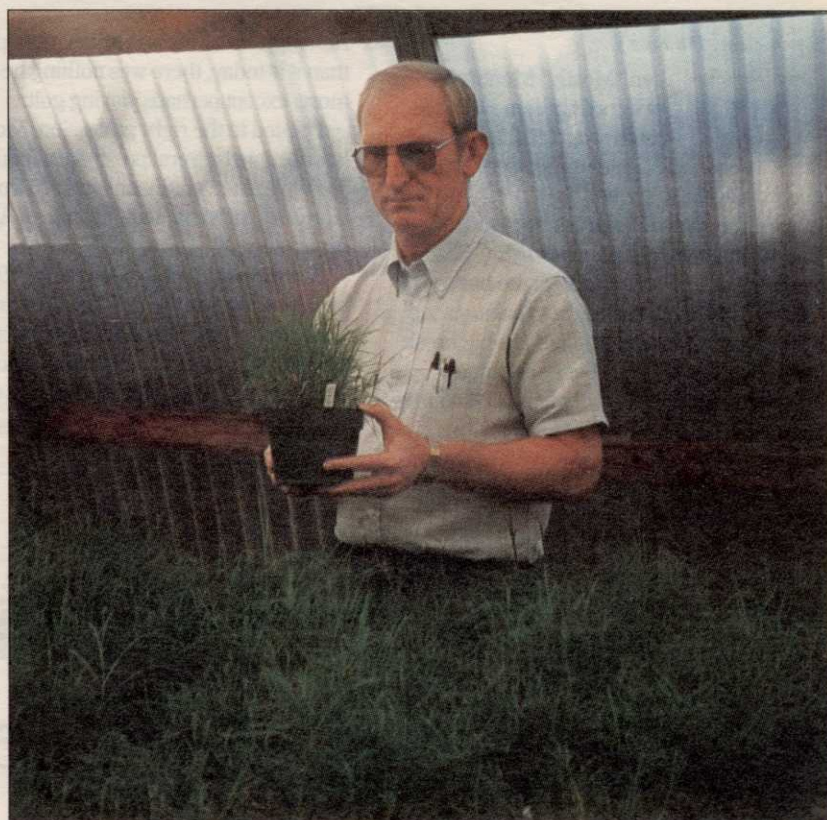
"We'll be looking for plants with increased tolerance to various stresses, particularly drought, cold, insects and disease," said Oklahoma State University agronomy Professor Charles Taliaferro, one of the trip organizers.

"We'll also search for grasses with better seed production potential and superior turf performance, such as fine texture."

Taliaferro plans to submit a proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development by the agency's July deadline.

If approved, the federal agency would pay half the group's expenses and help gain Chinese government permission for the expedition, Taliaferro said. Expedition members and/or their institutions would pay the other half. The Chinese government would pick up the group's expenses while in China.

The OSU researcher said there is "a good chance" the proposal would be approved, meaning he and a handful of fellow researchers could travel to the southern and central parts of China in August or September of 1993.



Agronomy Professor Charles Taliaferro examines grasses at his Oklahoma State University research facilities

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Zidik resigns; Hahn takes post on GCSAA board

Joseph Hahn says he is excited and anxious to begin his duties as the newest member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's board of directors.

Hahn, superintendent at Oak Hill Country Club in Fairport, N.Y., was named by GCSAA President William Roberts to fill the one-year term of Paul McGinnis. McGinnis, of Union Hills Country Club in Sun City, Ariz., is filling the vacancy for the two-year term of Randall Zidik, who stepped down shortly after being re-elected to the board at the GCSAA annual meeting Feb. 17 in New Orleans. Hahn was one of five men who ran for three open seats on the board.

"I'm real green. I'm a rookie. And I'm anxious to get started," said Hahn, 51, a 28-year member of GCSAA.

He said he wanted to serve on the board because

he had worked on several GCSAA committees, liked the work being done and the attitude of the superintendents.

He has been appointed to the Tournament and Building committees. He will be on-site chairman next winter of the GCSAA national golf championship, which draws more than 400 participants.

Hahn has done that job on the local level and is "looking forward to it. It will be a real challenge," he said. He added that he will run for a two-year term at next year's annual meeting.

Zidik, superintendent at Rolling Hills



Joseph Hahn

Country Club in McMurray, Pa., served three years on the board.

In his letter of resignation Zidik said that "over the past several months I have been struggling to deal with the balance between my GCSAA activities and my numerous other responsibilities. Upon returning from conference and following a thorough self-examination, I have come to the conclusion that it would be best for me, my employer, and for GCSAA to resign from the GCSAA board immediately."

Zidik said he will "treasure the friendships made with the association's senior staff and with my fellow board members... Experiences and maturity have shown me that there is no greater gift than that of true friendship and for that I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart."

Florida steps forward with 'model' for research



University of Florida Department of Environmental Horticulture Chairman Terril Nell speaks at the Envirotron groundbreaking ceremonies. Behind him, from left, are Bob Rehberg, president of the Florida Turfgrass Association; UF President John Lombardi; and UF Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources Jim Davidson.

Ground should be broken at UFlorida in October

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — University of Florida President John Lombardi, Florida Turfgrass Association President Bob Rehberg, turfgrass industry professionals, and research and educational leaders recently celebrated groundbreaking for the Envirotron Research Facility on the University of Florida campus.

The Envirotron will be the prototype of a new generation of world-class turfgrass research facilities. Extensive environmental research is expected to benefit both Florida's homeowners and turfgrass industry.

"All of us will share in the benefits of an enhanced environment, a stronger industry, and in the practical applications of the research," Lombardi told attendees. He explained the Envirotron will house a series of

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Photo by Janlark Communications

Agronomists hope Far East proves a bonanza in superior turfgrasses

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Others expressing interest in the trip, according to Taliaferro, include fellow OSU professor Ron Tryland and U.S. Golf Association Green Section Research Director Mike Kenna.

"We'll try to find one or two others," Taliaferro said.

Taliaferro believes superior varieties of Bermudagrass, centipedegrass and zoysiagrass may be discovered in the Far Eastern country. Little germplasm (plant material) has found its way out of China over the past 45 years because of Communist rule and strained relations over

the Tiananmen Square episode.

The Chinese also feel they have been mistreated by "foreigners," who have traditionally raped the country of its natural resources, Taliaferro said. The Chinese, for example, had a monopoly on soybean production prior to World War II. But foreigners took plant material out of the country and that domain was lost forever.

"The Chinese never forgot that," said Doug Brede, research director with Jacklin Seed Co.

To help lessen mistrust of foreigners, Taliaferro said his group plans to share any plant material it discovers with Chinese researchers.

The OSU professor spent four weeks in China during 1987, building a strong rapport with scientists there. Those contacts have been very supportive of the U.S. group's plans and should be helpful in gaining Chinese government approval for the trip, he added.

Glen Burton, a research geneticist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Tifton, Ga., was one of the few turfgrass researchers allowed into the country during the past half-century. He returned from Shanghai in 1974 with a strain of Bermudagrass that was released in 1988 as Tifton 10. It has since become one of the most popular

Bermudagrasses on the market, greening up early in spring and showing good winter survival as far north as New Jersey. It is particularly well suited to roughs.

Burton's success fuels Taliaferro's optimism for finding new and better grasses in China.

"We're not certain superior grasses are there," Taliaferro admitted. "But we know various grasses have existed in China for thousands of years. Where that many species exist for so long, there has to be great diversity.

"China is also a large country with variable climactic conditions. That also implies much genetic variation."

Researchers eye Envirotron as a prototype

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climate-controlled chambers and greenhouses which will allow scientists to study from various aspects the movement of water, fertilizers, chemicals and nutrients through plants and soils.

The Envirotron was funded by private support from FTGA, a non-profit organization, and by matching funds from the state.

University of Florida Interim Vice President for Agricultural and Natural Resources Jim Davidson stressed the importance of taking an holistic approach to turfgrass maintenance in the future.

"We must not only find ways to control and eliminate pests and diseases affecting the industry, but we must also come to a solution that is acceptable to our society and that protects and preserves our environment," Davidson said.

Rehberg said: "If I could leap forward 20 years from now and look back, I believe the greatest legacy this Envirotron will give us will be in the area of education."

To furnish the Envirotron with the resources it will need, the research facility's planners are seeking donations-in-kind of equipment and machinery from private businesses and corporations.

Jack Ponikvar, production manager for Lewis Brown Jr., the Gainesville architectural firm which designed the facility, said a pre-bid conference with potential contractors is set for the end of August.

A contract will be awarded Oct. 1, he said, with construction starting Oct. 15.

He expects the facility will be substantially complete by mid-July 1993, when the International Turfgrass Society meets at Palm Beach.

The Envirotron consists of a research laboratory, greenhouse, study-living area and one of only a few rhizotrons in the world.

Rhizotrons essentially are glass-walled underground laboratories that enable researchers to study roots and soil to a depth of about six feet, except the crucial top two inches of root structure.

