

BRIEFS



**SHIRLEY IS GEORGIA PRESIDENT**

William Shirley of Idle Hour Club in Macon is the new president of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association. Shirley is joined on the board by Vice President Mark Esoda of Atlanta Country Club and Directors Jim Dusch of Atlanta National Golf Club, Mike Hamilton of Harbor Club, Ralph Hinz of The Landings, Bob Perry of Griffin Country Club, Chuck Underwood of Northwood Country Club, Stephen Wilson of Druid Hills Golf Club, and Franz "Buck" Workman of Valdosta Country Club.

**N.C. TURFGRASS EVENT PLANNED**

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Professional Turf and Landscape Field Day will be held at the Turfgrass Field Laboratory (Field Center) on May 12. This North Carolina State University event is jointly sponsored by the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina and the North Carolina Landscape Contractors Association. For more information contact TCNC at 919-695-1333.

**LONGVIEW TURF PROGRAM ACCEPTED**

Longview Community College's grounds and turf management program has been officially accepted as an associate degree program by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education in

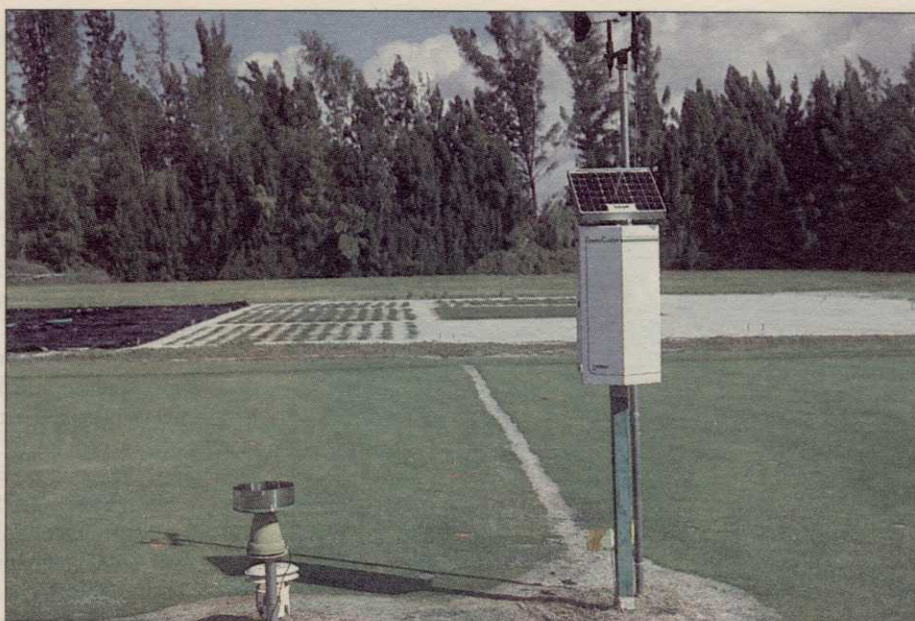


the state of Missouri. Training coordinator Allen L. Earle said: "I feel very strongly that this program will be very beneficial to anyone involved in the 'green' industry. Currently, there is no horticulture degree program in the Kansas City area. It is our desire to present the highest quality training that will be pertinent to 'real-life' experiences."

**N.C. EVENT BREAKS RECORDS**

The 31st Annual North Carolina Turfgrass Conference & Show shattered all previous records, according to Tom Bland, president-elect of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina. Bland attributed the success to a combination of factors, a total-event marketing plan. Twenty-two hundred and fifty turf industry professionals participated in more than 20 hours of educational programs focusing on effective turf management and environmental stewardship based on integrated pest management. Attendance was up 501 over last year's event. The 10th Anniversary industry Trade Show boasted 159 companies exhibiting in 350 booth spaces. The previous show record was 302 booth spaces. Bland said most significant, he said, was the \$66,000 in cash contributions to the Research Endowment and Foundation

Photo courtesy of the Univ. of Florida Fort Lauderdale



The University of Florida's new research green in the background was added last fall next to the old green. The Envirocaster system in the foreground, which collects weather data, is in the center of the old green. The hybrid Bermudagrass cultivar Tifgreen 328, on the left, and Tifdwarf, on the right, are maintained at 3/16-inch height. The new green is being planted with Tifdwarf.

**Florida research green sheds light on effects of maintenance**

By PETER BLAIS

The University of Florida's research green in Ft. Lauderdale has yielded interesting findings regarding the effects of nitrogen levels, various fungicides and maintenance practices on Bermudagrass putting surfaces, according to researchers and course superintendents.

New and ongoing studies involving pesticide movement through turfgrass, organic biostimulants and experimental Bermudagrass cultivars should help Southern superintendents grow stronger turf in the not-so-distant future, according to Monica Elliott, the university's Research and Education Center coordinator.

"The research green project has been very well received and well supported so

far," said Kevin Downing, superintendent at nearby Willoughby Golf Club. Downing is also chairman of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association committee that spearheaded development of the Otto Schmeisser research green. The facility opened almost two years ago.

Elliott listed some of the early findings on the original 20,000-square-foot USGA-spec green and the new 10,000-square-foot, 85-15 (sand-to-organics) root-zone mix addition added last fall:

- Synthetic nitrogen levels can be reduced a moderate amount without adversely affecting turf characteristics, although extremely low application levels do cause a dropoff in quality. Researchers tested low-, moderate- and high-

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**Of putting greens and reel grinders**

By TERRY BUCHEN

One of the more "fun" aspects of being a golf course superintendent is to modify equipment to suit personal tastes, sharing tricks of the trade with our peers, and the art of time/motion studies.

With these thoughts in mind, I'd like to share a few new ideas in golf course management.

**PUTTING GREEN CONSTRUCTION**

One easy way to be able to locate the delineation of the native soil and USGA greens construction profile is to lay a 14-gauge irrigation wire completely around the green subsurface and attach both ends to the left-front irrigation head. Whenever the greens/collar edge is needed to be located, attach a wire-locator instrument to the wires and the exact edge can be found fast and easy, instead of using a soil probe to try and find the greens soil mix. We did this at Double Eagle Club on all of our greens during construction two years ago and it works great. In years to come, as any mowed edge gets

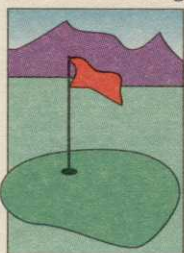
*Editor's note: This is the first installment of a new monthly column we will print to provide helpful hints to golf course superintendents.*

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**Tour of Duty**

**RICKY WIDEMAN**  
Harbor Town Golf Links  
Hilton Head Island, S.C.  
MCI Heritage Classic  
April 15-18, CBS

Ricky Wideman was familiar with the nooks and crannies of Harbor Town long before he arrived in Hilton Head two years ago from Palmetto Dunes. Wideman used to crew at Harbor Town during the Heritage Classic while a student in the turf program at Horry Georgetown College in Myrtle Beach.



Now the 33-year-old native of McCormick, S.C. is running the show. He says the best/worst things about hosting a PGA tournament are closely related. "The best thing is everyone coming together to do the job right. The worst thing is the letdown afterwards. Everybody works so hard, and when it's over, we all get the post-tournament blues."

**Things to look for:** "We just went through a three-month renovation project, installing a new irrigation system and cart

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**DEAN CROUCH**  
Forest Oaks Country Club  
Greensboro, N.C.  
K-Mart Greater Greensboro Open  
April 22-25, CBS

Dean Crouch, 31, came to Forest Oaks in 1989 from the prestigious Atlanta Athletic Club, where he served as assistant superintendent. Prior to that, he cut his teeth at Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Ga. Though he's a native of Columbia, S.C., Crouch is not a fan of University of South Carolina Gamecock red & black. He greatly prefers the bright orange of Clemson University, where he earned his B.S. in plant science.

**Things to look for:** "The biggest difference in the course is we just reconstructed the 18th green this past fall. Architect Clyde Johnston handled it with Fuzzy Zoeller consulting. We tried to do several things. We wanted to pick up more pin placements, and we lowered the green 3 feet to give players the feeling they were



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**MIKE LINK**  
TPC at the Woodlands  
The Woodlands, Texas  
Shell Houston Open  
April 29-May 2, ABC

Mike Link, a 34-year-old native of Ponca City, Okla., came to the Woodlands after serving as assistant superintendent at the 27-hole River Plantation Country Club in Conroe, Texas. He is a 1980 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a B.S. in agronomy.



**Things to look for:** "It's been awfully wet here the last three years. I've been trying to apply a pre-emergent herbicide this week (March 5-9) and the rain has delayed that. Weather is the biggest headache for us. I have a game plan that I go by and, if the weather cooperates, everything goes like clockwork. If it doesn't you go to plan B, which can be pretty hectic. I've worked 12 events, so I've gotten to know the Tour officials pretty

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