

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

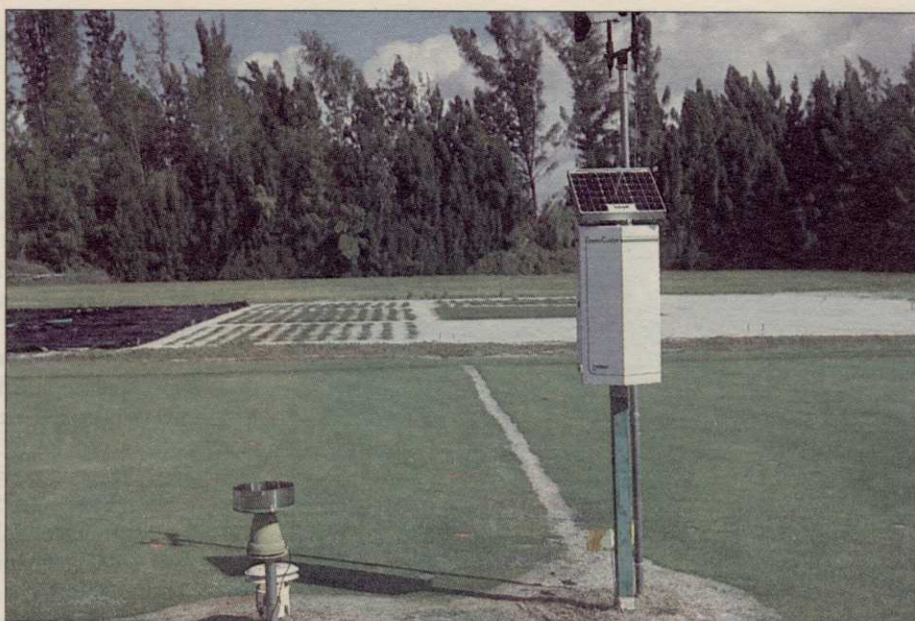


the state of Missouri. Training coordinator Allen L. Earle said: "I feel very strongly that this program will be very beneficial to anyone involved in the 'green' industry. Currently, there is no horticulture degree program in the Kansas City area. It is our desire to present the highest quality training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

Continued on page 15



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

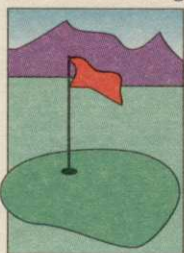
Editor's note: This is the first installment of a new monthly column we will print to provide helpful hints to golf course superintendents.

Continued on page 16

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

Continued on page 20

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



Continued on page 20

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

Continued on page 20

From rain gauges to reel grinding, the savvy super has helpful hints

Continued from page 13

smaller, the original size of the green can be found each spring and fall to keep the surface the size it was designed for by the golf course architect.

MOWER ROLLERS

On triplex greensmowers and five-gang fairway mowers, superintendents have been installing weihle rollers to the rear roller, instead of the usual solid roller to get a much smoother/lower cut and to lessen the bouncing of the individual mower units. This idea caught on with superintendents hosting national amateur championships and professional weekly Tour events, and it's amazing how much of a difference switching rollers does improve the angle of the bedknife deeper into the turf surface.

WALK-BEHIND GREENSMOWERS

At the advise of our local greensmower distributor, we built a walk-behind greensmower flat surface piece of steel that we lay on top of our work bench to properly align our mowers after totally replacing all bearings/seals and grinding the reels/bedknives. We called our local specialty steel company and ordered a 36-by 36-inch, quarter-inch thick piece of perfectly flat steel and had one side "blancharded" to take out any imperfections.

Two original equipment bedknife height-adjustment bars are laid end-to-end and then welded on the three sides to the steel top about 4-inches from the edge.

The greensmower is then placed on top of the steel top, fully assembled, with the front of the bedknife up against the side of the height-adjustment bar that was not welded, placing as many reel blades on top of the height adjustment bar as possible.

Now, the reel can be made perfectly parallel to the rear drive roller and then the height adjustment can be made with an Accu-Gauge, aligning the front roller with the rear drive roller, allowing the mower to then tract perfectly straight.

The piece of steel weighs about 90 pounds, so it is stable enough, will not bend whatsoever, and can be used on other areas such as a mechanics table on wheels, etc.

LOCATING THINGS UNDERGROUND

I have taken the idea of locating "stuff" underground one step further by using used railroad spikes instead of cutting up steel rebar with an acetylene torch. Used railroad spikes are readily available in most scrap steelyards, cost anywhere from 15 to 20 cents a piece, and the large head of the spike makes hammering them into the ground quite easy.

We then purchased a Schonstedt metal detector. Items we then marked include all areas of the course when we measured with a laser distomat, such as the fairway turning points, and each individual

teeing ground.

All underground irrigation equipment such as gate valves, isolation valves, wire splices, air relief valves, and quick coupler valves can be found easily if the grass grows over them.

SPRINKLER HEAD YARDAGE

We have three yardages on each of our sprinkler heads that are etched into the same size plastic tag normally used. The number in the center is largest of the three and is measured to the center of

each green. The number to the left is the measurement to the front of the green, and the number to the right is the subsequent yardage to the rear of the green.

This extra yardage data has been very popular with our members and guests and, as Tom Weiskopf says best: "The more information that you give a player, the better!"

REEL GRINDING

We purchased a diamond-tip stone dresser, which was an optional accessory for our bedknife

grinder, and placed it on our reel grinder instead.

The stone dresser was mounted to our automatic reel grinder on the far left-side bracket that holds the mower bottom to the grinder using a bolt already in place to secure it to the bracket.

As the reel grinder passes back and forth, each time it goes all the way to the left, it passes over the stone dresser each and every time to keep the stone perfectly dressed for a more consistent reel sharpening.

RAIN GAUGE

Tired of going outside to read how much water is in your rain gauge? I have a rain gauge "inside" my office that holds five inches worth of water in a removal glass cylinder which is mounted inside a window sill. A quarter-inch plastic hydraulic tubing runs up to the rooftop, where it attach to a collection cup-type funnel. The Rain-Minder Remote Reading Rain Gauge is available from Texas Electronics, P.O. Box 7225, Dallas, Texas 75209; telephone 214-631-2490.

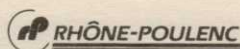


A TURF'S-EYE VIEW OF

What's really frightening about this vision is that every year your turf is seeing more of them. And it's this increased traffic that's making even your hardiest varieties more vulnerable to disease damage.

That's where CHIPCO® brand 26019 fungicide comes in. With its unsurpassed

control of Helminthosporium Leaf Spot and Melting Out, Dollar Spot, Brown Patch, Fusarium Blight and Red Thread, CHIPCO® 26019 is simply the best investment you can make to ensure the quality and play-ability of all your turfgrasses. It even protects against



Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. For additional product information, please call 1-800-368-7272.