

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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#### ENVIROTRON ON LINE

Professor Bert McCarty discusses the rhizotron, a portion of the Envirotron that studies root growth. The much-anticipated Envirotron is on line at the University of Florida. Turf research may never be the same (see page 37).

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Steve Mona

## Mona era begins in Lawrence

By HAL PHILLIPS

ATLANTA — The idea was born over an informal lunch here last August, when Steve Mona — then executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association — shared a bite with Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President Randy Nichols, who has known Mona since 1983.

Five months later, the August luncheon has taken on historic significance: Mona is the new executive director at GCSAA, replacing the departed John Schilling.

Mona's tenure officially began Jan. 5, but his coming out party will take place in Dallas later this month, when GCSAA holds the 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show (see special section, page xx). Mona firmly believes his new job is all about creating positive relationships, and he plans to start right away.

"I'm coming into this with a mandate to work on building relationships: With our local chapters, our allied associations and the media," said Mona. "The day before the Dallas conference, Joe Baidy [who as-

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## Little conflict awaits supers in Big D

By PETER BLAIS

DALLAS — It may not be all peace and harmony on the eve of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) annual meeting. But it's a darn sight quieter than during the NAFTA-like squabbles that preceded last year's vote on the proposed bylaw amendments.

Everyone may not agree with this year's proposals. But most believe the pro-

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cess of communicating with and seeking input from members has gone much smoother than a year ago when even board member George Renault noted, "Many people feel like these [proposed changes] are being rammed down their throats."

September's meeting of chapter delegates in Lawrence, Kan., to discuss the proposals left many feeling this year's board was sincerely interested in explaining the need for the changes and seeking input from the chapter level.

Patty Knaggs, head superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. and formerly of Westchester Coun-

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## Reservoir eases water pressure in California

By PETER BLAIS

HEMET, Calif. — The \$2 billion Domenigoni Valley Reservoir under construction in Southern California should help ensure water supplies for future golf course maintenance and development through the 21st century in this water-starved region.

"Knowing the reservoir is there should mean homeowners and environmentalists will put less pressure on politicians to pass bad legislation affecting irrigation water for golf courses," said

Raymond Davies, head superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Huntington Beach, Calif.

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) project is massive. First authorized in late 1991, the 250-foot deep reservoir won't be completed until 1999. Created by three dams in the Diamond and Domenigoni valleys south of Hemet, it will be Southern California's largest lake.

The 4.5-mile-long body of water will cover nearly 4,500 acres and hold

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#### BEST OF THE BEST

The Virginian, a new Tom Fazio design in Bristol, Va., is one reason the architect and his firm are among the 1994 Golf Course News "Best of the Best" award winners. For Best Maintained LPGA course, Builder of the Year and more, see pages 53-57.

## Chemical firms join forces in search of profit

By HAL PHILLIPS

Hoechst-Roussel and NOR-AM Chemical Co. have combined their respective agrochemical activities to create a joint venture. The Scotts Company has acquired Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Co. from W.R. Grace & Co. DowElanco has already off-loaded a portion of its specialty chemical division to LESCO, as did Zicon Corp. following the merger of its specialty pesticide unit with Sandoz Agro Inc.

The chemical industry is reacting to the increasingly adverse economic and political environment by streamlining product lines and, ultimately, entire agrochemical divisions. With each passing day, the 1997 deadline for federal reregistration draws closer and chemical companies make more hard choices

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