

BRIEFS



**HAHN, ARCHITECTS TO TALK**

DELHI, N.Y. — Oak Hill Country Club superintendent Joe Hahn and golf course architects Geoffrey Cornish and Craig Schreiner will speak at a Golf Course



Joe Hahn

Design/Construction Seminar at State University of New York - Delhi, Aug. 16. Sponsored by the New York State Turfgrass Association in cooperation with area golf course superintendents organizations, the seminar will be highlighted by dedication of the completed turfgrass education building at SUNY Delhi. Hahn will speak on regrassing the old greens at Oak Hill, while Cornish will discuss contemporary design trends and Schreiner will talk on design and the environment.

**NEW YORK TURF EXPO READIED**

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Former NFL referee Dr. Jim Tunney, who works with many Fortune 500 companies teaching skills needed to take a team to the next level, will deliver the keynote address at the New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) annual



Turf and Grounds Exposition here, Nov. 8-11. A 300-booth trade show will be held Nov. 9-10. More information is available from NYSTA at P.O. Box 612, Latham, N.Y.; telephone 518-783-1229.

**RICKERT MOVES ON TO N.J.**

MEDFORD, N.J. — Bruce Rickert has left the City of Brotherly Love for Medford, where he is head superintendent at Medford Village Country Club. He had been superintendent at Torresdale-Frankford Country Club, and before that was assistant superintendent at Huntington Valley Country Club.

**STATE AGENCY HONORS FABRIZIO**

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The Department of Health and Environmental Control has named Michael K. Fabrizio, superintendent at Wild Dunes Resort, one of the first recipients of its Clean Water Award. The award, given to 14 people statewide, recognizes Fabrizio's commitment to water quality protection here. He has been an active member in the state Nonpoint Source (NPS) Water Pollution Program. He was also awarded a certificate of appreciation for his volunteer service to the East Cooper NPS Project.



Michael Fabrizio

# Winter simply kills Southeastern courses

By MARK LESLIE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Golf course superintendents are taking different tacks in bringing their courses back to life after a devastating winter kill crippled or killed their Bermudagrass. Their options: sod/sprig Bermudagrass or replace their stands with zoysiagrass.

Most courses are not expected to fully recover until August or September.

"It's pretty major," said Patrick O'Brien, director of the Southeast Region of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. "Tennessee was probably the hardest hit area, along with the western Carolinas and Kentucky. Atlanta was hit pretty hard. I was at Nags Head, N.C., right on the Atlantic where temperatures are usually moderate, and it was devastated."

The major culprit was a fateful, three-day period in mid-January. Superintendent Jerry Lemons of Old Hickory Country Club in Hermitage said that on Jan. 11 it was 59 degrees. "We had two



*'Anyone who had poor drainage and cut their Bermudagrass at tee height lost it.'*

— Jerry Lemons

inches of rain, and in 24 hours it was minus-2 degrees. It stayed that way for 72 hours. That knocked it [Bermudagrass] out — killed it. Anyone who had poor drainage and cut their Bermudagrass at tee height lost it."

It remained cold for almost two weeks. Then, many areas endured an ice storm Jan. 17. That blanket of ice stayed on the ground for four or five days, driving the cold deep into the soil and

Continued on page 23

**THE OLD WORLD VISITS THE NEW**

## The Americanization of Patrick O'Fee

By ALEXA AINSWORTH

WELCHES, Ore. — Irishman Patrick O'Fee has discovered that, in America, golf is more than a way of life — it is a business. That's why he's here, apprenticing under Superintendent Tony Lasher at The Resort at the Mountain.

A native of Bangor, Northern Ireland, O'Fee is working here as part of an exchange through Experience International. A 31-year-old turf management graduate from his native Greenmount College, he came to America looking for experience in pesticide use, and was surprised by the active golf industry.

"There is a lot more money in the golf course industry here than there is at home. It is a business!" said O'Fee. "At home they are a lot more reticent to invest — more conservative."

O'Fee has grasped the idea of an American "golf industry," with its course-per-day development mentality and for-profit management style. According to O'Fee, the golf industry in Ireland is about to boom. Northern Irish farmers are converting their land, he said, as the population of approximately 1.5 million proposes building 40 golf courses over the next five years.

The golf industry has a large future in the Emerald Isle and O'Fee wants to be prepared for it.



Patrick O'Fee, left, of Bangor, Northern Ireland, with American host Tony Lasher at The Resort at the Mountain.

"Americans are much further ahead in turf management techniques and treat it much more scientifically than we do in Ireland," said O'Fee. "Americans are professional in everything from machinery maintenance to man management."

People here show a greater willingness to invest in equip-

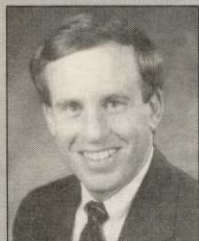
Continued on page 21

## GCSAA continues metamorphosis

By HAL PHILLIPS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The legacy of Arthur Andersen lives on.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has continued its restructuring effort with the creation of three new departments here at association headquarters: Chapter Relations, Technical Information Services and Career Development.



Steve Mona

These new departments reflect the impact of last year's Arthur Andersen study, which thoroughly evaluated the business and outreach systems at GCSAA. The study's recommendations have sent shock waves

Continued on page 21

## State gives bucks to boost Clemson research

By MARK LESLIE

CLEMSON, S.C. — Recognizing the turf industry ignites South Carolina's economy, the state Legislature has allocated \$530,000 a year to help expand Clemson University's turfgrass program.

"It's exciting to get new money in this kind of economy," said Dr. John Kelly, chairman of the Horticulture Department, adding that another \$379,000 was approved for the state university's ornamental horticulture program. "All across the country, university budgets have been cut. The Legislature was sending a clear message: When it comes to economic development-type activity, turf is a huge trigger in South Carolina."

A recent survey found the turfgrass/golf course industry is worth about \$640 million a year to the South Carolina economy. The state sports 339 golf courses.

Recognizing the significance of environmental stewardship to the turf industry, Kelly said, "Our intent in getting the funding was to address environmental problems faced by that industry and to expand the programming around solving those

*'The Legislature was sending a clear message: When it comes to economic development-type activity, turf is a huge trigger in South Carolina.'*

— Dr. John Kelly

problems through research and public service, or Extension programs."

The South Carolina Turfgrass Foundation, primarily composed of superintendents, was a key player in lobbying for the funds.

Clemson had asked for \$913,000, and the House and Senate had agreed upon \$780,000 until a major waste site clean-up forced across-the-board cuts.

Officials are rethinking the plan based on \$913,000, and Kelly said, "Still, we will be able to do quite a bit." The university is committed to not tying all the money up in salaries, he said.

A portion "will remain in program enhancement so the existing faculty will have

Continued on page 21

## Super's first two words on new job: 'Course closed'

Superintendents throughout the Southeast share their thoughts with Patrick O'Brien as he travels, making Turf Advisory Visits (TAVs) as director of the Southeast Region for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. Here are some comments following this year's massive winter kill.

"On Jan. 14th I started my new job at the Capital City Club [in Atlanta, Ga.]. My first two words on the job were "course closed."  
— William Shirley

"It was amazing. Our soil froze to a depth of six inches, and our course is adjacent to the ocean! Our Tifway Bermudagrass suffered extensive damage at fairways and tees, and especially at stress sites with higher traffic, poor drainage, shade, and past insect and drought damage."  
— David Bentley of Duck Woods CC in Kitty Hawk, N.C.

"I was so surprised to see our Vamont Bermudagrass winter-killed. After our TAV visit, our green committee decided to row-

plant five fairways to the new El Toro zoysiagrass. I'm thrilled to switch to zoysia, at least at these holes, as no other fairway turf has survived our winters consistently."  
— Gilbert Jackson of Signal Mountain (Tenn.) Golf Course

"Our three weakest Bermudagrass fairways ... completely winter-killed. After our TAV, it was decided to sod those fairways to Meyer zoysiagrass to minimize future winter-injury problems. We will convert the other fairways to zoysiagrass over the next two years. I'm switching to a better horse."  
— Frank Turner of Cherokee Country Club in Knoxville, Tenn.

"Having just relocated to The Farm [in Rocky Face, Ga.] three months ago, I am relieved that we have Meyer zoysiagrass fairways and roughs. We believe so strongly in zoysiagrass that we are renovating all our Tifway Bermudagrass tees, which winter-killed."  
— Tim Kennally

## Winter kill devastates many courses in Southeast

Continued from page 15

killing stolons and rhizomes, according to O'Brien.

Compaction played a major role as well, said superintendent Andy Brennan of Springhouse Golf Course at the Opryland Hotel. "Wherever traffic is funneled, it's dead," he said.

And superintendent Doug Ward at Belle Meade Country Club added, "If it [Bermudagrass] was mowed under an inch, you had some damage problems."

"I saw clubs with very little damage and others with 70 acres," O'Brien said.

Dan Gibson, superintendent of golf operations for the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation, said he lost 70 acres on the city's seven courses.

"Most everybody still looks bad because we haven't had warm weather," O'Brien said in early June. "If you are sprigging, the sprigs are sitting there doing nothing because of the mild weather. If you resodded, you're looking pretty good."

A number of superintendents have sodded over tees and around greens. The cold-hardy bentgrass greens are "some of the best greens ever," O'Brien said. "They're beautiful."

Meanwhile, superintendents who last fall overseeded with ryegrass face a unique struggle.

"It's a Catch-22 situation," said Brennan, who wanted to keep the ryegrass alive through the PGA Senior Tour event at Springhouse, June 13-19.

Unseasonably cool weather in late May and early June helped the ryegrass fairways. But the Bermudagrass roughs, which were weakened but alive, "needed to be kicked a little bit, and the temperatures aren't cooperating," Brennan said. "What's good for the ryegrass isn't good for the Bermuda, and vice versa."

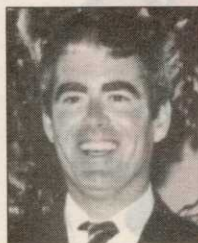
He said he would be sprigging his course with Bermudagrass if he didn't have to keep the ryegrass alive for the Tour event.

The ryegrass in the region was thriving in the cool weather, and that was inhibiting recovery of any damaged Bermudagrass areas, O'Brien said. "Those guys should, if possible, do practices to discourage the rye so they can evaluate their situations," he said.

"Courses with ryegrass in the fairways can play to the hilt," Gibson said. "But it's camouflage, and in July they will have to sprig, too."

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Making the best of a bad situation, many superintendents are experimenting.



*I have already worked with several clubs that have elected to switch horses from Bermudagrass to zoysia. They are taking a long-term approach.'*

— Patrick O'Brien

"I have already worked with several clubs that have elected to switch horses from Bermudagrass to zoysia," O'Brien said. "They are taking a long-term approach. This will certainly lessen the potential for winter damage at these courses. I never thought a lot would do that. But they are now."

Lemons said many superintendents are trying some of the new seeded varieties of Bermudagrasses. He has planted a half acre each of the Meyer and El Toro zoysias, and will plant 450 square feet each of three of Dr. Milt Engelke's cultivars from Texas A&M "to test them in fairway situations. The rest of our course we put in sprigs of a new 'QuickStand' Bermudagrass from Dr. A.J. Powell at the University of Kentucky."

O'Brien said resprigging zoysia can be costly: \$1,800 to \$2,000 per acre for 800

bushels, plus the cost of one or two applications of Roundup at five quarts to the acre.

The cost to resprig to Bermudagrass, he said, would be \$600 to \$900 per acre (at a rate of 700 to 800 bushels per acre).

Meanwhile, lost play is also expected to hurt clubs. Gibson explained that when a course is sprigged, the ground must be kept wet for the first three weeks, "and that cuts your play way down."

"For people who are resprigging with Bermudagrass and zoysia, it will take them until August or September to fully get back to the turf density golfers expect," O'Brien said.

"Nashville is the epitome of the transition zone," lamented Brennan. "Whenever anybody gets any winter kill, Nashville seems to. They tell me it builds character. I've got a lot of that if that's the case."

## Overseeding would make little difference — Carrow

By PATRICK O'BRIEN

Many golfers mistakenly feel the past winter's Bermudagrass injury could have been prevented by overseeding affected sites in the fall with perennial ryegrass.

Overseeding may offer minor protection against extracellular injury during normal winters, but most likely makes no difference during winters with large-scale Bermudagrass kill caused by extracellular death.

"It is true, overseeding affords a small degree of protection," said turf physiologist Dr. Bob Carrow of the University of Georgia at Griffin. "The overseeding helps to insulate the Bermudagrass, providing some extracellular protection."

The extra irrigation, fertilization and better routine care applied to the overseeding is enough to again indirectly maintain adequate moisture for the Bermudagrass, further reducing extracellular injury.

"Unfortunately, overseeding provides practically no protection against extracellular injury," Carrow said.

Carrow said that even in winters with partial kill, overseeding always slows down the recovery of the remaining Bermudagrass. In historically weak Bermudagrass areas — such as shade lines, high-traffic tees and fairways, etc. — overseeding is another stress factor inhibiting recovery of the Bermudagrass the next spring, he said. For these reasons, fairway overseeding should be used mainly at resort courses in the warmer areas of the Southeast.

*Patrick O'Brien is director of the Southeast Region of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section.*

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