

CAMPAIGN TARGETS GOLFERS

# Stuntz: Initial returns in Kansas research fundraiser disappointing

By MARK LESLIE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The early returns in the Kansas green industry's attempt to tap golfers for research funds are disappointing, according to the idea's main proponent.

Contributions have been given by only six of the 31 golf clubs, or 20 percent, that have returned their payments to the United States Golf Association's Golfing Handicap and Information Net-

work (GHIN), said Dick Stuntz, superintendent at Alvamar Country Club here. Clubs are being asked in their billing document to make a \$2 donation above their \$9 payment to the Kansas Golf Association (KGA).

The state has 19,000 golfers with GHIN handicaps, and if 20 percent of them donate the requested \$2, the total contribution will be \$7,600.

"If that is the amount, I'll be

disappointed," said Stuntz, who coordinated the fund-raising effort through the Kansas Turfgrass Foundation and KGA.

The organizations were hoping to raise \$15,000 to \$18,000 this initial year of the effort. "I was hoping 50 percent of the clubs would participate," Stuntz said, "and that we could build on that."

He said he believes many clubs had already set member dues for the year and couldn't manage the

extra donation under their budgets. Next year, they will be approached earlier, he said.

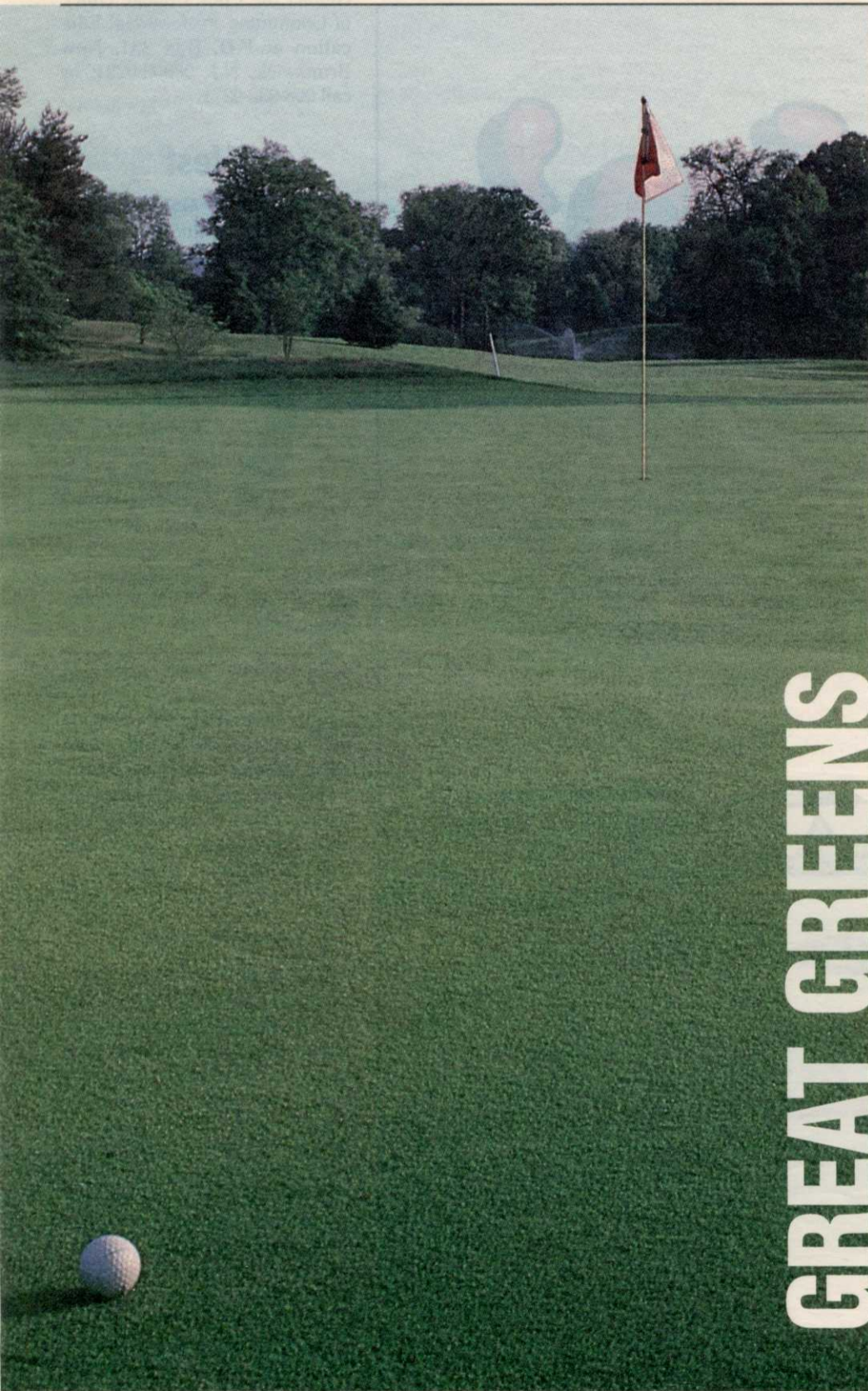
"It's difficult to reach the people with any of these types of programs," Stuntz said. "It's probably going to take some years to build it up."

Pointing out that most of the first 31 clubs who paid are small, he said: "I think bigger clubs are more likely to participate. The percentage [of participation]

should go up."

This year, the KGA will have another round of promotion, writing and telephoning clubs that did not pay and asking them if they are aware of the solicitation.

The potential around the country of tapping into handicap users is enormous, say supporters of this Kansas campaign. In Kansas' case, funds will support research at Kansas State University



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## Engelke: Greens fans misperceived

The idea that greens fans are installed to cool the turfgrass plant is "one of the greatest misperceptions of the industry," according to a Texas A&M professor.

"The only reason to use a fan is to dry — not to cool — the plant," said Dr. Milt Engelke. "Fans do cool, but their primary function is removing the moisture from the plant, so more moisture can actually pass up from the root system through the plant. That does the cooling, reduces the algae and helps with all the disease."

"Bentgrasses, and especially these new ones, have the capability to cool themselves. They have a persistent root system that allows them to draw water from below, and they transpire."

Many people install fans for cooling purposes, he said. "But, in fact, you end up with an algae build-up if the weather stays high humid. Algae will cause degradation of your greens."

In areas where humidity is too high, Engelke said, "If a superintendent can cut back on irrigation, they will have a lot fewer problems with algae."

— M.L.

## Seed field days

Continued from page 22 with velvet bentgrass, generally considered the smoothest-rolling putting surface available, Brilman reported. The company says SR 7200 velvet bentgrass (available this fall) is the first new seeded velvet on the market in the last 20 years and has better disease resistance than older varieties.

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Advanta Seeds West will soon begin marketing two new tall fescues, experimental trial numbers 006 and 007. The company has also started shipments of Hector, a new creeping fescue.

Guest speaker Dr. Ronny Duncan of the University of Georgia discussed his research on stress-induced crops.

Georgia's high temperatures and humidity help researchers identify the potentially best performers in the South and the rest of the country, he said.

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