

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Of Surfers & Seals

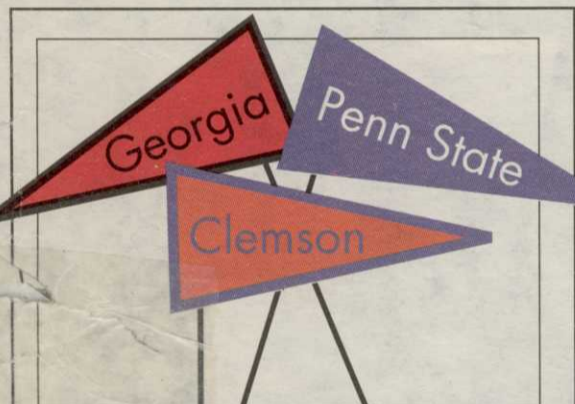
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Bye, Bye Birdie

Some birds you want, some you don't. Learn how to attract purple martins and get rid of geese 16, 70



COLLEGES TAKE SPIRITED RESEARCH STANCE

Spring break is fast approaching, but the nation's collegiate turf programs continue to produce. Working golf course laboratories will soon be realities at Clemson, UGeorgia and Penn State. Meanwhile, superintendents are scrambling to attract the best turf scholars. See pages 15, 21-23.

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Mortality study raises questions, eyebrows

By HAL PHILLIPS

DALLAS—Golf course superintendents were 79 percent more likely to contract large-intestinal cancer and 36 percent more likely to contract lung cancer than the public at large, according to phase-one findings of a University of Iowa mortality study commissioned by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Death certificates of 618 former GCSAA members — who died between 1970 and 1992 — were gathered as part of the research, conducted by Dr. Burton Kross,

UI associate professor of preventive medicine and mental health. Of the 618 deaths, 179 were cancer related.

"Because this is a statistical study, you can't establish any cause-and-effect relationship from the data," said Kross, who presented the study's findings at February's GCSAA conference in Dallas. "Results of the mortality study provide GCSAA with a scientific basis to encourage stop-smoking programs and improved pesticide-handling practices among its members.

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GCSAA WRAP-UP

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- Alice Dye honored with Rossi Award, p. 36
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Golf Cars: Who has the purchasing authority?

By PETER BLAIS & HAL PHILLIPS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Wine, lockers, E-Z-GO, dinnerware, clubhouse architects, Club Car, chocolate mints, table linen, Yamaha, accounts software, tennis court contractors, Melex.

And so it goes, as one strolls the aisles and gazes into the booths at the Club Managers Association of America annual exposition here.

This is the third national trade show that golf car and utility vehicle manufacturers regularly attend. Those companies are also a major presence at the annual superintendents' and golf professionals' shows. They are easily the most visible segment of the golf industry to attend all three.

Just who is responsible for ultimately deciding what brand of golf cars to buy?

"This is something we've struggled to define since I

Continued on page 54



PUBLIC ENEMY #1

Mole crickets cause more damage to Southeastern golf courses than any other pest. How do you kill 'em? Superintendents and scientists — including the University of Florida's Dr. Howard Frank — are experimenting with traditional and biological weapons. See special report, pages 24-26.

Rohm & Haas wins Dimension sweepstakes

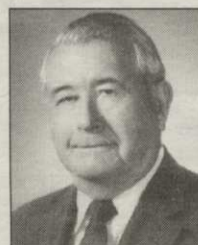
By HAL PHILLIPS

ST. LOUIS — We have a winner.

After months of speculation and negotiation, Monsanto has signed a letter of intent to sell Dimension turf herbicide and other products in its worldwide pyridine family of chemistry to Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Co.

The sale is expected to be completed by mid-year, according to James Budzynski, Monsanto's product director for dithiopyr, the active ingredient in Dimension. No

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Dr. James Watson

Architects honor Dr. Watson with '94 Ross Award

By MARK LESLIE

"Surprised but delighted" at his selection, turfgrass research and management pioneer Dr. James

R. Watson will receive the American Society of Golf Course Architects' (ASGCA) 1994 Donald Ross Award.

A vice president and agronomist with The Toro Co. who has been working with golf course architects on turf problems for more than 40 years, Watson will accept the award at the annual Ross Award Dinner on April 18, at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. The banquet will highlight the society's annual meeting.

Only the second agronomist chosen for the award in its 19-year history, Watson explained: "Their [architects] job isn't finished with the design. They still have to oversee construction of the golf course. A lot of the work I've done has involved soils for putting greens, modification of fairways and management of the golf course from the turfgrass standpoint.

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The stately 18th at Minisceongo Golf Club in Rockland, N.Y. This Roy Case design opens in June.

New Course Listings Page 45

Robert Hook photo

Architects choose Watson for honor

Continued from page 1

"Another area I've had some influence in is water use. I've spent a lot of time on conservation of water, irrigation practices that minimize the use of water, use of brackish waters and blending of brackish waters with fresh waters."

"Everyone in the ASGCA and the golf industry has benefited from Dr. Watson's efforts," said ASGCA President Jerry Matthews. "His work in applying scientific research to improve the quality of turfgrass is exemplary,

especially with regards to course construction and maintenance."

The ASGCA presents the Ross Award to an individual who has made significant contributions to the game of golf, and especially golf course architecture, and Jim Watson "fits that description as well as anyone in the country," Matthews said.

"It's darn good company to be in," said Watson, who joins the list of Ross Award winners that includes Royal and Ancient Secretary Michael Bonallack,

then-USGA Executive Director Frank Hannigan, former USGA Green Section Director Al Radko, PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman and ex-commissioner Joe Dey, National Golf Foundation founders Herb and Joe Graffis, and ASGCA founding member Robert Trent Jones Sr.

A fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society, Watson received the Distinguished Service Awards from the U.S. Golf Association Green Section in 1976 and the GCSAA in 1983.

He is a founder of the International Turfgrass Society and

the USGA Green Section Turfgrass Research Committee, serving as the ITS president from 1989 to 1993.

Landscape Management and Landscape and Irrigation magazines selected him as Man of the Year in 1986.

The Toro Co. recently agreed to fully underwrite the Dr. James R. Watson Fellowship, a new scholarship and research program the GCSAA designed to identify and reward young researchers and instructors in fields related to golf course management.

A Louisiana native who served in World War II, Watson obtained a bachelor's degree in agronomy

from Texas A&M in 1947 and a doctorate from Penn State in 1950.

He took the post as director of agronomy with Toro in 1952.

Being recognized by the ASGCA, Watson said, is "a professional achievement of the highest degree."

Q&A: Weed

Continued from previous page

hope to continue in some capacity. But I believe I'll be doing more work on my own in the future. The Tour has some specific target areas in mind. But it has scaled back the design staff to two — me and a landscape architect named Chris Gray.

GCN: Does any project give you special pleasure?

BW: I've enjoyed them all. I'm thrilled with the TPC at River Highlands [Cromwell, Conn.] It was my first New England course. Other than the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach a couple of years ago, it's about the only tournament course where the winner shot single digits [below par].

GCN: How do you react to criticism of TPC courses or criticism in general?

BW: It's easier to be critical than to be correct. I don't think architects are given enough respect. We take a project from Day 1 to opening day. It's a tough job.

GCN: How do you feel about Tour players getting involved in design work?

BW: I think it's great. Competition is good. But there is more involved than just lending your name to a project. The two pros who are members of the architects society — Jack Nicklaus and Mark McCumber — are very involved with their projects and know what's going on. Tom Weiskopf is another player who has worked hard to understand design. I think there will be more pros getting involved. But if they think they can make four or five visits to a site and that's it, they're wrong. The ones who are successful at it have scaled back their play to accommodate their design work. You can't be in this business in a passive manner. It's a full-time job.

GCN: What does the golf industry need to improve on?

BW: The different groups in the industry need to be more allied. I said that five years ago. It's improving, but we are still too fragmented. Each association has its own agenda. There must be a way to blend those varying interests together.

GCN: What can superintendents do to help the industry?

BW: The best thing they could do is talk to students at the elementary schools. Have them visit your course, explain what you do and how the course serves the environment. You'll be lobbying for the industry's future. If there are 30 million golfers today, those students will push it to 50 million in the future.

Carefully monitored trials* in these 17 states showed Fore controlled 14 major turf diseases.

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