

BRIEFS



**UMASS OFFERS GREEN SCHOOL**

AMHERST, Mass. — Green School, the University of Massachusetts' Comprehensive Extension System's educational training program for Green Industry professionals, will run



from Jan. 5 to March 24. The program is designed to

provide training in horticulture fundamentals and the relationship of those fundamentals to environmental quality. Intended to instill a sense of stewardship the school will teach integrated pest management.

**JENKINS CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESIDENT**

Brian M. Jenkins of Dubsread Municipal Golf Course in Orlando has leaped from the secretary-treasurer position to president of the Central Florida Chapter of the Florida GCSA in the wake of resignations from President Chuck Blankenship and Vice President Donald W. McCommon of Ventura Golf and Country Club in Orlando. Blankenship also resigned his position at Ridgewood to pursue other interests in the industry.

**CANADIAN CONCLAVE SET**

OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada — The 46th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show March 11-14 at the Ottawa Congress Centre will embrace the Canada Golf Superintendents Association's 28th annual meeting



March 13. Speakers and their topics include keynoter Alan Simmons, teamwork among

staff on golf courses; Dr. Joseph Vargas, integrated approaches to turfgrass disease control; Dr. Harry Niemczyk, integrated pest management, and John Gavett/Michael Kernaghan, effectively dealing with pesticide issues.

**BIODIVERSITY TREATY AGAIN DELAYED**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, has set aside a vote on ratification of the international Convention on Biological Diversity until the Senate reconvenes in January. Opponents say it potentially overrides U.S. sovereignty in regards to land use.

**ISS INKS PACT**

SEBASTIAN, Fla. — ISS Golf Services has signed an agreement with the city of Sebastian for the maintenance of its golf course here. By contracting the golf course maintenance, the City hopes to cut its losses and turn a profit. ISS now maintains 15 public, semi-private, and private golf courses.

**USGA consults wildlife groups on research**

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Citing a lack of research on the effects of golf course construction on wildlife, the U.S. Golf Association has set aside \$100,000 a year for the next three years to fill this void.



USGA officials will meet here with wildlife agencies and associations the first week of November to discuss how to best spend the funds.

"We're rounding up the National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund and others who have an interest in wildlife and scientists from the Department of Fish and Game and other agencies," said USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow. "We'll get everyone in one room and ask what they think the priorities should be for spending the money. Once we have their opinions, we will get together and seek proposals from scientists whose field is wildlife rather than turf.

"We hope to be able to start funding sometime in 1995."

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**Green Section adding regional offices**

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The U.S. Golf Association Green Section, which opened its first sub-regional office this summer, intends to reconfigure existing regions and perhaps add others, to be more effective and cost-efficient.

The moves will place USGA agronomists closer to clients and cut costs. The Green Section has been "heavily subsidized by the USGA" since the Turf Advisory Service's (TAS) inception in 1951, according to National Director Jim Snow. "TAS is a service to golf and that's part of our charter. We can't charge clubs enough to pay for it."

Fourteen agronomists and regional directors staff TAS in seven national regional offices. The first change came

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**Audubon Program's newest addition**

CHESTERTON, Ind. — The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), a joint effort program between the Audubon Society of New York State and the United States Golf Association, has announced that Sand Creek Country Club has joined the program.

According to Jean Mackay, staff ecologist for New York Audubon, "The open space of a golf course is utilized not only by golfers, but is a habitat for a variety of wildlife species. We welcome Sand Creek's commitment to the environment and to managing the golf course with wildlife in mind."

Through the program, Sand Creek will become involved in programs that enhance habitats for wildlife on the golf course and preserve natural resources for the benefit of the local community.



Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Ind., has joined the list of golf courses that have joined the New York Audubon's Cooperative Sanctuary System. The 9th hole of Sand Creek's new nine that will open next spring looks toward a dense stand of mature woods and wetlands. It is one of the major areas that will benefit from the club's participation in the program to enhance wildlife.

**Golf House Tennessee course tests multiple bent, Bermuda cultivars**

FRANKLIN, Tenn.—The Tennessee Golf Foundation's dream of developing a unique turf research center is becoming reality, as grow-in of The Little Course at Aspen Grove continues apace.

The Little Course at Aspen Grove, a nine hole short course with an extensive variety of turfs, will surround Golf House Tennessee here, just minutes south of Nashville. Golf House Tennessee, a renovated ante-bellum structure built in 1842, has been designed as a state-of-the-art junior golf learning center. It will also be one of the first facilities to house all of the state's major golf organizations under

one roof: The Tennessee Golf Association, Tennessee Section PGA, Women's and Junior Golf Associations, Golf Course Superintendents and Club Managers.

Golf course architect Bob Cupp, who donated his services, designed The Little Course at Aspen Grove, located on land adjacent to The Legends Club of Tennessee, a 36-hole layout designed by Cupp and Tom Kite.

The Little Course features holes ranging from 84 to 228 yards with 11 bunkers, two lakes, two double greens, an 18-hole putting course and practice tees for junior clinics

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The Little Course at Aspen's 17,000-square-foot Vince Gill Putting Course sports a dozen varieties of bentgrass, for observation purposes.

**WHERE THEY'RE GOING**

**New Tri-Mountain track hires Stephens**

RIDGEFIELD, Wash. — David Stephens has been named head superintendent at Tri-Mountain Golf Course, which opened here this summer (*Golf Course News*, Aug. '94).



Dave Stephens

Stephens joined Tri-Mountain from Orchard Hills Golf & Country Club in Washington. Prior to his tenure at Orchard, he served 11 years as course foreman at Portland (Ore.) Golf Club where he was involved in the 1982 U.S. Senior Open and the 1986, '87 and '88 Fred Meyer Challenge tournaments.

Having attended Portland State University and Portland Community College, Stephens is a graduate of the Golf Construction Techniques and Management course offered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He lives in Camas.

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## Tenn. Hall course tackles research

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and camps. The course, which will open in the spring of 1995, will be a public facility.

The Little Course will allow superintendents and turf researchers to study and test a wide variety of turfs under actual playing conditions in the transition zone.

Nicknamed "the quilt hole," No. 8 fairway has been planted with 12 varieties of Bermudagrass. A number of the plots are different

shades of green, hence the moniker. Zoysiagrass has been planted on the other eight fairways, with 10 varieties used in all. Seven of the zoysias were vegetatively planted and three were seeded.

The roughs will be planted with fescue/bluegrass blends.

On the greens, 12 varieties of bentgrass will be planted and many of the newly released varieties are included in these tests along with many next generation varieties. The bentgrasses will be planted on their own greens in monostands. The unreleased bentgrasses will

be planted in 1,000-square-foot plots on the putting green for evaluation. Having the newer grasses on these greens will give superintendents the opportunity to evaluate for wear tolerance, color, texture, density, disease proneness, water and nutrition needs, recuperative potential, etc.

Two other projects not visible to the eye will be ongoing. The first is an air-movement system which will be capable of blowing air through the soil temperature to increase aeration, and potentially lower the soil temperature through a cooling

system being installed. The system may also be reversed to such air through the soil profile and remove excess water, thus replacing the water with air in the soil and keeping the soil from becoming water-logged. This system is entirely housed underground.

The second project involves a subsurface liquid injection system. Initially, it will be used to subsurface irrigate the green. After testing, it may be used for injection of fertilizers.

Individuals and companies have generously offered support, including the donation of a Toro

irrigation system and a nine passenger Club Car golf cart. The 17,000 square-foot putting course has been named the "Vince Gill Putting Course" in honor of the country music superstar who donates proceeds from his annual pro-celebrity golf tournament, which has totaled more than \$200,000 in two years.

Joe Kennedy, director of golf maintenance for The Legends Club, will also serve as superintendent of The Little Course.

He will monitor and direct all turfgrass studies and research, while maintaining the course.

## USGA funding wildlife research

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Snow said it is "pretty clear we need to take some projects, like new golf course facilities — before construction in a wooded area or former farmland — and do a wildlife survey before, during and after construction and follow that for three years or more."

Nobody has done this, with the idea of discovering what happens to plant and wildlife populations, he said. "So we need to be able to show — five years or 10 years after construction — that wildlife populations are greater or less than they were, and under what conditions that occurred," he added.

Although he expects most of the studies will be done by universities, Snow said some federal agencies may also get involved.

## Green Section dividing regions

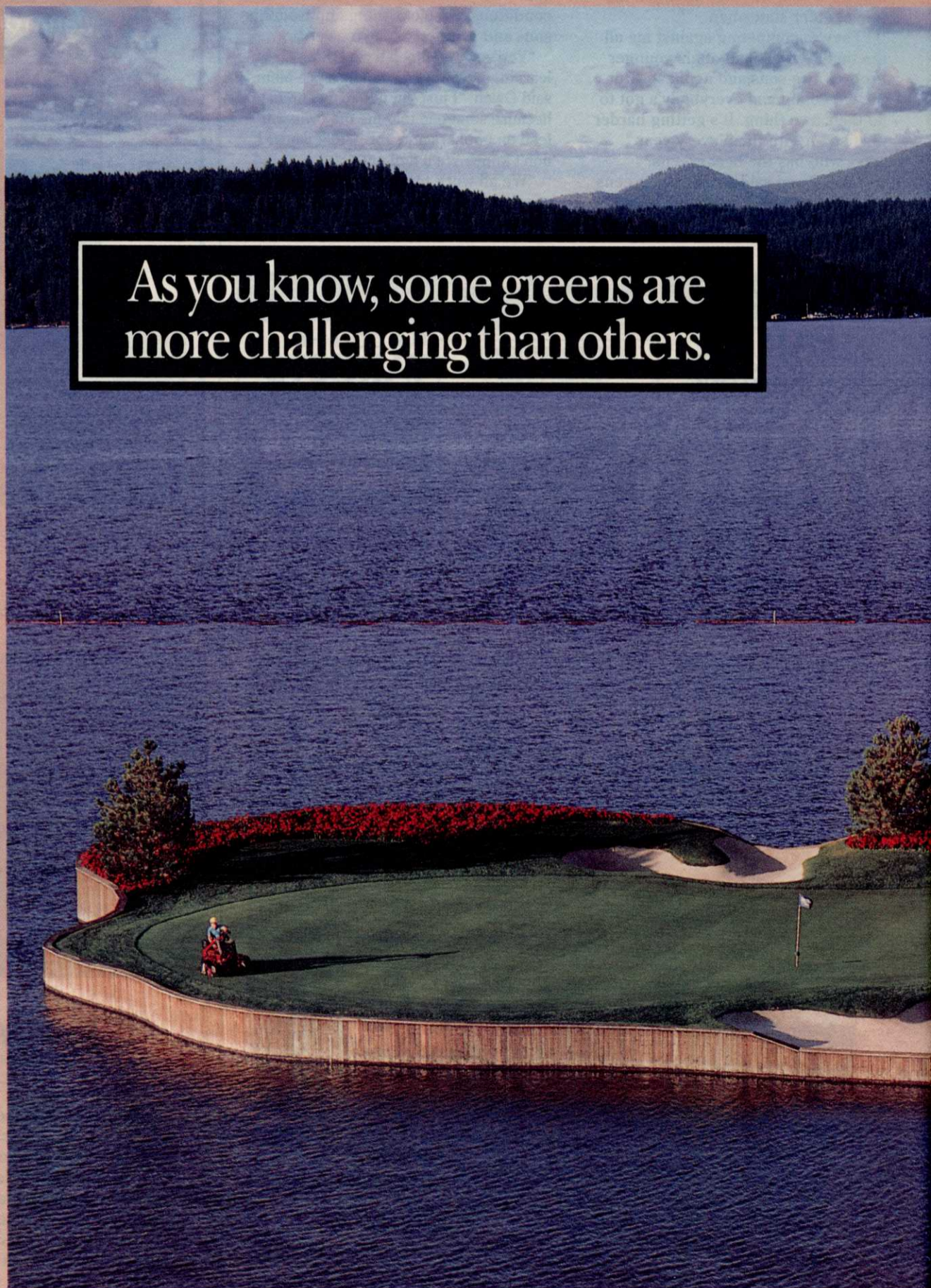
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this summer in the Mid-Atlantic Region, which opened a second office in Covington, Ky. Bob Brame was placed in charge of the new sub-region covering Kentucky and Ohio. Director Stanley Zontek and agronomist Keith Hap remain in West Chester, Pa., to handle clients in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.

Snow said the Green Section will establish an office in St. Louis to lessen the demand on the Mid-Continent Region, which stretches from Louisiana to part of Wyoming including Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas.

Paul Vermeulen, an agronomist in the Western Region based in Lake Forest, Calif., will manage the St. Louis office. "The question is if that office will be in the Great Lakes or Mid-Continent region," Snow said. "We will search for a replacement for Paul out West."

The idea of additional offices and realignment of regions, he said, "is to make the service available to as many clubs as we can."



As you know, some greens are more challenging than others.

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