

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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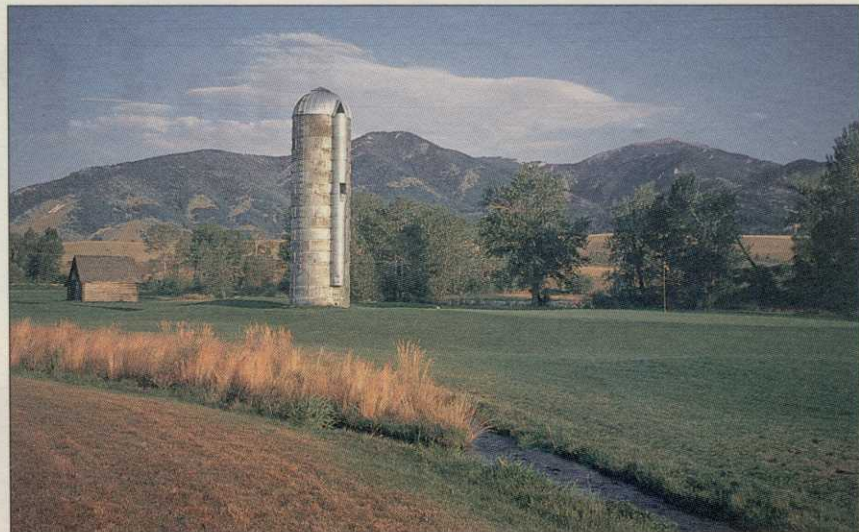
By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Adherent on taking its environmental research to the next level, both scientifically and practically, the United States Golf Association (USGA) is funding another \$1.5 million for research over the next three years.

Having spent \$3.2 million on environmental research projects from 1991-93, USGA officials have decided to perform further studies on some projects and add a new practical angle, investigating and reporting Best Management Practices for golf course superintendents to use in everyday work.

Saying the USGA and entire golf industry have an obligation to minimize environmental impacts of course maintenance, Green Section Research Director Dr. Michael Kenna said: "In instances where a superintendent has used proper fertilization, mowing heights, irrigation and all other possible practices but still has a disease, insect or weed infestation, what techniques can he follow that

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**BIG DOINGS IN BIG SKY COUNTRY**

A silo behind the 5th green sits as a sentinel to its past, while a 568-yard monster looms foreboding in its future. But for now, Bridger Creek Golf Course in Bozeman, Mont., stands as a public nine-hole facility that makes proud its operator — Great Northern Golf Co. See story page 36.

## Jones II: 'I think public golf is the future'

Architect to keynote day two at Expo

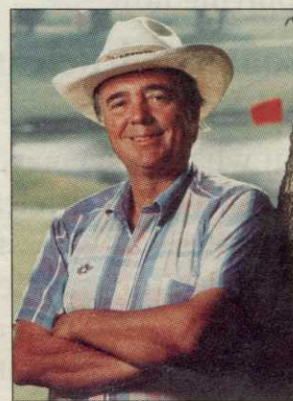
By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO — World-renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. will join Arnold Palmer as a keynote speaker at Golf Course Expo, the nation's premier event for public-access golf courses planned here, Nov. 11-12.

Jones, of the legendary golf course design family, will talk at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, and sign his book, "Golf by Design: How To Lower Your Score by Reading the Features of a Golf Course," released this year by Little, Brown.

Golf Course Expo, sponsored by *Golf Course News*, is the only trade show and education conference

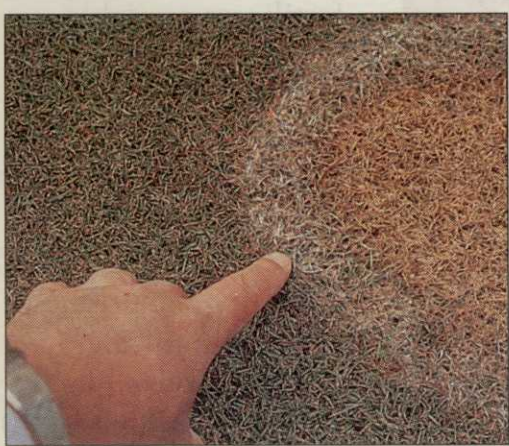
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Robert Trent Jones Jr.

### MORE EXPO NEWS

- USGA directors to speak... page 39.
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- Last year's marketing tips pay off in dollars... page 39



### WINTER PREP

Combatting snow mold, pink and gray, is a major problem faced by Northern superintendents as they prepare for the winter months ahead. For a special report, see page 22.

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## Suichang bringing endophyte strains to bents and blues

By PETER BLAIS

A Jacklin Seed Co. researcher is busily trying to develop endophyte-containing strains of Kentucky bluegrass and bentgrass, breakthroughs that could dramatically reduce the need for herbicide and fun-

gicide treatments.

Endophytic fungi are common in tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and fine fescues. Endophytes make turf more resistant to insects and such diseases as dollar spot and summer patch, according to Suichang Sun, who recently received a master's degree in turfgrass breeding from Rutgers University.

Endophytes either occur naturally or can be artificially inoculated. But they have not been found or successfully inoculated into two of the most widely used cool-season turfgrasses,

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Grant Spaeth

## Spaeth, Lurie look to form international reservation network

By MARK LESLIE

SAN FRANCISCO — The Ticketron of Golf. That's what former U.S. Golf Association

President C. Grant Spaeth and former San Francisco Giants owner Bob Lurie believe they have created, along with Jay S. Troutman, founder and president of Aptech Computer Systems in Pittsburgh.

PAR Business Systems, led by Spaeth and financially backed by Lurie, has bought Aptech's TeeTime Network division and formed PAR Golf Systems, Inc. The alliance combines PAR Business Systems' proprietary golf course management software and TeeTime Network's tee-time reservation software.

"The Aptech acquisition provides the potential of a reservation service comparable to that which we now find in hotels, theaters and rental cars," said Spaeth. "If you have a demand for golf, and a couple of thousand

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# In search of endophyte: Suichang endures in quest for best bents, bluegrasses

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Kentucky bluegrass and bentgrass.

The search for an endophyte-carrying Kentucky bluegrass (*poa pratensis*) has been underway for about 10 years, Suichang said.

Suichang's mentor at Rutgers, Dr. Reed Funk, theorized that when European strains of *Poa pratensis* were first imported to the United States, the fragile endophyte died during the ocean voyage. If that were true,

endophyte-containing strains should still exist on the European continent, he predicted.

Researchers collected more than 1,000 samples in Europe. "But we didn't find any endophytes in the European samples," Suichang said.

Endophytes, particularly *Acremonium*, have been discovered in 20 other *poa* varieties, Suichang said. But researchers haven't succeeded in either inoculating or breeding the

endophyte-carrying characteristic into turf-quality Kentucky bluegrass.

"In a single winter, the endophyte is bred out," Suichang said. "Poas seem to have a non-aggressive, slow-growing endophyte. We still believe breeding



Suichang Sun

or inoculating endophytes from other poas into Kentucky bluegrass is a possible approach."

The search for native bluegrass species with endophyte infection continues, Suichang said.

Meanwhile, Jacklin is crossing endophyte-infected plants of neighboring *poa* species with Kentucky bluegrass in the hope of developing an endophyte-containing hybrid.

Suichang is also searching for an endophyte that Kentucky

bluegrass will not reject when inoculated.

The prospect of developing an endophyte-containing strain of bentgrass "should be particularly exciting for superintendents", according to former USGA agronomist Jim Connolly, now senior technical agronomist with Jacklin.

While at Rutgers, Suichang was involved with Funk's research on inoculating creeping bentgrass with endophyte. He plans to expand on Rutgers' research at Jacklin.

"The bentgrass they [Rutgers] planted last fall still has endophyte," Suichang said. "Potentially, the bentgrass research could have an even bigger impact because of Northern superintendents' preference for bentgrass greens."

## UGeorgia, PLCAA team to offer home correspondence study

MARIETTA, Ga. — The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and University of Georgia are offering a home correspondence course leading to turfgrass professional certification.

The "independent study course," Principles of Turfgrass Management, is designed to help students "understand the principles of turfgrass establishment, growth, maintenance and troubleshooting; master modern turfgrass management practices and procedures; and become certified.

It covers 14 topics appropriate for all regions of the United States, including pesticide safety and integrated pest management.

Golf course maintenance employees are among those suggested as students, although there are no prerequisites for enrollment.

The \$275 course (\$225 for PLCAA members) carries 12 University of Georgia continuing education units.

Students can take up to a year to complete the course, which involves four open-book, mail-in examinations and two closed-book exams arranged at educational institutes near the students.

Dr. Keith Karnok of the University of Georgia is the course author. PLCAA has been assisted in producing the course by The Andersons, ISK Biotech, Lesco, Miles Specialty Products, O.M. Scott, PBI Gordon, Sandoz Agro, Sunbelt Seeds, Orkin Pest Control and Lawnmark Lawn Care.

More information is available from Community Learning Resources, Suite 191, Georgia Center for Continuing Education, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602; telephone 706-542-1756. PLCAA members should call 800-458-3466.

## Think of it as a combination bunker rake and steamroller.



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