

By PETER BLAIS

SAN FRANCISCO — "You couldn't have made a better selection," Toro Chief Executive Officer Ken Melrose said of Dr. James Watson, who received the Old Tom Morris Award during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual banquet held here in late February.

During his 40 years at The Toro Co., Watson served as director of agronomy, company agronomist and vice president of customer relations. Semi-retired and living in Colorado, Watson still serves on the plan-

ning council for the Irrigation Association and was agronomic coordinator for the seven 1994 World Cup soccer sites.

"Jim has received many awards," said Melrose in reference to, among others, last year's Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects. "But I think this is the most appropriate."

Outgoing GCSAA President Joe Baidy called Watson "a giant in the turfgrass industry. You can see his influence every-

where."

In thanking the association for its highest award, Watson hailed the superintendent as the "driving force in the partnership being forged between the GCSAA and allied associations."

Also honored during the banquet were Baidy, Immediate Past President Randy Nichols and David Stone, superintendent at The Honors Course in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Baidy received a watercolor of the 2nd hole at his home course,

Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

"I want to thank you," Baidy told the crowd. "The GCSAA launched my career when it awarded me a scholarship back in 1964."

Baidy applauded Nichols for leading GCSAA through a "challenging" 1993 that saw the association replace its upper management staff with the new Steve Mona-led regime and refocus its efforts on the local chapters.

"I received a lot of the credit

for the positive changes that have taken place," said Nichols, head superintendent at Cherokee Town & Country Club in Dunwoody, Ga. "But we couldn't have done it without the efforts of the entire board and the superintendents across the country."

Thomas Chisholm, chairman of the United States Golf Association Green Section, presented the Green Section Award to Stone.

"The playing conditions at David's course have exceeded everyone's expectations," Chisholm said. "His experiments with zoysia and bentgrass have become legendary across the South."

Watson perfect choice for Old Tom Award

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Clute: When the glitz gets brighter, bunkers get deeper

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While remarking on the growth and increased popularity of golf and the "good reason to believe the game will continue to grow," Clute added that those in the industry should not lose sight of the golfing public on whom that growth hinges.

"It seems the glitz and glitter involved in the game gets a little brighter. It seems bunkers get deeper and waterfalls get taller. Greens get faster, the ball flies straighter and the grass gets greener. All those things I have found exciting, stimulating and good for the game of golf," he said.

"But there's another big section of the industry and the game that is far more modest than that. That's where the lion's share of the players participate, and that is really the backbone of our industry and of the game."

Many composting methods emerging

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- Mulching and composting woody plant debris has good potential. Run the debris through a chipper.

While the concern has been that the chips are not uniformly colored, a product called Mulch Magic is sold in three colors to produce uniformity.

- Research information will be available soon on using composted material as a top-dressing amendment.

- A consortium of golf courses may consider buying a \$160,000 machine that physically mixes compost in a windrow.

- The in-vessel compost technology has the most potential for most golf courses with limited land available. An example is a 250-gallon container with a motor that turns it.