

BRIEFS



EPA LAX ON GOLF DECISION

The EPA has still not made a "final" decision on whether the Worker Protection Standard will apply to golf course turf and ornamental nurseries and greenhouses that are used strictly for internal purposes on the course. The standard definitely will not apply to the playing area or grounds of the course. It will apply to any course that operates a nursery or greenhouse that sells products to off-site customers. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has written the EPA urging them to issue a final rule exempting nurseries and greenhouses used for internal purposes.



ATLANTIC CONFERENCE MOVES

DARTMOUTH, Nova Scotia, Canada — The Atlantic Turfgrass Research Foundation, in cooperation with the Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association (AGSA) will host the Atlantic Turfgrass Conference here, March 21-23. The event has been held in St. John, New Brunswick, the past 16 years. More information is available from the AGSA at 287 Lacewood Dr., Unit 103-156, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 3Y7.

NORTHWEST TRADE SHOW PLANNED

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Inland Northwest Turf and Landscape Trade Show is scheduled for Jan. 26, here at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Turfgrass industry vendors will be on hand to show equipment, products and supplies for the trade. Admission is free. Exhibit space is still available. For more information call Julie Byce, the show coordinator, at 509-535-8305.

AVIARA PITCHES IN FOR WILDLIFE

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Aviara Golf Club, an Arnold Palmer-designed course that skirts the Baticuitos Lagoon, is helping in a \$55 million restoration of the lagoon that will enhance the natural habitat for plants, birds and animals. The ambitious restoration project calls for dredging 3.4 million yards of sand that will be siphoned through 15,000 feet of pipeline to a nearby beach. There are also plans for an information kiosk near the lagoon and a 1.5 mile hiking trail.

USGA pushes for soil lab certification

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Striving to assure that golf courses are served by "competent" laboratories that are putting their full effort into it, the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) is proceeding full-steam ahead toward instituting an accreditation program.

The USGA is working with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (AALA), a Washington, D.C.-based organization which has accredited more than 800 labs of various kinds. The 15 or so soil labs which test root-zone mixes for golf course construction, have never had an accreditation program to pass, and reaction among them is mixed.

"I've gotten good feedback from [lab representatives] happy to see it," said Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section. "I just want the people who are serious about doing good work to get accredited. It has a lot of good purposes."

Dr. Norm Hummel of Cornell University, who studied the lab situation for the USGA two years ago and who himself runs a lab, said the requirements of accreditation "will immediately shake out some of the labs."

Saying he was intimidated at first and that one lab is "suspicious that anybody can be bought," Hummel added: "There will be some resistance because it will force everybody to do things according to protocol, to have an



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— Jim Snow

internal quality-control program."

Indeed, one of the leaders in the industry, Turf Diagnostics & Design (TDD) in Olathe, Kan., takes exception to the accreditation, though for other reasons.

"Who's got the level of expertise to tell us we're accredited or not?" asked Vice President Steve McWilliams. "We can document what we do but, frankly, we don't see anyone qualified out there to tell us we're doing it right or wrong."

Saying his lab follows protocol and more, and adding that several changes in the USGA specifications were derived directly from TDD's procedures, McWilliams said: "I'm not sure it [accreditation] is going to fly... This is not an easy issue."

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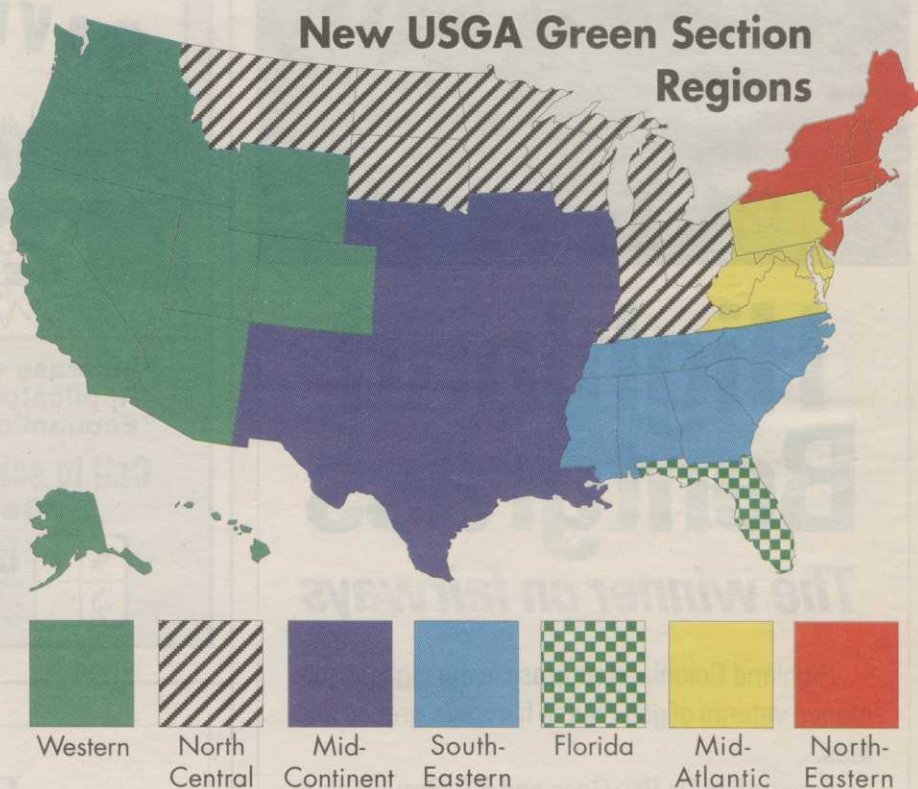
Regions are reorganized to better serve course clients

By JIM SNOW

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The United States Golf Association's (USGA) Green Section has reorganized several of its regions in an effort to provide better service to clubs and courses in its Turf Advisory Service.

Starting in the East, Ohio and Kentucky will become part of the new North-Central Region. The North-Central Region will include Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana. These states will be serviced by newly-appointed regional director Bob Brame, in Kentucky, and Bob Vavrek, near Milwaukee.

The Mid-Continent Region will gain Illinois and Iowa in the reorganization. Colorado and Wyoming will move to the Western Region. Jim Moore will remain regional director from his office in Waco, Tex., and Paul Vermeulen will be moving from the Western Region office to



establish a new office in central Illinois.

The Western Region will pick up Colorado and Wyoming. Larry Gilhuly will remain as regional director from his office near Seattle.

Pat Gross and a new agronomist yet to be named will serve the southern part of the region from their office in

southern California.

The USGA Green Section is hoping that by establishing more than one office in a region — as was done in the Northeastern Region 10 years and in the Western Region in 1993 — it can provide better service.

ESPN to broadcast Par for the Course

Stossel joins Dodson, Erusha, Pyle in environmental general session

LAWRENCE, Kan. — ESPN will launch a golf "block" of programming that will air on Sunday mornings, and will broadcast *Par for the Course* as part of its package.

Produced by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), *Par for the Course* takes an innovative look at the world of golf from the view of what goes into making the game enjoyable.

The segments will air on 19 Sunday dates and 11 Thursday/Friday dates

throughout the year.

GCSAA will also be producing a series of feature segments for ESPN that will air during the network's coverage of PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour tournaments. These short segments will highlight issues and trends in golf course management.

ABC-TV newsman John Stossel will make an encore appearance at the association's International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco

on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Stossel, who appeared at GCSAA's 1991 conference, will be a panelist in an Environmental General Session, "Changing Perspectives," focusing on the public image of golf courses and how they are maintained.

Other panels will be Dr. Kimberly Erusha, director of education for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section; Ron Dodson, president and chief executive officer of the Audubon Society

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GCSAA NOTEBOOK

See pages 26-31 for news on candidates, award winners and the international conference & show.

GCSAA Notebook

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of New York State; Paulette Pyle, director of grassroots for Oregonians for Food and Shelter; and a senior official from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy will moderate the panel, which will discuss how media and the public perception are molded.

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Another session has been added to the GCSAA conference schedule and will cover "Golf Property Economics from the Appraiser/Analyst Perspective."

Presented by the Society of Golf Appraisers (SGA), the 1-3 p.m. session on Feb. 25 will involve a brief presentation of the physical and economic issues affecting the valuation of golf properties, followed by an open forum. Speakers will be SGA President Laurence A. Hirsch, Vice President Sam Hines, Secretary Carl Schultz and Director David J. Yerke.

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The GCSAA has announced the appointment of several managers to its headquarters staff:

Charles M. Borman has been hired as membership manager. **Brad Short** has been hired as government relations manager. **Kim Heck** has been hired as GCSAA's first career development manager and started work Nov. 1, 1994. **Burke Beeler** has been hired as development manager. Former GCSAA Membership Manager **Jennifer McCaughey** has been named systems manager of GCSAA's Central Services department, where she will work on management information systems, database management and training.

...

Gary Grigg, superintendent at Naples (Fla.) National Golf Club, has been nominated for the presidency of GCSAA. The election of officers and directors will take place Feb. 27 during the GCSAA's annual Conference and Show in San Francisco (For thumbnail sketches of all those standing for GCSAA office, see pages 26-28).

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The West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association recently donated \$5,000 to the GCSAA Foundation to support research on health and safety issues.

As a donor of \$5,000 or more, the West Virginia association will be honored as part of the Platinum Tee Club at the GCSAA show in San Francisco

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The number of active superintendents certified by the GCSAA has reached 1,400 for the first-time in the history of the 23-year-old program.

The 1,400 superintendents holding the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) represent about 20 percent of the association's Class A membership.

Students pursuing careers in golf course management recently got a boost from a \$40,000 donation to the GCSAA from the Metedeconk National Golf Club of Jackson, N.J.

The donation was derived from the club's annual Robert Trent Jones Invitational Team Championship. It will go into the GCSAA Foundation's Robert Trent Jones Endowment, which provides scholarships for outstanding students pursuing careers in golf course management. The fund currently stands at more than \$600,000.

Metedeconk, with its Robert Trent Jones-designed course, has raised \$200,000 for the endowment in the past six years.

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The GCSAA has formed a blue-ribbon committee to try to remain environmentally proactive and to identify research priorities.

The GCSAA's Research Committee has identified agronomic research; the environment; health and safety; and business and operational issues as four major areas of concern.

The committee, chaired by GCSAA Director Paul McGinnis,

is made up mainly of member superintendents and turfgrass researchers.

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The GCSAA's Career Development Resource Group has developed several suggestions to improve employer education, job-seeking skills and tools and career guidance and counseling.

Some of the suggestions are: Improving the GCSAA's Employment Referral Service; improving the GCSAA's Employment Resources Kit; improving the GCSAA's Salary Survey; and changing the purpose and direction of The Leader Board, the

GCSAA's club and course leader-directed newsletter.

The group discussed changing the newsletter from a subscription-based publication to one free of charge to every golf course with a GCSAA member.

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A new Historical Preservation Resource Group has been formed by the GCSAA to preserve the history and evolution of the superintendent and the job of maintaining a golf course. A book on the GCSAA's history is already planned, and research is underway which could eventually be turned into exhibits and displays.

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