

BRIEFS



**DON SWEDA DIES AT 48**

COLUMBIASTATION, Ohio — Don B. Sweda, a certified golf course superintendent at Columbia Hills Country Club here, has died at the age of 48.



Don B. Sweda

Elected president of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) in December 1993, Mr. Sweda had served six years on the OTF board and was also a past president of the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association. He had previously worked at Beechmont Country Club in Cleveland.

**WHITE JOINS RUTGERS**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Dr. Jim White, a world authority on endophytes in turfgrass, has left Auburn University in Alabama to join the staff at Rutgers University. White, who began his duties in September, has eight years experience in turf mycology.

**POSTER HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS**

A new color poster that highlights the environmental benefits of golf courses is appearing at golf facilities across the country, thanks to a cooperative effort by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the United States Golf Association (USGA). The poster lists some of the key ecological and social benefits provided by the more than 15,000 golf courses in the United States, including protecting wildlife habitat and improving air quality.

**BENTGRASS RESEARCH GREEN ENLARGED**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Research are collaborating to double the bentgrass area for bentgrass research here. The enlargement will allow researchers to evaluate the changes in construction recommendations for U.S. Golf Association-specification putting surfaces. More information is available from Drs. Bruce Clarke and Jim Murphy.



**PENN STATE CONCLAVE SET**

The Penn State Golf Turf Conference will be held at Nittany Lion Inn here, Nov. 7-9. More information is available from Dr. Peter Landschoot of the Department of Agronomy at 814-863-1017.

**GCSAA, chapters float dual membership requirement**

By PETER BLAIS

LAWRENCE, Kansas — A proposal that would have required anyone belonging to a local superintendents' association to also join the national organization by the year 2010 was hotly debated during September's Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America chapter relations meeting here.

What eventually emerged from the two-day conclave was a compromise measure mandating dual membership for new members beginning July 1, 1997. Anyone joining a local chapter after that date would also have to join the GCSAA. Likewise, anyone joining GCSAA would also have to join a local chapter. Existing members would not be required to join both organizations.

The proposal could be enacted on the national and local levels over the next few months.

Most of the 95 chapter representatives who met here to discuss the proposed chapter affiliation agreement agreed dual membership would increase the professional image of all superintendents.

But many disagreed with the requirement proposed by the GCSAA Chapter Relations Committee that all superintendents and assistant superintendents join both organizations. The proposal would have required that 51 percent of a local chapter's Class A, B and C members hold joint membership by the year 2000, 75 percent by 2005 and 100 percent by 2010.

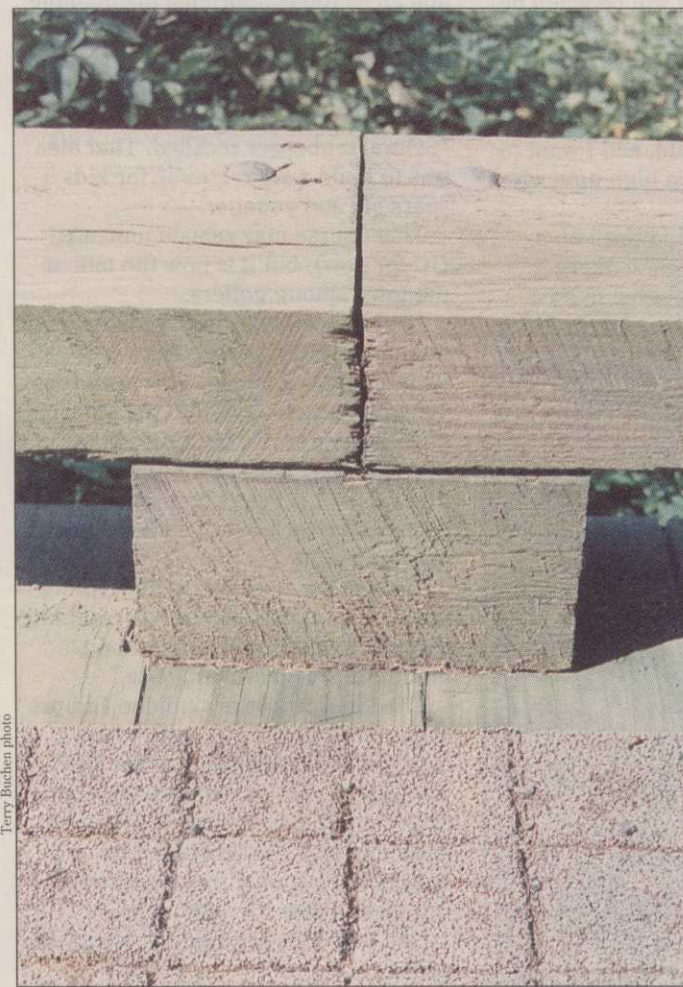
"There are some existing members

who just don't want to join the national association," said Jim Hodge, president of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSA) and head superintendent at Val Halla Golf Club in Cumberland. "Most of us want to see 100-percent participation in both organizations. But there are other avenues to get there rather than simply requiring everyone to join by the year 2010."

A recommendation from the floor that the proposed chapter affiliation agreement be amended so that only new members be required to join both organizations gained the support of better than two-thirds of the chapter representatives, Hodge said.

"Requiring just new members to join

Continued on page 16



Flexigran and Play Bound make wooden walkways safe and aesthetic.

**New products for wood ensure soft-spike safety**

By TERRY BUCHEN

We are fortunate to have new technology available in the form of spikeless golf spikes. These spikeless alternatives have made our jobs easier in providing better playing conditions, and it will be interesting to see if they will survive the test of time. Many golf courses have banned metal golf spikes, favoring the "greens-friendly" spikeless varieties.

The only disadvantages: They sometimes will come loose and can become lost when used on an older set of golf shoes; and they are slippery on wooden bridge surfaces (especially if they have an incline) from the elements

of heavy dews, irrigation, rainfall and sometimes even fog.

To help eliminate golfers from potentially "falling to their knees," a couple of products can be applied to any wooden bridge surface with excellent results. Flexigran and Play Bound are two types of rubberized or urethane surfaces that are "poured-in-place" just like convert.

On wooden bridge applications, one-half or five-eighths of an inch top-grade waterproofed plywood is nailed to the bridge surface in any widths or configurations the superintendent desires. The rubberized or urethane prod-

Continued on page 17



**Low pH can destroy pump stations as well as turf**

By TOM LUBIN

Normally the most acidic rain and the most acidic lakes are found in the North-eastern United States and Southeastern Canada. In many cases the low pH has been traced to industrial air and water pollution in both countries. When the pH of lakes falls below 6.0, some species of fish and other organisms are affected adversely. Depending on the plant material pH values, lower than 6.0 may affect the plant metabolism adversely.

Acidic irrigation water available for use on golf courses and other irrigated facilities may cause problems not only for the plant material. It can literally dissolve the pump station. A case in point is at Banyan Tree Country Club in Phuket, Thailand.

Tom Lubin is a professor of chemistry at Cypress College in Cypress, Calif.

**SECOND OF TWO PARTS**

This golf resort was built on a site near an old abandoned tin mine. A combination of the very acidic irrigation water with a pH of 2.7 with an appreciable tin ion concentration literally dissolved the pump station over three months. A number of attempts to solve the problem failed, and for a period of time a welder was on call to repair leaks as they occurred.

The water at a pH of 2.7 essentially contained none of the buffering provided by the bicarbonate ion normally found on less acidic water. The only way to provide a long-term answer to these problems would be to re-establish the bicarbonate buffer. This was accomplished using dolomite (calcium and magnesium carbonate), the best quality powdered carbon-

ate containing material available locally. If a reliable source of calcium carbonate were available, it could have been used instead of the dolomite. This is the safest and most efficient method of both raising the pH of the water and creating a buffer to further pH change both in the water and ultimately in the soil.

At the Banyan Tree Country Club site, acidic deposits had built up over the many years of operation. Runoff from the old tin mine had acidified the ground water in the area and effectively destroyed the buffering capability of the irrigation water and the soil.

When the pH of any water or soil is lower than 6.0, the bicarbonate ion buffer is converted to carbonic acid. The carbonic acid can decompose and the buffer may be lost as carbon diox-

Continued on page 20

# Chapters to face votes on a variety of GCSAA national proposals

By PETER BLAIS

The proposed chapter affiliation agreement that the national and local superintendents' associations will be working on over the next few months contains other items in addition to the dual membership requirement.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Vice President Bruce Williams said the proposed agreement, which includes many of the items contained in the existing pact, would also require that:

- affiliated chapters be incorporated;
- all officers of local chapters be superintendents and the majority of board members be superintendents;
- chapters submit annual reports;
- chapters send a representative to the annual chapter relations meeting and a representative to vote at the annual meeting;
- all chapters obtain a minimum of \$1 million in liability coverage for officers and directors;

- all chapters obtain tax-exempt status.

The Chapter Relations Committee will submit its proposal to the GCSAA Board of Directors in time for the board's fall meeting sometime in October. The board can implement the affiliation agreement without a vote of the full GCSAA membership.

The Standards and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Joseph Baidy, will also submit any proposed bylaw amendments to the board

that it feels are necessary to comply with the proposed chapter relations agreement. Two-thirds of the board would have to approve putting any amendments before the GCSAA membership for a vote at February's annual meeting in Orlando.

If approved, the local chapters would have approximately 15 months to approve any local bylaw amendments or other changes needed to comply with the new chapter affiliation agreement, Williams said.

## Product makes walking safe with soft spikes

Continued from page 13

uct is mixed just like concrete and literally poured onto the plywood at about half inch thickness. After either product sets-up for a while, any shape that is desired can be imprinted into the surface, such as rectangles to make the surface look like bricks, or squares to make it resemble paver blocks. Another interesting feature of these two products is they come in eight to 16 colors. They even can custom-make a color for the superintendent's own course conditions.

The rubberized product is literally made of many tiny pieces of recycled rubber and affords a nice resiliency when walked on or being driven over with golf cars and maintenance vehicles.

Another important advantage to these products is they are resilient to traditional metal golf spikes as well, so either type of golf shoe will benefit from this excellent bridge surface. Many superintendents have also used this product to cover concrete surrounding a golf shop, clubhouse or halfway house area, for obvious reasons.

Other alternatives to these two products:

- Use rolls of rubber matting and nail/glue them to the bridge surface; use a plastic synthetic grass surface, attach plywood to the bridge surface and then glue the synthetic grass to the plywood;
  - Use the many types of interlocking rubberized products employed in the food-and-beverage business behind bars and inside kitchens; they can be bolted or glued to a bridge surface and come in many different colors and styles available;
  - Paint the bridge surface with the many types of non-slip coatings available in many different colors and textures;
  - Try the spike-proof carpet used inside the lockerroom; it will withstand use out-doors;
  - Try driving range golf tee rubberized mats; they also work well;
  - Use self-adhesive anti-slip tape; it can work if it is strong enough to withstand the elements;
  - Try an approved indoor-outdoor carpet suitable for metal spikes.
- Insurance companies will be quite happy to receive pictures and information about any of these non-slip products.

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