

Obituaries

VELVET BENTGRASS DEVELOPER MANNY FRANCIS DIES

MARSHFIELD, Mass. — Manual L. "Manny" Francis, 91, a longtime superintendent who developed Vesper velvet bentgrass and with his son, Manuel N. Francis Sr., built Green Harbor Golf Course here, died in October.

Mr. Francis, who came to America in 1919 at the age of 16, spent most of his life as a golf course superintendent. But his first work in the industry was working for a Mamaroneck, N.Y., developer who was hiring workers to build a series of courses for Donald Ross.

Mr. Francis turned his talents with plants, irrigation and heavy equipment into a foreman's job. When the Great Depression dried up construction, he turned to greenkeeping, moving with wife Shirley to South Portland (Maine) Municipal Golf Course. In 1948 he moved to Vesper Golf Club in Tyngsborough. It was there that he cultivated Vesper velvet bentgrass.

Velvet bentgrass is now on courses from Maine to Mexico and is being improved by Seed Research of Oregon.

Mr. Francis' son, Manny Sr., owns and operates Green Harbor Golf Course.

USGA'S AL RADKO

Alexander M. "Al" Radko, former national director of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, has died.

Mr. Radko, who died Oct. 31, was a Green Section agronomist from 1947 to 1974 when he was named national director. He retired in 1982.

He was recipient of the 1983 USGA Green Section Award for distinguished service to golf through his work with turfgrass. He edited the *Green Section Record* for five years and was a primary editor of the USGA book "Turf Management for Golf Courses" by Dr. James Beard.

His family requested that memorial donations be made to the USGA Foundation in support of its Junior Golf Program. They can be sent to the USGA Foundation, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931.

NJGCSA'S PAUL BOIZELLE

Paul Boizelle, 72, a former president of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey, died Nov. 1.

A director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in the early 1980s, Mr. Boizelle had been a superintendent at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills, N.J., and Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, Ill., from which he retired several years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne, of Lake Bluff, Ill.

Virginia GCSA honors Beljan

George Beljan received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the West Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association during the group's annual conference held recently at the Lakeview Resort & Conference Center in Morgantown, W. Va. Beljan, 71, of Buckhannon (W. Va.) Country Club, spent many years working as a superintendent in



George Beljan

Pennsylvania before moving to West Virginia 27 years ago. His daughter, Jan, an architect with Tom Fazio Golf Course Designers, was a conference speaker and was present when her father received the award.

Harry Merritt, longtime superintendent at Riviera Country Club, also received a Lifetime Achievement Award but was could not attend.

Chester Valley wins Best Maintained

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was walloped by three feet of snow, putting the project on hold.

TV — what the layman sees — is important to Putt also has a few ideas for tournament time. "I think the only thing we'll do differently is more aesthetic striping," he explained. "This gets away from agronomics but the coverage on me. I also think we can do a little more with

the green banks. I look forward to doing the tournament again this year. I feel lucky to have the chance. There's a lot of pride that goes along with that. Like any business, superintendent's work is very goal-oriented. Every day we're trying to cut a certain amount of grass and make it look and play the best it can."

Especially when the next high school reunion rolls around.

3RD EDITION

BENTGRASS

Word is spreading almost as fast as our bentgrasses.



Darren Burns, Golf Course Superintendent
Nicklaus North at Whistler Golf Course
Whistler, British Columbia



Jon Clarke, Golf Course Superintendent
Northview Golf & Country Club Limited
Cloverdale, British Columbia



Andy Wood, Golf Course Superintendent
London Golf Club
Kent, England



Don Tolson, CGCS
Fox Hollow at Lakewood
Lakewood, Colorado



Gary Dempsey, Golf Course Superintendent
New South Wales Golf Club
Sydney, Australia



Jim Ferrin, CGCS
Granite Bay Golf Club
Granite Bay, California