

BRIEFS



RMGCSA ELECTS HOOFNAGLE

GOLDEN, Colo. — John Hoofnagle of Valley Country Club in Aurora has been elected president of the The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association. He leads a new slate of officers, including Vice President Doug Jones of City of Grand Junction; and Secretary/Treasurer David J. Brown of Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder. New directors are Gregg Blew of Wellshire Golf Course in Denver, John Fitzgibbons of Meadows Golf Course in Littleton and George Stovell of Gunnison Golf Course.

MASS. SHOW TURNS REGIONAL

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show will be held Jan. 15, 16 and 17 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, a new location for the annual event. This year's show is being held in cooperation with state superintendents associations from Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont as well as the University of Massachusetts Extension. For more information contact Denise Ruszala at 413-562-0120, or for registration information contact Jennifer Howland at 413-545-0172.

ISS INKED AT PORT MALABAR

ISS Golf Services of Tampa has reached an agreement with Port Malabar Country Club to manage the maintenance operation of the golf course. The agreement calls for ISS to provide the personnel (both on-and-off-site experts), materials, and supplies for the on-going improvement and maintenance of the 18-hole facility.

CHAPTERS GO PLATINUM

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Minnesota, Heart of America, Long Island and Carolinas golf course superintendents associations have renewed their Platinum Tee Club memberships by donating \$5,000 apiece to The GCSAA Foundation. An annual gift of \$5,000 or more earns membership in the club. The funds are split between scholarships and research.

WOMAC HONORED IN GEORGIA

Bill Womac of Dunwoody Country Club, will receive the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association's (GGCSA) Award of Recognition at the Annual Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Banquet to be held Jan. 6. Womac has been a member of the GGCSA since 1973 and served as a board member from 1977-1984. He served as the association's president from 1981-1982.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Like father, like son: Williams passes the torch

By PETER BLAIS

If the name Williams sounds familiar when it comes to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presidency, well, it should.

Incoming President Bruce Williams' father, Robert, 82, was president of the GCSAA in 1958 and is considered one of the major players in elevating the superintendent profession to the prominence it enjoys today.

Bruce, 46, who has been on the GCSAA board of directors since 1991, not only follows in his father's footsteps as GCSAA president but also succeeded his dad as head superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf



Robert Williams (right) with son Bruce.

Club in Highland Park, Ill., back in 1979. Together they are the first father/son combo to ascend to the top post.

"When your dad is considered an icon in the industry, you're treated somewhat differently when you take over for him," the younger Williams said.

An icon. High praise, but well deserved.

The elder Williams first became involved in the golf business at his parents' course, which they developed in the 1920s as part of a residential development. The entire family began working on the course when the Depression struck in 1929. By 1937, his parents had to sell the course, but Robert had fallen in love with the golf industry and determined to remain a part of it.

He enrolled at the Massachusetts State

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The 'scout' foreseen as new golf profession

By MARK LESLIE

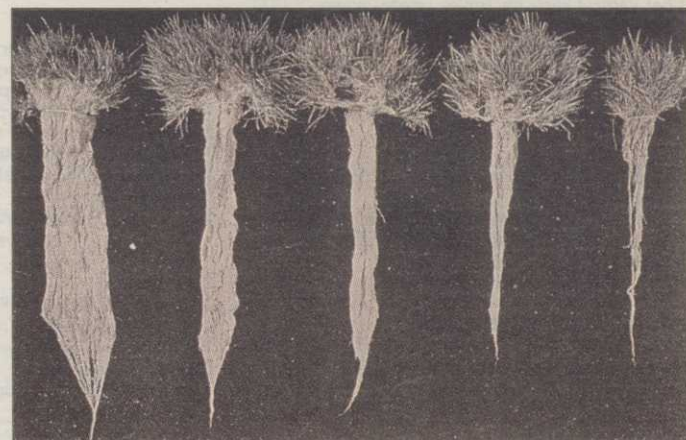
ORLANDO, Fla. — A new occupation is about to emerge on golf courses, according to the director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Continent Region.

"We will see a whole new profession: the scout," Jim Moore predicted at Golf Course Expo, held here by Golf Course News. "The superintendent is often too busy to check the course. A scout can save thousands of dollars in pesticide applications catching problems before they start."

The scout is not a new concept. In fact, Cornell University implemented a scouting service to area golf courses a couple of years ago. But the position exists rarely if at all on courses today.

"As we are less able to apply water and pesticides, scouts and others like them will be responsible for hitting 'hot spots' and [other localized conditions]," Moore said. "Scouts will be more necessary and higher paid, so that courses can keep them."

Indeed, he said, the industry should study paying more and



At Golf Course Expo the USGA's Stan Zontek shared this photo of cultures of velvet bentgrass grown under different conditions of light (from left to right): fully exposed to sun all day, fully exposed forenoon only, fully exposed afternoon only, speckled sun all day, shade all day.

adding benefits to keep key personnel. "Top management companies do this," he said. "But a lot of superintendents have no retirement plan. We're losing experience because employees leave clubs and new ones don't know the golf course. Lack of

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FIRST OF TWO PARTS

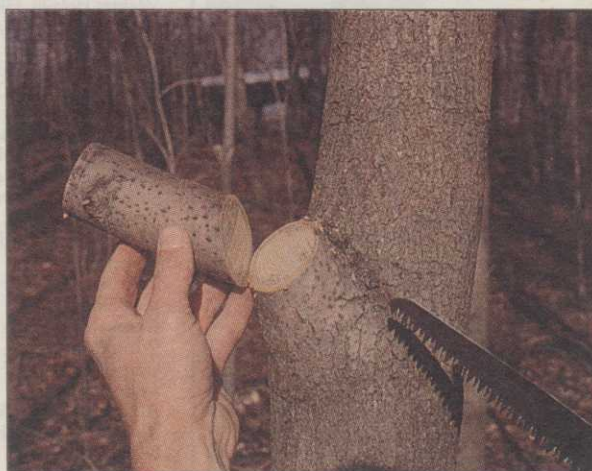
Winter months are the best time to doctor trees

By LAURA MILLER

A winter decrease in golf activity on courses throughout the United States provides many golf course superintendents with time to plan and perform tree maintenance. If you have limited funds and resources, pruning and planting tasks will help make effective use of this time.

Proper winter care will get trees off to a good start. During the winter you can prune trees, inspect recently planted trees and select new planting sites for the spring. By helping to prevent problems, proper pruning and planting reduces tree repair and replacement costs.

Although maintenance pruning of most shade trees can be done year-round, intensive pruning should be performed in the dormant season. Late winter to early spring, just before new growth begins, is a good time to prune trees. Proper pruning cuts made in the



Place pruning cuts outside the branch collar, the swollen area where the branch attaches to the main trunk.

winter close more rapidly than cuts made at other times of the year.

When trees lose their leaves in the winter, it is easier to spot problem areas and place pruning cuts, said Richard Rathjens, a technical adviser with The Davey Tree Expert Co.

"The new leaves that emerge the following spring will help hide cuts made in the winter," he said. "Also, pruning in late fall and early winter minimizes sap flow from pruning cuts on trees such as conifers, maple, birch and walnut."

Winter pruning also minimizes damage to some tree species. The bark of

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USGA goes online

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — On-line and up-front ... the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) has joined the world of the Internet, and is already boasting success, and Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Foundation (TGIF) is on the verge.

When TGIF joins World Wide Web — perhaps as soon as January — its material will be exclusively turfgrass-related, while USGA's site is multi-faceted.

"We're getting a lot of people logging on," said Dean Knuth, USGA's senior director of handicapping who, with Members Program Manager Chris Law, oversaw implementation of the computer package which went on line Nov. 13. "We've gotten 75 people today alone who have signed our guest book with wonderful comments... We think we're reaching the right audience — the general, uninformed public. People have even been joining the USGA every day over this."

"From my viewpoint, the web structure will make all this work worthwhile," said TGIF director Peter Cookingham, whose library was established and supported the USGA to amass and centralize

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Tips abound at Golf Course Expo

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tenure costs courses a lot of money."

Attendees at the Expo's Maintenance Track received a bevy of suggestions and comments from Moore and Green Section colleagues Stan Zontek, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, and John Foy, director of the Florida Region. Among them:

- "If we could convince golfers that a 1/4-inch height of cut is all right, we could reduce fertilizer and pesticide use by 30 to 50 percent overnight," Moore said.

- "Every golf course has an indicator green — one that sits low, in the shade, with no air movement," Zontek said. "That's where brown patch, Pythium, general wilt, all sorts of disease and pests strike. Every morning, check your indicator green and you'll know what to look for elsewhere."

- "Typical to Florida is the golf course being manicured right down to the bank of a pure water body," Foy said. "We have to stop this. Use buffer strips, shoreline plantings, a 4-inch cut on the rough to filter water. And establish no-spray zones."

- Reduce pesticide use by increasing air movement. "Weak light means weak grass," Moore said. "No air movement, and you have no chance. Remove the trees and add electricity (with fans) if you have to."

- "What looks good design-wise can be a disaster agronomically," Zontek said. "It's a real battle between aesthetics and agronomy. I suggest most golf courses can remove 10 to 20 percent of their trees. They are too close to the greens, tees and bunkers."

"We need to find a balance between the needs of the golf course and what is pretty. For the best golf course you need air, water and sunlight."

- Never exceed one-half pound of nitrogen application per 1,000 square feet, Foy said. Fertigation is a very useful tool, "but watch out where the spray is going," Foy said, showing a slide in which spray went into a body of water.

- Near trees, use solid pipe, not perforated. "You'd be amazed how far tree roots go and what damage they do filling up pipes, etc.," Zontek advised.

- Try more spot treating. "For instance, spot treat for nematodes rather than wall-to-wall, because you don't have the problem everywhere," Foy suggested. "This saves money and could prevent an environmental nightmare."

- When cutting tree roots, Zontek said, "Trench in both directions and the tree root won't re-graft. Do it just once and it can."

- Superintendents used to spray bunkers to kill mole crickets. "Do not do that!" Foy emphasized.

Moore pointed to four areas where golf courses are apt to do environmental damage: wash racks and pads; pesticide storage; fuel storage; and crew education.

He suggested:

- Blow-cleaning equipment, thereby keeping clippings out of sewers.

- Installing pesticide storage buildings, which can be bought for \$50.

- Above-ground storage tanks are a big advantage although, he said, they are "fading fast. The public perception is that ugly pesticide-application equipment means danger."

- Aggressively advancing crew education.

Study focuses on spike impact on surface, compaction

AMHERST, Mass. — With the advent of debate over "spiked-up" golf greens from spiked shoes, University of Massachusetts Turf Program Director William Torello is studying a number of variables including surface quality and compaction.

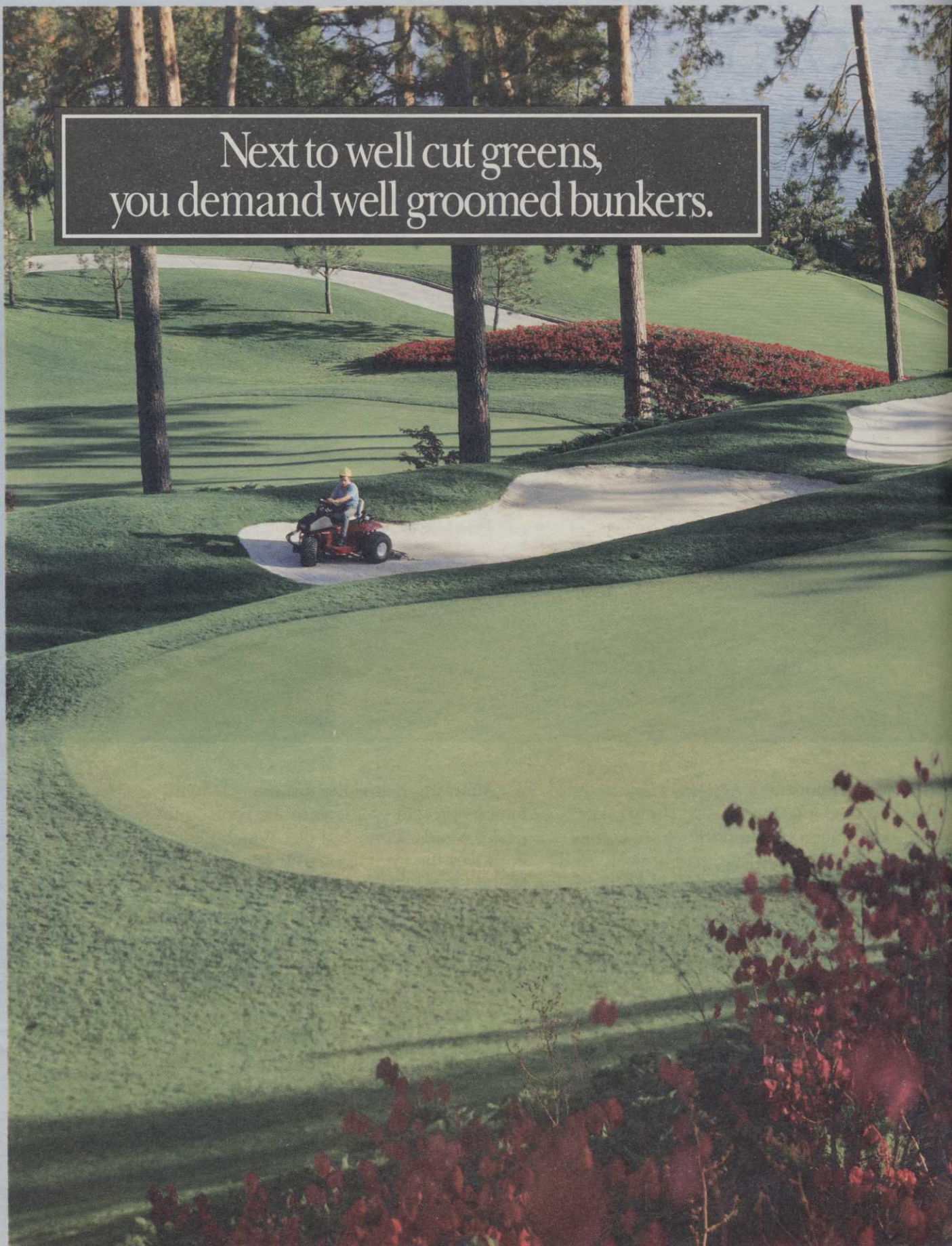
Turf Diagnostics & Design of Olathe, Kan., is involved in the Titleist-funded study, which began in October at the UMass National Turf Evaluation Plots. Turf Diagnostic will define the soil physics of the plots and apply the newly developed STRIPE (Sports Turf Rebound & Impact Performance Evaluation) Program to assess the compaction potential of various spike and non-spike systems.



Stephen McWilliams, president and CEO of Turf Diagnostics, said: "Our concern is the impact on the long-term agronomic operation of golf greens. In my opinion, the long-term cost-benefit-agronomic performance of the spikeless technology needs further examination to deserve the industry's endorsement."

The Titleist research, in part, is needed to determine that the new technology is not pushing the turf toward dysfunction due to surface compaction, McWilliams said. "We will always have the disruption of golf green surface uniformity from foot traffic, whether it is from spikeless depressions or surface eruptions from spikes," he said.

Next to well cut greens,
you demand well groomed bunkers.



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