

BRIEFS



RMGCSA ELECTS HOOFNAGLE

GOLDEN, Colo. — John Hoofnagle of Valley Country Club in Auroras 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

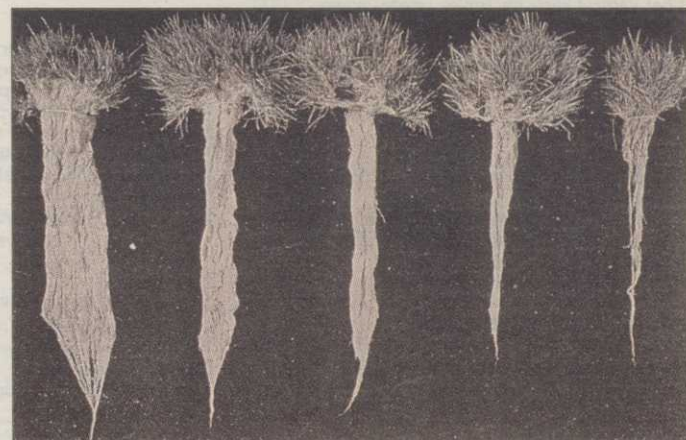
ORLANDO, Fla. — A new occupation is about to emerge on golf courses, according to the director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Continent Region.

"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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Tree pruning: The kindest cut

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and appearance of trees and prolongs their life by removing dead, weakened, diseased or insect-infested branches.

Arborists place pruning cuts outside the branch collar, the swollen area where the branch attaches to the main trunk. You can easily see the branch collar on many trees. "The whole idea behind proper pruning is to avoid injuring the trunk," Rathjens explained. "Once the trunk is damaged, it can lead to decay and death of the tree."

A common pruning mistake is making one straight cut through a branch. When cut this way, the branch's weight can cause the wood to splinter and pull bark from the tree. To avoid tearing, a cut should be made on the branch's underside, a foot or two out from the trunk, about one-third of the way through the branch.

A second cut should be made on top of the limb a few inches farther out from the first cut. These two cuts remove most of the branch's weight. The stub is removed with a final cut made just outside the branch bark ridge and through the collar.

Another frequent error is painting a cut. In most cases, painting is not recommended because the paint traps moisture on the freshly cut surface, which provides an environment conducive to fungal growth. Painting should only be done in rare instances, such as on trees that are susceptible to oak wilt and Dutch elm disease during periods of beetle flight.

SCHEDULING PLANTING

Although properly prepared and protected planting stock can often be successfully transplanted during any season, there are specific times of the year when planting is most successful. Winter is a good time to determine which trees you want to plant. Planting at the correct time encourages the growth of healthy trees.

In general, plants are best moved when shoots are not actively growing — the resting or dormant stage. Deciduous trees are normally planted in the fall after leaf drop and before the soil freezes or in early spring before bud break.

Narrowleaf evergreen also may be planted in the fall or in the spring before new growth starts. Broadleaf evergreens should be planted in the spring in climatic zones where soils freeze. In northern regions where the soil freezes early and deep spring planting of evergreens is perhaps the safest, says Len Burkhart, Ph.D., a horticulturist with Davey.

"In the South with its mild winters, fall planting is preferred," Burkhart said. "Winter planting is fine for plants with a root ball large enough to contain undisturbed roots that supply branches with water until spring."

Transplant success often depends on soil temperatures. The soil must be warm enough to permit the growth of new roots immediately after planting and continue until adequate root growth can support the plant's water-absorbing potential. "Roots grow best when soil temperatures are between 40 and 90 degrees F," Burkhart says. "Trees should be transplanted at least four weeks before soil temperatures drop below 40 degrees F to allow proper root development in the fall."

Heart of America elects Eldridge president

Superintendent Jeff Eldridge of the Deer Creek GC in Overland Park, Kan., was elected president of the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association (HAGCSA) at its annual meeting in November at Loch Lloyd CC. Eldridge succeeds outgoing president Chuck Haby of St. Joseph CC.

Bill Bologna of Swope Memorial GC in Kansas City, Mo., was elected vice president and Gary Higbie of Trails West GC in Leavenworth, Kan., was elected secretary/treasurer. Dave Dettmer of Lawrence CC in Lawrence, Kan., Woody Moriarty of Hillcrest CC in Kansas City, Mo., and Jim Naudet of Leawood South CC in Leawood, Kan., were

all elected to two-year terms on the HAGCSA's Board of Directors.

Jon Kindlesparger of Alvarado CC and Tyler Koch of Hodge Park Golf Course both have one year remaining on their terms as directors. One other person will be appointed by the president to fill the one year remaining on Bologna's term as director.

The HAGCSA also passed a by-law change that the nominating committee for the Board of Directors shall now consist of three past presidents of the association with the immediate past president serving as chairperson as appointed by the president with board approval.

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