

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

Continued on page 22

The 'scout' foreseen as new golf profession

By MARK LESLIE

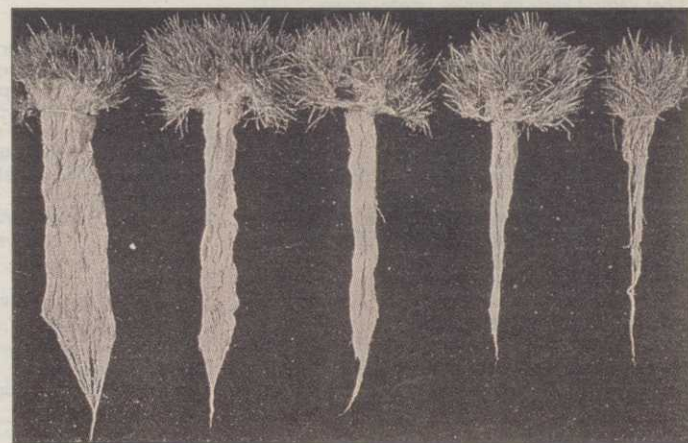
ORLANDO, Fla. — A new occupation is about to emerge on golf courses, according to the director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Continent Region.

"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

Continued on page 20

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



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

Continued on page 18

Continued on page 28

World gets smaller with e-mail

The advent of computer e-mail capabilities within the U.S. Golf Association Green Section has brought major strides in solving agronomic problems around the country, according to Jim Moore, director of the USGA Green Section Mid-Continent Region.

"The greatest thing about it to me," Moore said, "is that when somebody hires one of us, they get us all. That's been true since our inception, but even more so now."

The USGA's home page
e-mail addresses:
<http://www.usga.org>
<http://www.usopen.com>

Every night Moore and his colleagues sign onto their e-mail addresses and exchange questions and information.

"I have five or six notes every day from other fellows on the staff," he said. "Our whole staff is doing this, so for the first time in my 12 years here I feel very close to the staff."

Green Section logs on to cyberworld

Continued from page 15

"It represents the first phase of widespread use of our material. It will mean really serious industry access at a level that I'm comfortable saying, 'Anybody can use it for the first time.'"

Until now, TGIF's library has been accessible only through modem-to-modem hookups or through Telnet, an Internet site basically accessible only to academics.

"But once it's on the web that

changes the nature of access," Cookingham said. "There is a lot of other material becoming available and, with the web, things can be linked together readily and easily."

The web environment will "alter the nature" of TGIF's material, he added, saying: "TGIF has been text-retrieval. Within web structures, however, those limitations come off and we anticipate more presentation of non-text materials."

Noting that superintendents

don't have a good way to inform the general public, USGA Green Section Mid-Continent Region Director Jim Moore said: "I'm hoping this [web site] bridges the gap."

"People who come to this page are golfers. I have access to them now and they have access to me. They will see things they don't normally see."

Meanwhile, as golfers explore a plethora of ever-increasing topics on the USGA's home page (computer address), golf course superintendents also may want to take a look.

Long-term, Moore wants to try to build a forum with superintendents and USGA staff.

The entire Green Section staff, who have been on-line on CompuServe, will have Internet e-mail addresses soon, so inquiries can go directly to them.

Green Section brochures and reprints of Green Section Record articles have been entered into the site.

Asked if any in-house columns are planned, Knuth said: "I don't know yet. We're going to see how popular the Green Section part is and take it from there."

Moore, who wrote an article on soft-spike shoes, reported that one superintendent downloaded the piece and planned to put copies at every member's locker.

As Cookingham said: "From the end-user's perspective it's [Internet] much tidier, cleaner, easy to use and easy to understand. And it looks fancier."

"We've been printing and routing the questions people are sending in to the different departments and helping them respond," said web master Knuth.

"We're going to look at inputting a guided tour of the [USGA] museum and have all the USGA championships over 100 years," he said. "And there will be live scores during the three Opens. We have handheld computers at the greens. They are punched into a mainframe at our scoring trailer. Within 17 seconds after we get a score at the trailer, the golfer's hole-by-hole score will be on the Internet."

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Delhi reports industry support

DELHI, N.Y. — The expanded Delhi College Golf Course will be a showcase for the latest in turfgrass technology, thanks to solid investment by turf industry leaders.

Loft Seed Co. Turf-Seed Inc., Tee-2-Green Corp., Agri-Turf, Seed Research and The Scotts Co. have donated newly developed seed varieties and cultivars for the new back nine at Delhi College Golf Course. The donations have a market value of nearly \$20,000, according to Diminac Morales, Delhi College Plant Science Department chairman.

GOLF COURSE NEWS