

BRIEFS



TALKING TURF IN AUGUST

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Turf Talk '96, the annual turfgrass seminar hosted by Garden West Distributors, Inc., will be held Aug. 14 at San Marcos Hotel and Conference Center here. More information on the full-day event is available from Garden West at 602-233-2966.



GIL COLLINS DAY

GRANDVIEW, Mo. — The Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association (HAGCSA) turned its annual Past Presidents Day into Gil Collins Day to honor the retiring Elmore G. (Gil) Collins. Twice a president of HAGCSA, Collins has been superintendent at Oakwood Country Club here for 31 years, following positions at Wakonda Club in Des Moines, Iowa, Molila Club in St. Joseph, and Windbrook Country Club in Parkville.

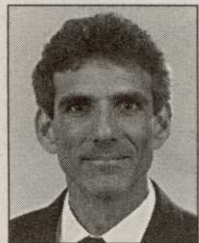
KARNOCK TWICE-HONORED

Dr. Keith Karnock of the University of Georgia Department of Crop and Soil Sciences has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. The award is the highest honor of both societies, exemplifying professional achievement and meritorious service. Karnock is the author of *Principles of Turfgrass Management*, a correspondence course of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America.



GEORGIA'S LANDRY HONORED

GRIFFIN, Ga. — The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) has awarded the Harry C. Gill Award to Dr. Gil Landry, a turf specialist with the University of Georgia Extension Service here. The award, honoring the STMA's Groundskeeper of the Year, denotes an individual's service and commitment of the association and its goals and standards.



Dr. Gil Landry

CLUB CORP. HIRES ANDERSON

LA PLACE, La. — Jerry Anderson is the new superintendent here at ClubCorp-managed Belle Terre Country Club. Anderson arrived via Live Oak Country Club in Rockport, Texas, where he maintained all aspects of the club's golf course operations.

Audubon hails supers' rising involvement

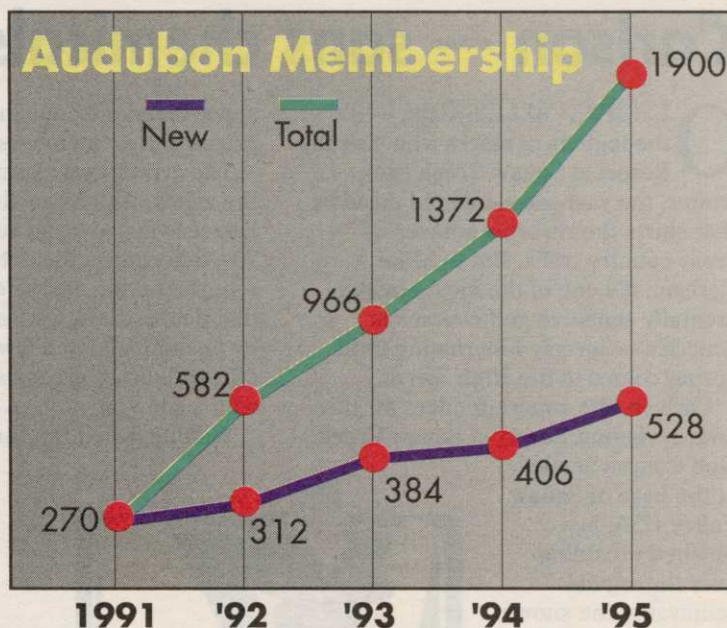
By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — Citing "dramatic results" and a growing number of golf course members, Audubon International reports its Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS) experienced a year of stability and strong member involvement in 1995.

"At an average of 120 or more acres per site, [golf courses] represent some of the most extensive sanctuary areas in the country," the ACSS Annual Program Report says. "ACSS members are literally transforming their courses to improve habitat, protect water sources, and reduce water and pesticide use."

"The [program's] momentum seems to be picking up more and more," said Audubon International President

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THE REPORT IS IN

Plastic spikes vs. metal and none

By G.W. HAMILTON, D.S. SINKUS, L.P. TREDWAY & A.E. GOVER

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Two studies have been conducted here at Penn State University evaluating the effects of three tread types on putting green turf wear, ball-roll distance, and ball-roll deflection.

The study found that tread types significantly affected ball-roll distance and caused an unacceptable amount of wear at certain traffic intensities on both types of root zones: all-sand and modified soil. Deflection in ball-roll was rarely statistically different for tread types.

Another general observation: Metal spikes, because of the creation of the hole in the turf, made the traffic much

more noticeable. Although the holes make the traffic more apparent, the effect on ball-roll may not be as significant as the effect on turf visual quality.

The study did show that shoe tread type does affect turf wear and ball-roll distance and deflection. However, the amount of thatch present, the root-zone soil texture, and amount of traffic can also significantly influence which type of shoe tread would be best for daily use.

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The objectives of the first study were to evaluate the effects of tread type on turf wear and ball-roll distance. It was conducted at the Valentine Memorial Turfgrass Research Center here. Two

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Superintendent Paul Latshaw Jr. checks on one of his new greens at Merion Country Club, along with one of his grounds crew members.

Latshaw's poa attackus plan at Merion

By MARK LESLIE

ARDMORE — While his dad has been tackling major greens woes at Congressional Country Club, Paul Latshaw Jr. has faced obstacles of his own at Merion Country Club here and has made major strides in conquering *poa annua* problems.

The Merion superintendent said a combination of gassing the greens last September with methyl bromide, covering the greens and applying heavy dormant feeding through the winter, and using a four-cultivar blend of bentgrasses had his putting surfaces looking "pretty decent" for the May 18 opening. Now Latshaw and his crew are faced with the real chore: keeping *poa annua* from



ON THE GREEN

again invading this famous golf course.

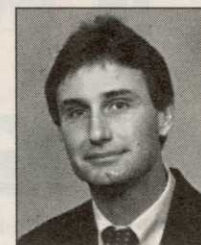
His plan? A multidimensional approach that will include hand-picking this first year, a possible pre-emergent herbicide application in the fall to prevent *poa* from germinating, a future use of plant growth regulators to inhibit *poa* seed-head production, and a move to plastic-spiked golf shoes.

PHASE ONE

Latshaw credited much of the success in the grow-in phase of his greens renovation to extensive fumigation.

"There are a lot of things in our favor because we fumigated so far out," he said, explaining that crews not only fumigated the greens but also at least 30 feet out into

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Q & A

Robert L. Green
U-Cal Riverside

U-Cal research shedding light on water use

Robert Larson Green, Ph.D., is the turfgrass research agronomist in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. Green provides leadership for a growing research program involving turfgrass stress physiology and cultural practices. He has bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Florida and has authored 70 scientific journal papers, technical reports and scientific abstracts. Golf Course News spoke with Green as part of its ongoing question-and-answer sessions with leading turfgrass researchers.

Golf Course News: What research have you and other UC-Riverside researchers undertaken in the area of water use and what are your findings?

Robert Green: We have conducted considerable research irrigating below reference water use (ETO) via procession irrigation field plots. The goal is to save water by expanding the time between irrigations while maintaining representative, functional turfgrass. The rooting aspect is one of the most important plant traits that enables us to irrigate below ETO and save water.

Recent research shows a defined irrigation amount, say 80 percent ETO, statistically higher turfgrass quality and soil water content within the root zone can be achieved by irrigating two times per week versus four times per week. Turf researchers have known the benefits of the practice of deep, infrequent irrigations for many years and our data supports this economic principle.

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