

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.

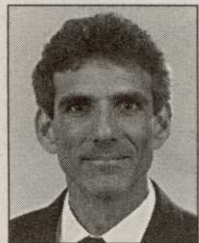
KARNOCK TWICE-HONORED

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

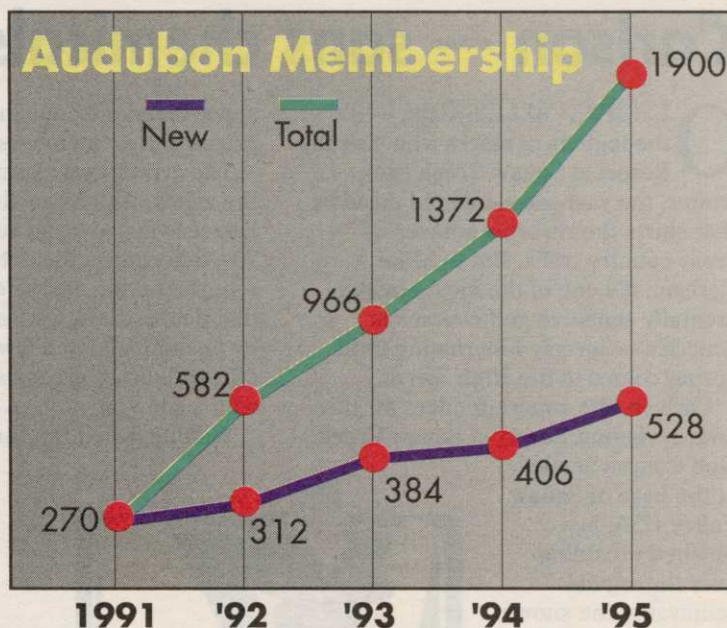
By MARK LESLIE

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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Merion success

Continued from page 15

the "approach" areas to the greens. "If I had it to do over, I probably would have gone even further out," he said. "Poa that tracks in from the fairways will be tracked onto the approaches and we can deal with it better there because it's at a higher height of cut."

As for the rest of the area around the green, Latshaw fumigated out three sod widths (48 inches) "to try to go with a ryegrass/bluegrass mix that will be tolerant to Prograss [a selective herbicide]. Prograss might be one of the programs we use to keep the poa out. We're looking at a lot of different things: TGR, Primo, Prograss, Dimension, Bensulide. We'll use these on our bentgrass nursery to help formulate an exact program."

In mid-September, the greens were seeded after a surface preparation that included spiking and coring. Latshaw wanted to open the surface to create a seedbed without stripping the surface thatch.

After seeding, green covers were used to enhance germination by retaining surface moisture. Once germination occurred, the covers were kept on at night to retain warm soil temperatures and removed during the day for maximum sunlight, which would maximize photosynthesis in the young seedlings.

Last fall, Latshaw extensively thinned trees and removed branches, allowing more sunlight to reach many of his greens. Over the years, trees had overgrown some green sites to such an extent that some of the greens received only three or four hours a day of sunlight.

By early November, the newly seeded greens, now 7 weeks old, were well established. At that time, a preventive spray was applied to the turf to protect it against snow mold fungi.

Latshaw is especially enthused about how well the greens emerged from a winter that set all sorts of snowfall records. "We used the green covers and did a lot of dormant feeding," he said. "There was no winter kill whatsoever and the greens even got better through the winter."

PHASE TWO

Now, the chore is to keep the greens healthy and fight off any invasion of poa annua. "I'm going to rely heavily on my consultants," said Latshaw, who has sought advice from, among others, Penn State's Dr. Thomas Watschke, an expert on plant growth regulators among other issues; University of Maryland plant pathologist Dr. Peter Dernodean; and U.S. Golf Association Green Section Mid-Atlantic Region Director Stanley Zontek.

"This first year we'll rely most on mechanically removing any poa annua with knives, and filling in with top dressing and seed," Latshaw said. "With seedlings, I don't want to take any chances

putting growth regulators [PGRs] on them. When we do use PGRs, we will do so on greens and approaches. I'm leaning toward TGR, which is aggressive on the poa. Primo seemed the safest but is not that aggressive on poa.

"Maybe in the fall we will be able to put down a pre-emergent that would prevent any poa annua from germinating."

Merion has also "gone after a big seedhead reduction program on our fairways," Latshaw said, "by using Prograss in the fall and Embark in the spring, starting after first heavy frost in October, and 21 to 28 days apart.

We're trying to not let any poa annua we have go to seedhead."

Meanwhile, he said, the club is "going spikeless," allowing only plastic-spike golf shoes, which will help against a poa invasion.

"A lot of people say the most dramatic thing they ever did was change their course to spikeless shoes," Latshaw said. "We visited Wilmington Country Club with a lot of members at 4 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon and it was amazing: The place was packed with players, and yet the greens were absolutely flawless."

Finally, Latshaw believes his conversion will be made more

successful by blending Crenshaw, L93, Southshore and Providence bentgrasses, with a touch of Pennlinks.

"All through school you're taught to avoid monocultures at all costs," he said. "I went back to the old way of doing things, blending grasses for the survival of the fittest. On our course and a lot of golf courses, we have 18 greens that are in different micro-environments. What does well on No. 11 won't do well on No. 3. Three's up on a hill with good sunshine. Eleven's down at the lowest point of the course, goes under water and has shade problems.

"Crenshaw has real good heat tolerance. Southshore and L93 were developed in this area. Providence has been proven in the New England area. We're trying to get the different strengths of the grasses and combine them. A lot of people worry about texture and segregation in all the bentgrasses. But eventually they all segregate. And if you looked at all the different textures of the greens we had before, along with all the different biotypes of poa, it comes down to a good management program and working on texture and ball-roll consistency."

Seed Research of Oregon presents ...

BEST 18 GOLF GREENS IN NORTH AMERICA

Nominees:

Old Overton Club – Vestavia Hills, AL
Club Terravita – Scottsdale, AZ
Diamante CC – Hot Springs Village, AR
Northview Golf & CC – Cloverdale, BC
Nicklaus North at Whistler – Whistler, BC
Brentwood CC – Brentwood, CA
Silver Creek Valley CC – San Jose, CA
Granite Bay Golf Club – Granite Bay, CA
Sun City – Roseville – Roseville, CA
Legacy Ridge at Westminster – Westminster, CO
The Club at Cordillera – Edwards, CO
Fox Hollow at Lakewood – Lakewood, CO
Legends at Chateau Elan – Braselton, GA
Lanier Golf Club – Cumming, GA
Glen Oaks CC – W. Des Moines, IA
Point Sebago Resort & CC – Casco, ME
Cattail Creek CC – Glenwood, MD
North Course at Stonehedge – Augusta, MI
White Pine National GC – Hubbard Lake, MI
CC of Lincoln – Lincoln, NE
Sand Hills Golf Club – Mullen, NE
Lightning "W" Ranch – Carson City, NV
The Club at Genoa Lakes – Genoa, NV
Santa Ana GC – Bernalillo, NM
CC of Purchase – Purchase, NY
Oak Hill CC – Rochester, NY
Greenville CC – Greenville, NC
Karsten Creek Golf Club – Stillwater, OK
Oaks CC – Tulsa, OK
Wyncote CC – Oxford, PA
Bluegrass Yacht & CC – Hendersonville, TN
Creekview Golf Club – Crandall, TX
Denton CC – Denton, TX
Turtle Hill GC – Muenster, TX
Ridgewood CC – Waco, TX
Sunrise GC – El Paso, TX
Royal Virginia Golf Club – Louisa, VA
James River CC – Newport News, VA
Tri-Mountain GC – Ridgefield, WA
Sumner Meadows GC – Sumner, WA
North Bellingham GC – Bellingham, WA
The Bog – Saukville, WI

Bruce Hospes
Paul Ellwood
Mandel Brockinton
Jon Clark
Darren Burns
Mark Condos
Nick Checklenis
Jim Ferrin
John Martin
Scott Tuggle
Tim Taagen
Don Tolson
Mike Brisbois
Pat Stewart
Tim Johnson
Gerry White
Kevin Pryseski
Charlie Scott
Bruce Wolfrom
Charlie Hadwick
Keith Nordick
Tom Unruh
Jed Anderson
Gary Hodge
Robert Miller
Joe Hahn
Bob Young
Steve Wilcoxon
Leon Stroikey
Mark Del Santro
Jim Hinchman
Jordan Eldredge
Merlin Tielkemeier
Danny Arena
John Andersen
Tom Broom
Maurie Shields
Jesse Parsons
Dan Bierscheid
Lee Anderson
Rich Jahnke
Pat Shaw

In our search to find the very best Providence, SR 1020 and Dominant creeping bentgrass greens, these golf courses and superintendents were nominated as the very best in North America. From these names, a winner will be judged, and awarded a trip to the 1997 International Turfgrass Conference in Sydney, Australia!

* * *

Regional Finalists will be announced in next month's issue of this publication.

* * *

Good Luck to all of our nominees!

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