

BRIEFS



MARRIOTT SIGNS ON TO AUDUBON

ORLANDO, Fla. — Marriott Golf has announced that the 18 facilities it manages are participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, including its two newest properties, Grande Vista in Orlando and Kierland Golf Club in Scottsdale. "This portfolio-wide membership exemplifies our commitment to an alternative approach to golf course management and development," said Tom Schlick, Marriott Golf's director of grounds operations. "Marriott Golf's goal is to achieve greater balance with the environment."

RHODY'S FIRST SHOW A SUCCESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The first Rhode Island Turf Conference drew more people than expected and from a wider region, attracting superintendents from Long Island and the Metropolitan New York area as well as Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire. Speakers included Dr. Houston Couch of Virginia Tech, and Noel Jackson and Bridget Ruemmele of the University of Rhode Island.

GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO SETS SITES

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Organizers will hold the Green Industry Expo at the Cincinnati Convention Center, Nov. 18-21, with an outdoor equipment demonstration at Schmidt Field on the 21st. Plans are already in place to hold the 1997 show in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 17-20, and the 1998 event in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 14-19. They said Cincinnati is less than 60 minutes by air or an easy day's drive for more than 60 percent of the nation's population.

IOWA HONORS FAGERLIND, OTHERS

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association (IGCSA) named Steve Fagerlind of Beaver Hills Country Club in Denver the Superintendent of the Year during the annual turfgrass conference here. The IGCSA also presented the Distinguished Service Award to Dick Bruns of the city of Cedar Falls and the Charles Calhoun Award to Courtney Konstanz of Gowrie Golf & Country Club, and named Larry Parker of Fort Dodge Country Club the Assistant Superintendent of the Year. Meanwhile, the IGCSA donated \$13,500 in scholarships to students and \$44,000 to Iowa State University for turfgrass research.



GCSAA commissions comprehensive water study

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded a research grant to Environmental & Turf Services (ETS) to critically review water-quality monitoring results from golf courses across the country.

"Very few golf course monitoring studies have been published in peer-reviewed literature," said Dr. Stuart Cohen of ETS, principal investigator of the project and the director of the Cape Cod Study of golf course ground water. "This effort will be a major step beyond the Cape Cod Study [which summarized results of four golf courses]. It will also be a significant expansion in depth and breadth beyond the

article we wrote for the February 1994 issue of Golf Course News."

That story summarized the results of 13 studies of 25 golf courses from Massachusetts to Guam. The results of the studies were overwhelmingly favorable for the golf course industry.

Approval of the proposed new research was made by GCSAA's board of directors at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The project will be a comprehensive summary of other studies. The objective is to publish a critical evaluation of the impacts of golf courses on ground and surface water quality. Attempts will be made to draw meaningful conclusions.

A summary article will appear in GCSAA's Golf Course Management. At least one technical paper will be written for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, which could affect local government and regulatory agencies and scientists around the world.

Although the U.S. Golf Association has spent millions of dollars in the last few years to fund pesticide and nutrient fate studies, they were conducted in laboratory settings and at university field stations, not golf courses. The ETS study is intended to coordinate information from studies specifically designed to sample surface and ground water from golf courses.

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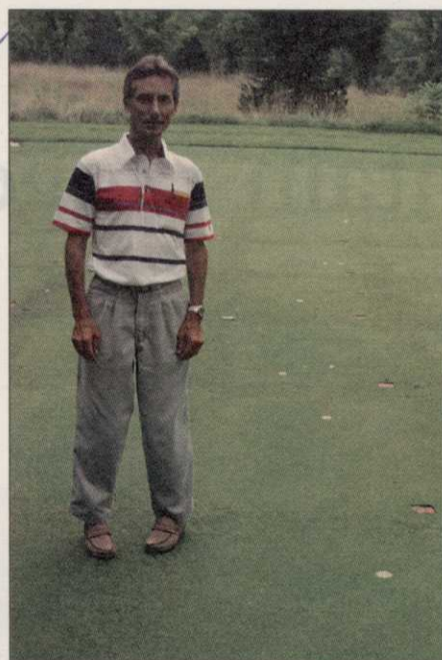
New bents need different care

By PATRICK M. O'BRIEN and CHRISTOPHER HARTWIGER

Much of the discussion on the new bentgrass varieties has focused on differences like color, texture and summer performance. But information on how best to maintain these varieties has been limited. Should they be maintained similarly to the most common bentgrass, Penncross, or are changes necessary in the basic management program to maximize their performance?

An overwhelming majority of superintendents with one of the new varieties such as Crenshaw or the new Penn series (A-1, A-4, G-2, G-6) believe maintenance programs need to be modified to manage them effectively. Here is a review of these management differences and specific practices that may need to be modified.

The 1990s have been an exciting time for bentgrass managers. More varieties are available than ever before. Many were



David Stone at his bentgrass test plots at The Honors Club.

developed to improve tolerance to the high heat and humidity common to the Southeast. Many new varieties have a higher plant population per unit area compared to Penncross and offer the golfer a higher level of putting quality. The combination of these improvements results in varieties with improved playability char-

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Dealing with big brother



By TERRY BUCHEN

Superintendents who do not receive certain fringe benefits from their employers, take note: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) likes to use the buzz words "reasonable and necessary" in defining tax deductions if you are itemizing your income tax return for calendar year 1995. How does this relate to golf course superintendents? Let's take a closer look.

Golf clubs, shoes, umbrellas, bags and head covers are considered "tools of the trade" and are tax-deductible as legitimate business expenses. Golf hats, shirts, sweaters and jackets are considered uniforms as long as they have the superintendent's golf course logo and/or name on them and are worn for work. If your club requires you to wear a certain type of pants, dress/work shoes as part of a uniform, they usually are tax-deductible. These types of clothing obviously can be worn during non-working hours

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THE BEST AT WHAT THEY DO

Metsker earns Tradition Award

By MARK LESLIE

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Stanley Metsker, who was instrumental in pushing the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to accept certification, has been chosen for the Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award.

Metsker, 59, of the Country Club of Colorado in Colorado Springs, will be presented the Excellence Award during the PGA Senior Tour's Tradition tournament at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Although Metsker feels his crowning achievement was pushing certification first through the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association (RMGCSA), then through GCSAA, his

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The 16th hole at Stanley Metsker's Country Club of Colorado.



Stanley Metsker



Ted Hunker

Hunker tops in TPC Network

By PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Outstanding tournament conditions, Audubon membership and a happy membership combined to earn superintendent Ted Hunker of the Tournament Players Club at River Highlands in Hartford, Conn., the TPC's designation as its top operation of the year.

Hunker received the award at the annual gathering of TPC superintendents held here during the International Conference and Show.

"The winning operation had such a terrific year it was a very clear choice," said Cal Roth, director of maintenance for PGA Tour Golf Properties. "The head superintendent was very deserving of this award." That superintendent was Hunker.

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Rolling Greens Photography



Bill Kubly (left), president of Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., accepts the Golf Course Builder of the Year Award from Golf Course News Publisher Charles von Brecht.

Builders honor Cornish, Kubly; welcome President Eldredge

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — A game of tradition caught up in a whirlwind of revolutionary technological advance — that is how Geoffrey Cornish described the state of affairs in the golf industry while accepting the Donald A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) here.

Cornish, a past president and fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, was presented the award during the annual GCBA banquet during the International Golf Course Conference and Show. The Rossi award is given in memory of the late Don Rossi, who once headed up the GCBA and National Golf Foundation.

Honoring Cornish, Robert Muir Graves cited his longtime colleague as fulfilling "all the qualities of a good Boy Scout" from being morally straight to being loyal, trustworthy, kind, courteous, cheerful and reverent.

"We are in a real revolution — a Renaissance," Cornish said, "the revolution of the integration of a global economy plus great technological advances. They are having a profound effect on golf course development."

In the face of these advances, Cornish said, the fact that golf is a game of tradition "keeps us on our feet..."

Jim Kirchdorfer of Irrigation Supply Co. in Louisville, Ky., the only founding member of the 23-year-old GCBA present at the banquet, passed the gavel of the presidency on to Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

First, Kirchdorfer reviewed the association's growth to more than 150 members and added: "After two years of work, our construction cost database is complete. We are really proud of it. Our certification program has grown and matured. The [fund-raising] auction last year was a lot of fun and offers a lot of promise."

Eldredge promised "to carry the banner forward."

"We definitely are on a roll," he said. "Our organization has grown tremendously the last five or six years. Also, what speaks highly of our organization is the ever-increasing quality of construction. That's what we are all about."

Eldredge heads a new slate of officers including Vice President Bill Kubly of Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., Treasurer Jeff Gredvig of John Deere and Secretary Mike Harrington of HARCO Fittings.

The second annual auction following the banquet raised about \$65,000, according to GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold. Some 25 percent of that will be donated to environmental causes, including \$5,000 to the Golf and the Environment Summit at Pinehurst, N.C., March 10-12. Arnold said the GCBA goal is to give a higher percentage of the profits each year — next year's goal being 50 percent.

The GCBA has welcomed Boyd Irrigation, Inc. and Brigance Contractors, Inc. as its newest charter members. Charter Members express their support of the GCBA by making a one-time minimum contribution of \$5,000 beyond their annual membership dues.

Roger Boyd, president of Boyd Irrigation, said: "We're happy to be in the organization, and we want to make a commitment to the organization in both time and money. I'm a firm believer in associations, and we think this is an excellent one for us to be involved with."

Boyd Irrigation Inc. was formed in 1988 by a family with over 70 years cumulative experience in the golf course business.

A family-owned business headquartered in Oxford, Miss., Brigance Contractors, Inc. is headed by President Joe Brigance, Vice President David Brigance and Secretary/Treasurer Fran Brigance. They recently added an irrigation division headed by Ron Divilbliss.

and ground water quality, including both pesticides and nitrates.

"Providing evidence that golf courses are environmentally friendly is very important to GCSAA and the rest of the golf industry," said Dr. Jeff Nus, GCSAA's research manager. "This work by ETS could go a long way in providing that evidence — not only to the golf industry but to regulatory agencies and environmental groups as well."

'Old Tom' Fazio forecasts advances making putting greens even better

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Looking back to great strides in playside equipment manufacturing, the 1996 Old Tom Morris Award-winner envisioned a future of major advances in playing surfaces.

Accepting the Old Tom Morris Award during the annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) banquet, golf course architect Tom Fazio said:

"I see tremendous changes that have occurred in the game and ... it is incredible to think what is going to happen in the future of operations and maintenance of golf courses."

The award honors an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

Presenting it, GCSAA's outgoing President Gary Grigg said Fazio is "recognized by superintendents and architects as a truly great architect" and cited his extensive work with the Girls and Boys Clubs, both lo-

cally and nationally.

"People ask what trends do you see in golf course design?" Fazio said.

Instead of improvements in golf balls and clubs and other equipment that have changed substantially, he said, "I firmly believe we will see a major change in a grand, grand way — something that we probably can't even visualize: [University researchers] creating new and better surfaces for us to play on. And this will have a major impact on every superintendent in this room."

Because of economic competition, Fazio said, "the desire for excellent conditions on every golf course has become such a premier focus that we are going to have to ... develop new technology to help make that happen."

He said the GCSAA has been a forerunner in that research "and we appreciate all the great work you are doing on the technology and research side..."

In accepting the Old Tom Morris Award, Fazio cited his staff, "who actually do the majority of work that make our courses happen."

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