

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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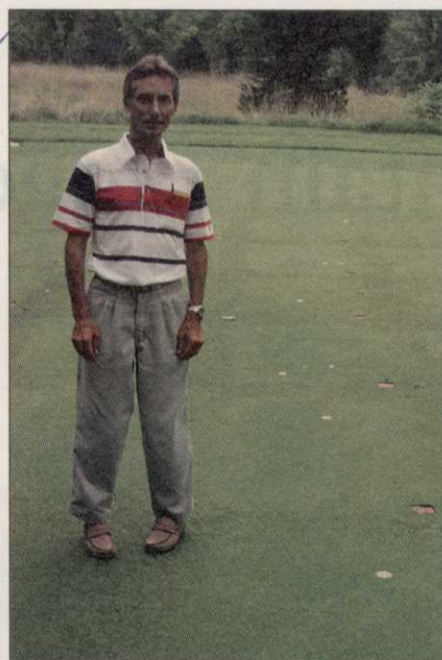
New bents need different care

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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## TPCs honor Hunker, River Highlands

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"It's a wonderful feeling to be considered the best of the best," Hunker said. "It's particularly rewarding because in my previous four years here we never had a chance."

River Highlands underwent a major renovation a few years ago and it has taken several seasons for the course to mature, Hunker noted. The final major improvement was placing new sand in all the bunkers, a job that was completed prior to last summer's

PGA Tour stop, the Greater Hartford Open. The Tour players applauded the improvements during the tournament. Greg Norman won the event.

The course members also noticed the improvements and showed their pleasure through a membership survey. "It came back very positive," Hunker said. "They were much happier than in past years."

Audubon International topped off 1996 by designating River Highlands as the 48th facility cer-

tified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

Hunker noted the contributions of his two assistants, Noel Hall and Tom DeGrande, as well as equipment manager Bob Tyler. "We wouldn't have won this without them," he said.

Hunker grew up in Pueblo, Colo., and earned a turf management degree from Colorado State University. He worked six years as assistant superintendent and head superintendent at DeBell Golf Club in Burbank, Calif., before returning to his home state as course manager of Boulder Country Club. After six years

at Boulder, he took over River Highlands in 1991.

Roth praised the work done by superintendents at all 22 TPC operations. "It was a very challenging year with the heavy rainfalls and heat waves that hit many parts of the country," he said. "The tournament expectations were higher than ever. But we still had numerous successes and had the best conditions ever at our facilities."

In addition to Hunker, five TPC superintendents received gold-level awards for superior conditions at their facilities: Mike Dufrey at TPC of Michigan); Fred

Klauk at TPC Sawgrass (Jacksonville, Fla.); Gary Meyers at TPC of Scottsdale (Ariz.); Jerry Dyer at TPC Southwind; and Collier Miller at TPC Summerlin. Klauk also received an award for having the best-landscaped course for the third straight year.

The TPC also honored four operations with worker safety records that, according to Roth, were five times better than the national average. These were the Golf Club of Jacksonville, TPC at Avenel, TPC at Southwind and TPC at Eagle Trace.

The superintendents turned the tables on Roth, presenting their boss with a plaque for his help in running their facilities. "This is in recognition of the assistance we've received from headquarters," Meyers said. "We could not do our jobs without your support."

### R.T. JONES GOLF CLUB JOINS SANCTUARY SYSTEM

GAINESVILLE, Va. — The Robert Trent Jones Golf Club (RTJ) has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Numerous projects undertaken on the course enhance habitat for wildlife and preserve resources for the community including providing nest boxes for bluebirds, purple martins and wrens; placing bat roost boxes; using integrated pest management techniques; careful monitoring of water quality; water conservation; and creating buffer zones to enhance water features. Superintendent Glenn Smickley said: "Since the golf course is located on Lake Manassas, a drinking water reservoir, I am very aware of my obligation to make sure the integrity of the lake is not jeopardized in any way. With the implementation of a comprehensive integrated pest management program and strict water management measures, data collected by an independent source has shown that water quality of the lake has improved."

### GULL LAKE VIEW GOLF CLUB EARNS SANCTUARY STATUS

AUGUSTA, Mich. — Gull Lake View Golf Club has been designated a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Gull Lake View Golf Club became the fifth in Michigan and the 49th golf course in the nation to receive the honor. "Gull Lake View Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Marla Briggs, staff ecologist for Audubon International. "The programs that we have developed while participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program have helped us to bring a very natural feeling to the golf experience on our courses," Gull Lake officials said.



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## Metsker earns Tradition Award

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ultimate satisfaction has been in caring for the Pete Dye-designed CC of Colorado.

"Most satisfying for me is taking this course from the soil and creating a living game board for a game which happens to be golf," he said. "I planted all the trees, built all the roads and paths, helped put in the irrigation system. You might say we're active in the environment, in that we are creating an environment.

"This was a nice valley. It's now a special place because the valley has been changed by housing. But our environment is still here and gets better each year as the trees grow and it's more appreciated. I've enjoyed the overall ability — over a period of years — to see something develop and to bring the architect's vision into being."

He added, "The real challenge was to maintain a good quality course at a very modest budget over the years."

Metsker calls CC of Colorado "a soft Dye course." It stands out, he said, because of the use of tall grasses.

"This was absolutely outlandish — to think, in 1972, of putting tall grass on a golf course," Metsker said. "I had been at Cherry Hills, Lakewood Country Club and Boulder Country Club, and all those were fence-to-fence manicured courses considered among the best in the state, and to come here and talk about growing

tall grasses was heresy."

But he committed to Dye's vision and has maintained that continuity the last 23 years.

While at CC of Colorado, whose soil is high in salt content, Metsker discovered alkali grass puccinella, which he passed on to Dr. Jeff Fults at Colorado State University (CSU), who developed this cultivar into what is known commercially as Fults Alkali Grass. Metsker has donated all his royalties on this seed to CSU.

The Tradition of Excellence Award also cites Metsker for leadership in the areas of teaching and research. A superintendent for 37 years, he has mentored many assistant superintendents, taught at Denver Community College and Pikes Peak Community College and advised the turf management program at Northeastern Junior College.

A former president of the RMGCSA, the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association and the Horticultural Arts Society of Colorado Springs, Metsker served as director of the Colorado Horticulture Research Association, and was chairman of the Denver Botanic Garden Rock/Alpine Garden Committee. The founder and first editor of the RMGCSA newsletter, he has also written many articles for trade magazines and newspapers.

Metsker has used his writing talents to finish a book. Entitled "On the Course: The Life and Times of a Golf Course Superintendent," it "traces the history of our area and some of its people as well as my own experiences," he said.

His next challenge: Finding a publisher.



Delhi College Golf Course superintendent Thomas Kaufman, left, and Plant Sciences Department Chairman Dominic Morales find that, indeed, their new irrigation system works just fine.

## Companies lend Delhi healthy hand

DELHI, N.Y. — Turfgrass industry leaders have donated nearly \$100,000 in state-of-the-art irrigation equipment to the golf course expansion project at the State University College of Technology at Delhi.

"The Delhi College Golf Course now has the latest in irrigation technology," said Paul Roche, irrigation manager for the S.V. Moffett Co. of West Henrietta. S.V. Moffett, a long-time supporter of Delhi's golf course project, took the lead in coordinating irrigation system gifts to the college.

"These manufacturers didn't compromise quality one bit. They provided Delhi with the best, most up-to-date equipment on the market," said Roche.

"This kind of support is indicative of

the respect Delhi College has earned throughout the golf industry," said Dominic Morales, Plant Sciences Department chairman.

Five companies cooperated in arranging the irrigation product donations to Delhi, according to Roche. Moffett provided greens, fairway and tee sprinklers, as well as electric and coupling valves. Buckner Inc. of Fresno, Calif., donated the computerized irrigation system at 20 percent of cost. Hunter Industries Inc. of San Marcos, Calif., provided all the sprinklers for the 10th hole, Commercial Pump Service of Swanton, Ohio, gave a 35-percent discount on the computerized automatic pumping station. The Harrington Co. of Lynchburg, Va., provided all the fittings for the system's piping.

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