

## 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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