

BRIEFS



SEED RESEARCH HONORS FERRIN

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. (SRO) has presented Jim Ferrin of Granite Bay (Calif.) Golf Club its 1995 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award. A certified golf course superintendent, Ferrin was given the award for "his dedication to integrated pest management, turfgrass variety testing, and innovative cultural practices," according to SRO.



Jim Ferrin

MAINE HONORS LEWIS

ROCKPORT, Maine — Pat Lewis of Portland Country Club in Falmouth Foreside was presented the Distinguished Service Award at the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association annual conference and show here in March. Lewis is a certified golf course superintendent and former president of the MGCSA. Greg Holder was given the Vern Putney Award and outgoing President Jim Hodge the Presidents Plaque.



Pat Lewis

AUDUBON CERTIFIES LORDS VALLEY CC

HAWLEY, Pa. — Lords Valley Country Club has been designated a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary," becoming the second course in the state and 62nd in the country to receive the honor. "The membership at Lords has enjoyed the diverse and prolific wildlife population of our club since the ... club was established," said superintendent Dennis Watkins. "The Audubon ... program has been a tool to help us protect, enhance, and develop a greater appreciation for our environment."

PASSIOS MOVES ON

NANTUCKET, Mass. — Charles T. Passios, former member of the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, has been hired as superintendent at Nantucket Golf Club, construction on which began this spring. A certified golf course superintendent, Passios has been golf course manager at Hyannisport (Mass.) Club. The new course is being designed by Rees Jones.



Charles Passios

USGA, supers confront concerns over unstable Bermudagrass

By MARK LESLIE

HOUSTON, Texas — Believing that "Bermudagrass greens are on the ropes," the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, superintendents, university researchers and others are hoping for vast improvements — quickly.

Convening at Houston Country Club here, some 150 golf course superintendents heard USGA agronomists and university researchers explain that cultivars of hybrid Bermudagrass are becoming increasingly unstable and some sort of research must be done to solve the problem.

"If what was going on with Bermudagrass greens and fairways existed for bentgrasses, there would be

an eruption," said Green Section Southeast Region Director Patrick O'Brien. "It's amazing how it's not getting publicity because it's simply Bermudagrass."

A summary of the Houston meeting will be presented in May to the USGA Research Committee which will develop requests for proposals for projects dealing with the issues at hand, said Green Section National Director Jim Snow. "It may not require a lot of money — perhaps just defining what can be done and finding the people to do it."

"I'm encouraged. It was a good meeting that opened people's eyes about other peoples' viewpoints."

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Significant advances in genetics foster nat'l conclave of scientists

By MARK LESLIE

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Geneticists are progressing at lightning speed in this "very, very new" area of turfgrass research, and to get scientists up to speed on these advances the U.S. Golf Association Green Section and Michigan State University (MSU) are hosting a Workshop on Biotechnology of Turfgrass here, Aug. 11-13.

"This is the growth area where future significant changes will be made," said Dr. Michael Kenna, director of Green



Section research and workshop coordinator. "Whoever can learn the most the fastest and patent significant parts of it will be able to springboard into the future. That's the race."

Scientists from around the country have been invited to the conference, and 26 45-minute talks are scheduled. Ranging from molecular biology to gene cloning and *in vitro* culture and somaclonal variation, many of the subjects have never been discussed in a national or international workshop

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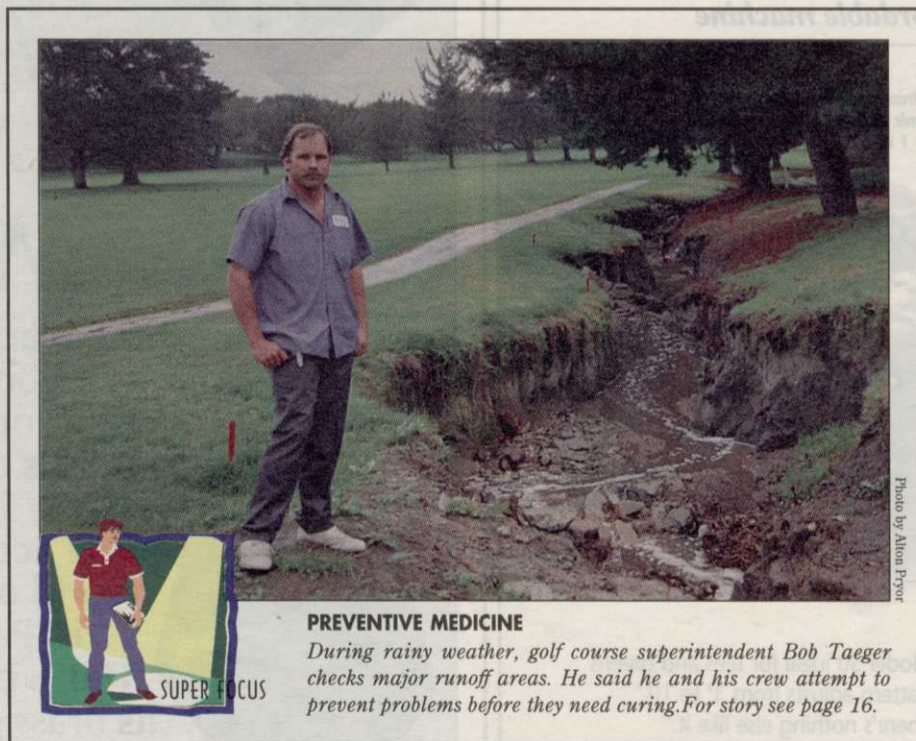


Photo by Allan Pryor



PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

During rainy weather, golf course superintendent Bob Taeger checks major runoff areas. He said he and his crew attempt to prevent problems before they need curing. For story see page 16.

GCSAA sending team to first international tournament

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Six representatives of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will travel to England in September as part of the Americas team to participate in the inaugural Hayter Challenge golf event. GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams also will attend as non-playing captain.

West Lancashire Golf Course in Blundellsands, Liverpool, and Fairhaven Golf Course in Lytham, St. Annes, will

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host the event Sept. 15-19. Sponsored by European equipment manufacturer Hayter, the tournament is designed to promote international relations and communications among golf course superintendent organizations. Plans call for the event to be held biennially at locations alternating between the United States and Europe.

Q & A



Dr. A. J. Powell
Univ. of Kentucky

Ed. — This month we begin a continuing series of interviews with leading university professors and researchers affecting the golf course industry.

UK's Powell shares transition zone turfgrass know-how

Andrew J. Powell, Ph.D, is a professor in the University of Kentucky Department of Agronomy. He has also taught and conducted research at the University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI and SU). Among his accomplishments are the release of Quickstand Bermudagrass, a new grass for the upper transition zone; and identification of Vamont Bermudagrass, a grass released by VPI and SU and historically the major turf used in the transition zone.

Golf Course News: With the increasing emphasis on prudent pesticide usage, are you seeing more courses converting to warm-season grasses in the transition zone? If so, why?

Powell: Yes, many perennial ryegrass courses are converting. They are determining that the risk of bermuda winter kill is less than perennial ryegrass summer die-back. Also, the cost of establishing bermuda may actually be less than the annual cost of their previous fairway fungicide program. Fungicides are seldom needed on Bermuda.

GCN: What are the warm-season Bermudagrass varieties that work well? Can you briefly describe their advantages and disadvantages?

Powell: For the upper transition zone, I would only consider Quickstand, Vamont or Midiron. Other new vegetation varieties such as Midlawn may also prove to do well, but we have little experience with them. In addition, the new seeded varieties such as Mirage,

Jackpot and Sundevil are much more winter hardy than previous seeded varieties, but it appears that they still lack some hardiness dur-

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Supers partners in Pesticide Stewardship Program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has been formally accepted as a partner in the federal government's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) when a strategy submitted by GCSAA for reducing pesticide risk on golf courses was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

PESP is a voluntary public/private partnership program sponsored by the EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The partners work together to develop programs that protect human health and preserve the environment by reducing the risks associ-

GCSAA UPDATE

ated with pesticide use.

GCSAA was eligible to become a partner in this program as an association representing pesticide users. GCSAA submitted a strategy of research, education and communication programs that demonstrates golf course superintendents' commitment to environmentally sound turf management choices, furthering the goals of the EPA and its sister agencies in the program.

GCSAA's research, education and com-

munication strategies are designed to increase the use of safer pest management products and practices to reduce risk to humans and the environment. Research will support the development of safer products and reveal new practices and technologies that reduce pesticide risk. Educated golf course superintendents will be more aware of the risks of pesticide use and be better equipped to manage pests safely and cost-effectively.

The United States Golf Association and Professional Lawn Care Association of America are among other green industry organizations involved in PESP.

Writers contest winners announced

Bruce R. Williams, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has announced the winners of the association's 10th annual Golf Writers Awards competition.

The article chosen by the judges for first place was "The Tradition of the Tribe," which was written by Dave Anderson and appeared in the June 1995 edition of *Golf Digest*. Anderson will receive an engraved recognition plaque and a cash prize of \$1,000.

The second place prize of \$600 went to Mark Leslie for his story, "Courses, super withered by drought," which appeared in *Golf Course News*, October 1995.

The third-place award of \$400 went to Bob Labbanca for his article, "With the World Watching," published in the November 1995 edition of *Turf* magazine.

GCSAA's Golf Writers Awards competition recognizes writers for journalistic talent and effectiveness in informing the public about golf course management and the golf course superintendent's profession. Only articles and columns published in 1995 were eligible. The contest drew more than 30 qualified entries. The annual contest is open only to members of the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA).

Supers/players in int'l tourney

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Ga.; GCSAA golf champion Jim Dusch, superintendent at Atlanta National Golf Club in Alpharetta, Ga.; and Vice President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California Samuel Williamson of Ojai Valley Inn & Country Club in Ojai, Calif.

Nichols, Dusch and Williamson have been selected by the GCSAA board of directors based on their ability to represent the association as international ambassadors and on their golf ability.

"In our profession, like many others, communication is the key," said Williams. "Participating in this match will give us another opportunity to exchange ideas and learn how other turf organizations are handling the common challenges we face."

The balance of the Americas team will consist of four representatives of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association and two representatives from the Argentina Greenkeepers Association.

The opposing team, from the Eastern Hemisphere, will be composed of four representatives each from the Australian, Spanish, Germany and Swedish greenkeepers associations.

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 Stroike
- 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!

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

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Good Luck to all of our nominees!

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