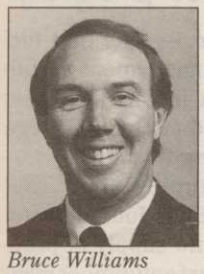
BRIEFS

PGA HONORS WILLIAMS

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President Bruce R. Williams has been recognized for his accomplishments by The Professional Golfer's Association (PGA) of America. Williams, superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club in Chicago, was elected PGA honorary director at the PGA's annual meeting in San Diego this winter. "Bruce has been instrumental in forging a strong relationship between the PGA and GCSAA," said PGA Honorary President Tom Addis. "He is a strong leader who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in his profession and in service to the game of golf."



Bruce Williams

CHALIFOUR SUPER OF THE YEAR

GROTON, Conn. — The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) has named Robert Chalifour the 1996 Superintendent of the Year. The superintendent at Shennecossett Golf Course here for 27 years, Chalifour was CAGCS president in 1988-89 and has served on many of its committees. A certified golf course superintendent since 1982, he was cited for his unmatched dedication to the advancement of the profession.

RUTGERS OFFERS INTRO

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Rutgers University is offering two short courses at Cook College here March 3-4 — Management Skills for Golf Course Professionals and Introduction to Golf Course Turfgrass Management. The $245 course for professionals is described as an innovative and value-adding workshop designed to provide superintendents and assistant superintendents with hands-on exercises to sharpen their skills in management. People may call Rutgers at 908-932-9271.

AUDUBON CERTIFIED AQUARINA CC

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses has certified Aquarina Country Club here in environmental planning. Greg Plotner, staff agronomist for International Golf Management, which maintains the course, vowed that it would work get the club fully certified. Scott Campbell is the resident superintendent overseeing the programs at Aquarina.

Golf catches the new technology wave

Restoring greens for play in 24 hrs.

By MARK LESLIE

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Coming soon to a golf course near you: Sand Channel Greens. The company, which promises to add drainage channels to old pushup greens and have them playable in a day, is expanding this winter into Southern California, Arizona, Las Vegas and the Northwest, according to Marketing Director David Lansdale. "And we're looking to establish a machine on the East Coast. We have two machines going full-time now, and we want to be up to five next year."

The former "Cambridge greens" process, which used a vibratory plow so disruptive it took months for turf to heal, also has a whole new life: cutter wheels. With these cutter wheels, the machine can

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The WHoleView image from a flyover shows turf health, from the less healthy browns and yellows to the more healthy greens and dark greens.

Flyovers foresee future of turf health

By MARK LESLIE

Thank you, Dr. John Schott.

Schott, of the Center of Imaging Science at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology, was an early pioneer of digital enhancement of infrared images. Today, combining that technology with Global Positioning Systems, CADD and digital mapping from LinksManager software, golf course superintendents can "see" situations developing on their turfgrass weeks before they are visible to the human eye.

"It's an exciting prospect to integrate all these technologies for the maintenance, construction and redesign of a golf course," said Bob Katula, president of Links Diagnostics, Inc. (LDI) here.

In its agronomic service, LDI flies over a property taking infrared images revealing the photosynthetic rate of the plants

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Taking irrigation into the future

By MARK LESLIE

ST. BRUNEAU, Quebec, Canada — A golf course irrigation control system that may change the industry has been installed at one of the oldest golf courses on the continent, Mont Bruneau Country Club outside Montreal, and at Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate, Mass., which will open in July.

"They just might revolutionize the irrigation industry," said Dr. Michael Hurdzan, a golf course architect from

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The mat: a 1-inch-square metal drag covered with a piece of artificial turf-type material.

ON THE GREEN

The drag mat beats snafus from moisture

By TERRY BUCHEN

Superintendents are very happy and fortunate to have the many new pieces of equipment now on the market. Of particular note is the fairway topdressing machine. Most of these new implements can carry 4,000 pounds of top-dressing material, usually more, making top dressing fairways almost as easy as greens.

However, fairways are many times top dressed during the early-morning hours, making for wet, dew-type conditions which can cause a delay in "dragging-in" the top dressing. The top dressing can be wet from natural causes, as well.

One great idea to help drag in wet top dressing, especially a sandy material, is to use a 1-inch-square metal drag mat and lay a piece of artificial turf-type material over the top (attach it with a zip strip plastic-tie material every few inches on all four sides).

This idea really works in helping keep the top dressing from "balling up" and "clogging up" the drag mat, which obviously makes quite a mess and delays dragging until the top dressing is dry. This idea is also especially helpful in getting the dragging done ahead of play, which golfers obviously appreciate.

When the top dressing is wet, for whatever reason, this drag-mat concept can also work quite well when top dressing greens with straight sand, or with a 90/10, 85/15, 80/20 sand/peat moss mixture.

Niemczyk on non-traditional turf treatments

Dr. Harry Niemczyk

Q&A

Dr. Harry Niemczyk is professor emeritus and coordinator of turfgrass entomology research at The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center of the Ohio State University in Wooster. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University. His research on turfgrass insects and behavior and mobility of turfgrass pesticides has been widely published. Recently he has been doing extensive research on biological controls of turfgrass insects.

Golf Course News: Could you describe the progress of your work regarding biological controls for insects?

Harry Niemczyk: I've been studying the effects of entomopathogenic nematodes, parasites that destroy cutworms, grubs and other insects. Several have shown good results. They are introduced live into the soil, seek out the insects, enter their bodies and cause the insects to die.

GCN: What products are showing promise?

HN: We've had some good results on grubs with a product called Cruser by the Ecogen company. The key is getting the nematodes through the thatch and into the soil. It's hard to introduce them since they can be destroyed by desiccation and ultraviolet light.

LESCO has a product called Vector that's been pretty successful with cutworms on golf greens. It is supposed to be irrigated into the green. But that can be complicated. Vector is often mixed in a spray tank and applied along with other products, like a contact fungicide. But contact fungicides should not be watered in. So you end up applying two products together that have different requirements for post-treatment irrigation. That's a problem. Vector can be effective if it's used according to the label directions.

GCN: Are there any other biological or biological-like

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Dr. Rossi heads Maine contingent

ROCKPORT, Maine — Talks by Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University and Golf Course Mechanics Association President Brian Alfond will highlight the 1997 Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Samoset Resort here, March 5-7.

Following a full-day session on "Calibration and Safety of Pesticide Application" on March 5, Rossi will speak on "Enhancing Freezing Stress Tolerance with Plant Growth Regulators" and "Selecting and Establishing Bentgrasses."

Alfond will appear with others to lead a full day of sessions for mechanics on March 6.

Q&A Niemczyk

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products that are coming onto the market in the next few years?

HN: There's an interesting family of treatments called the biorationals. One is a toxin produced by a bacteria called Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). Micogen produces a product called M-Press. It isn't registered yet, but it seems to work well on some grubs.

RhoMid has a product called Mach 2 that is supposed to be registered in January. It is a molt-accelerating compound called halo fenozide that speeds up the molting process causing the insect to die. American Cyanimid and Rohm & Haas have formed a joint company called RhoMid to market the product. It controls grubs, but is also effective on sod webworms, cutworms and billbugs. It is encouraging that we can target pests and not harm earthworms, mammals and other beneficial organisms.

DowElanco has a fermentation product called CONSERVE that it will market soon. It is effective against cutworms and other grass leaf-eating insects.

We've known for some time that an extract from the nut of the neem tree nut that grows in India and Burma has insecticide qualities. It also provides cutworm control by disrupting the molting process. Scotts markets such a product called Turplex that works well when the label is followed.

Leslie comment

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But I sure do admire him for the 5 Ws of this enterprise of his. He struck out to play the game he loved and found a prize greater than the game. He never made a dime on Whispering Rattlesnakes... never intended to... it was simply a chore of love. I hope he finds another. There is another back 40 somewhere that could use that kind of caretaker.

Have you got one?

Connecticut superintendents elect Napier, others

WOODBRIDGE, Conn. — At its annual meeting, the 300-member Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents elected John Napier of the Stanley Golf Course in New Britain, president for 1997.

Vice president is Anthony Grosso of Pautipaug Country Club in Baltic, while Brian Skelly of Old Lyme Country Club is serving as secretary and Peter Pierson of Pequabuck Golf Club is the association's new treasurer.

Elected as directors to serve two-year terms were: Dennis Houle of Redding Country Club; Les Kennedy Jr. of The Country Club of Waterbury; and John Motycke of Skungamaug River Golf Club in Coventry.

Continuing to serve on the board of directors are Greg Bradley of Farmington Woods Country Club in Avon; Scott Gennings of Wallingford Country Club; and Jud Smith of Orange Hills Country Club in Orange.

Philip Neaton of Black Hall Club in Old Lyme will continue to serve on the board as immediate past president. Owen Regan of Tee & Green Sod, Inc. was voted to serve as commercial representative to the board.