

# Latshaws exemplify the many father-son superintendent combos

By MARK LESLIE

BETHESDA, Md. — There may be no other father and son among superintendents who work at such high-profile golf courses as Paul R. Latshaw and son Paul B. But that is not because Dad — now at Congressional Country Club here — did not try to persuade Son — now at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. — to enter another profession.

Although Paul B. worked for his father starting at the age of 12, he said his dad "discouraged me from working in the business right up until I said I wanted to work with Dick Bator at Pine Valley in 1985 for the Walker Cup."

"Most fathers encourage their sons not to get into this business," said Paul R. "So did I. It didn't work."

His son concurred, adding: "I hope my two sons are not superintendents."

But, if the children persist they want to work outdoors long and hard work weeks and, in some places, long and hard seasons, Paul R. believes good planning and hard work will lead to success. In his case he sent his son

"to two guys I have a lot of respect for who would train him well — Dick Bator and David Stone [superintendent at The Honors Course]... and then one summer with Tom Tanto's golf course construction firm so he could see the irrigation and construction of a golf course, too."

Son Paul also earned four-and

two-year turfgrass degrees from Pennsylvania State University.

When he left Wilmington (Del.) Country Club, where he worked for his father, "Dad said, 'If you fail it's only your fault,'" Paul B. recalled. "He was right. I had a great education, worked for great superintendents and was exposed to a lot of different

concepts."

Paul R. believes this combination will work for others.

"I tell all my young guys, 'If you work and do your homework right when you're a student and build your resume, you can get a good job. Maybe not a Merion, but a good job. Too many times a young person wants to be a

superintendent right away and they get stuck in one place forever."

Training under knowledgeable veterans, he said, can be a major career boost. In his son's case, he is still learning, working on a master's degree in management — something not normally taught in turf school.

## Tenn. Golf House awards scholar

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Golf House Tennessee has awarded its first Danner Turfgrass Internship to Mississippi State University sophomore Michael Schulman to participate in a special project at the Little Course at Aspen Grove. The Little Course, a nine-hole short course on 15 acres, is studying 52 varieties of turfgrasses in hopes of creating better playing conditions.

Schulman, an agronomy student from Campbellsville, Ky., will work for Joe Kennedy, superintendent at the Legends Club of Tennessee. He will record research data during the summer on such projects as converting fairways from Bermudagrass to zoysiagrass, testing new strains of bentgrasses for greens, green speed testing with different varieties, and a study of nitrogen rates on turf. Schulman will also conduct tours for visiting clubs who went to view the experiments.

"Creating this Danner Turf Intern will benefit every single Tennessee golf course and all who play," said Tennessee Golf Foundation President Dick Hurton. "Growing golf course grasses in our transition zone, where temperatures range from minus-17 degrees in the winter to 105 degrees in the summer, is very difficult and we hope we can make strides to improve our course."

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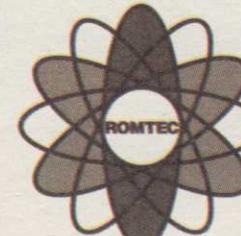
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