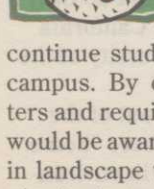
BRIEFS

TURF WEB '98 ANNOUNCED

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association has announced the dates of Turf Web '98 Conference and Show. It will be held at the Tampa Convention Center, Sept. 16-19. Casino Night, an awards dinner, president's salute and other events are planned.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE NOMINATIONS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is accepting nominations for the 1999 Distinguished Service Award. Nominations are due by Sept. 1 on official forms, available from the association by calling 800-472-7878. The award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession.



DELHI, NYSTA PARTNER

DELHI, N.Y. — The State University of New York — Delhi and the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), in cooperation with chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association, will present a golf course seminar with emphasis on new technology on Aug. 4. Turfgrass and equipment manager sessions will be included. To obtain a conference brochure or for more information, people may call NYSTA at 800-873-8873, 518-783-1229; fax 518-783-1258, or write NYSTA, P.O. Box 612, Latham, N.Y. 12110.

PA. STUDENTS GIVEN ALTERNATIVE

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State's two-year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program has worked out an articulation agreement with Penn College of Technology which allows all graduates of the turf program to complete an associate degree. The agreement allows any certificate program graduate to continue studies at the Williamsport campus. By completing two semesters and required classes, the student would be awarded an associate degree in landscape technology with an emphasis in turfgrass management. People may contact Rich Weilminister at Penn College at 717-320-8038, or George Hamilton at Penn State at 814-865-3007.

Iowa golf/ag alliance influencing policy

By MARK LESLIE

Members see group as model for others

DES MOINES, Iowa — Combining monetary clout with "a huge grassroots force," the Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns (IaAEC) and Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI) are proving that the turfgrass and agriculture industries can be a political power at the Statehouse here.

In this hot bed of agriculture, legislators have been known to cry "Uncle" when barraged by calls from IaAEC and AAI members, who hail from the moneyed agribusiness as well as the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents, Professional Lawn Care and Sod Producers associations and various other turf managers.

Efforts in various states around the country to affect legislation through lobbyists have been few and generally ineffective. Asked if the IaAEC-AAI effort could serve as a model for the industry in other states, alliance Executive Secretary Mona Rae Bond replied simply: "Absolutely."

Fort Dodge Country Club superintendent Dennis Watters, the IaAEC president from 1995 to 1997, said: "I think you have to look at it on a state-by-state basis. We're in a hot bed of agriculture here."

In Iowa's case, he said, "We needed a vehicle to pull together everybody who had the same concerns: to ensure we

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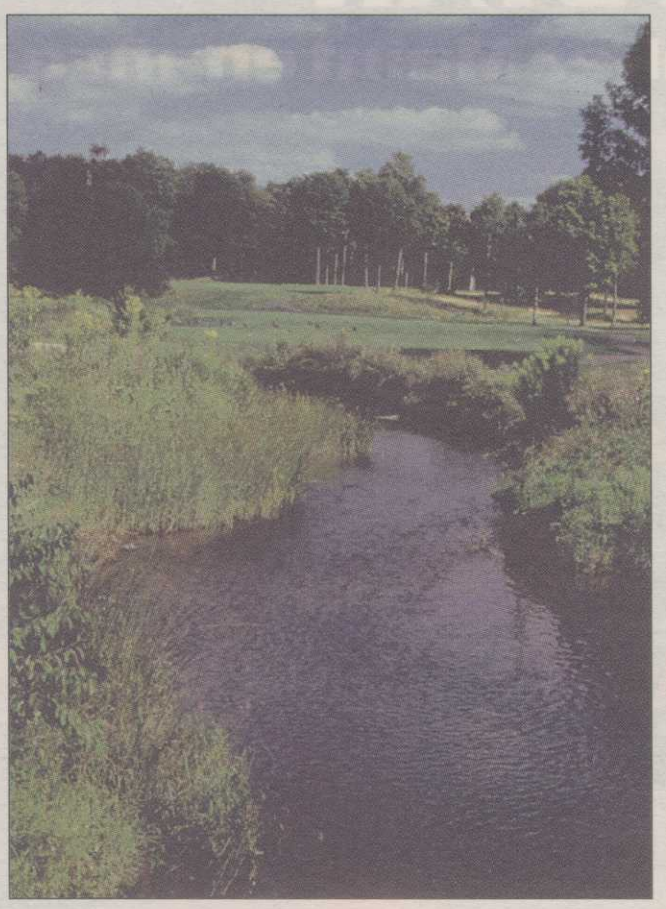
GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Making choices: It's an environmental 'watershed'

By RON DODSON

Have you ever heard the reference to "watershed" as a critical point that changes a particular course of action, like a decision that created a turning point in history?

That use of watershed comes from its definition: "a ridge of high land dividing two areas that are drained by different river systems, also called 'water parting'." A watershed may also refer to the region that drains into a river, river system, or other body of water. So, the golf industry needs to take a look at watersheds for two reasons.

First, the industry needs to understand the environmental importance of watersheds in order to make good economic and environmental decisions about developing and managing the land.

Secondly, it has reached a critical point in making land-management decisions where it must choose between the status quo of golf course development and maintenance, and that of sustainable development and management practices

In order to understand how important watersheds are, however, we need to know a little about ecology. An ecosystem is a community (of plants, or animals, or even human beings) together with its environment of soils, waters and other elements on which the organisms depend for sur-

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N.C. State prof starts studies to help Asians

By MARK LESLIE

RALEIGH, N.C. — Citing the absence of scientific information on turfgrass pests in Asia, an American professor has undertaken what he hopes will be the first of many studies to help golf course superintendents in that region.

"If we can show some success with this research, on future projects I hope there will be people standing in line saying they will help," said Dr. Rick Brandenburg, a turf entomologist at North Carolina State University here. "The time commitment is actually very small."

Rick Brandenburg

The research is needed for many pests because what is known in the United States can not always be extrapolated for use in Asia, according to Brandenburg, who discovered this fact on a trip to Singapore this spring.

His pioneering program targets the number-one pest in many Asian countries: the mole cricket. Some 25 superintendents in Hong Kong, The Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, China and Indonesia are sending mole crickets from their courses to Brandenburg.

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Matchmaker, matchmaker

Two GCSAA ex-presidents team in jobs search firm

Bruce Williams

Jerry Faubel

By MARK LESLIE

LOS ANGELES — Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Past President Bruce Williams has joined another former president, Jerry Faubel, adding a West Coast presence to Faubel's Executive Golf Search Inc.

Faubel first formed the "headhunting" company with famed course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Michigan State University Prof. Ken Payne in the early 1990s. Payne died in 1994 and Jones has retired, leaving Faubel running the company solo.

"Over the years, I've been involved in helping a number of superintendents find jobs that would be a good fit for them," Williams said. "Retiring from the GCSAA board allowed me the opportunity to spend my spare time in other activities. This was the perfect match for me."

Saying that he and Payne had hoped Williams would join them after proceeding through the GCSAA chairs, Faubel added: "We thought Bruce would be an excellent partner. All of a sudden he moves [from Chicago] to the West Coast and

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American scientist lends research aid to Asian supers

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Not only are Asian species of mole crickets mostly different from those in the United States, Brandenburg said, their species and life cycles probably vary considerably from Singapore to southern China and Hong Kong.

He intends to identify the species, monitor their life cycles, and draft specific management programs for their control in about a year.

"It's kind of a riddle right now as to what's taking place," said Brandenburg, referring to one Asian species that appears to have almost continuous reproduction as opposed to the annual life cycle seen in the United States.

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"We do not see year-round reproduction in the U.S., even in southern Florida," he said. "I don't know if the report of year-round reproduction is perception or reality. Until we know that, it's difficult to target any control strategies to the most susceptible stages of development."

Mole crickets are most susceptible to control measures when they first hatch. "They are, more or less, susceptible to everything — pesticides, biological controls, etc.," Brandenburg said.

"But no matter how good the products to control the pests are, it's difficult to use them to their maximum effectiveness when you don't understand the pest that well.

"We have to be able to target those life stages. If, indeed, we find out that in certain parts of Asia their eggs are being laid and hatched almost year-round, it's going to present quite a challenge to develop sound programs."

Brandenburg has provided the Asian superintendents with all the collection equipment — vials, preserving materials and self-addressed boxes. They will collect the mole crickets in June, ship them to North Carolina State in July, and repeat the procedure every other month.

"We'll have to sample for a whole year before we feel comfortable with what's taking place," Brandenburg said. "We have a lot of research information, but we don't know what we can apply to Asia from our findings here. The key to success is understanding the biology of the pest."

Asked if this kind of test can be performed on other pests, Brandenburg said: "It can be. In some situations, all we need is a little bit of preliminary information to give us guidance on what will work and what won't... You're going out on a real thin limb assuming that if something works here, it will work there. But if we can narrow that down, we've made a big step forward.

"The same would be true with other pest and disease problems. If there is a reasonable feel for environmental conditions, it can help with forecasting and help superintendents planning the timing of control measures. All those tools help superintendents do their job better and help them from being caught off-guard with problems. The soil pests are always the greatest challenge. They're hidden and catch you by surprise a lot of times."

Brandenburg said he hopes scientists in the United States who have contacts in Asia will work with superintendents there with similar research.

"One of the things I've been most impressed with is the Asian superintendents' zeal and desire for more information," he said. "They realize they are working in a vacuum in many areas. If we can find ways to facilitate getting them information, most of us in the industry would be happy to do so. We learn a lot more from this end, too. It gives us a more complete picture of these pests as to how they survive under different environmental conditions.

"Without a great deal of cost or effort from people on either end, it will help us develop a nice database."

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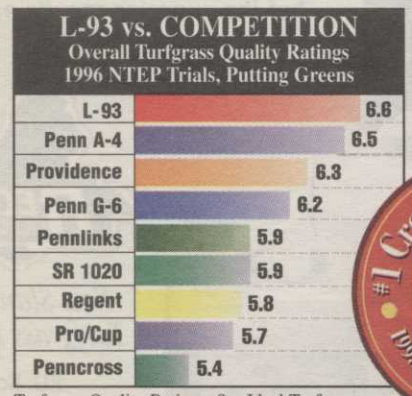

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