

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

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



Members see group as model for others

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."

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.



Rick 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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North Shore CC short-game complex: exercise in innovation, evaluation

(Editor's note: Anyone interested in data, or in viewing the test site at North Shore Country Club at 1340 Glenview Rd. in Glenview, Ill., is welcome. They should contact superintendent Dan Dinelli at 847-724-4963.

"That's what it's there for," Dinelli said, "for people who are interested to come and evaluate for themselves the different cultivars and root-zone mixes.")

By DAN DINELLI
and TOM VOIGT

GLENVIEW, Ill. — The United States Golf Association (USGA), the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) combined resources to initiate a national research project to evaluate turfgrass varieties grown on USGA rootzones and maintained by host golf course facilities as in-play green surfaces.

Funding was made available to construct practice putting greens at 16 different golf courses across the United States. All of these experimental greens were constructed to USGA specifications. Northern locations sowed bentgrass varieties, southern locations Bermudagrass varieties, and in transition-zone climates both species were planted. Monitoring and evaluation will continue for at least five years, with annual reports being submitted to the NTEP who will issue annual reports of the results.

In conjunction with the University of Illinois, North Shore Country Club was selected as one of the sites for this unique study. In the summer of 1997 the Offic-

Dan Dinelli is a certified golf course superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill., and Tom Voigt is an Extension turfgrass specialist at the University of Illinois.



Root-zone mix cells at for turfgrass testing at North Shore Country Club. All the work is done by hand, ensuring no cross-contamination. The barriers, from pea gravel to the top, are permanent.

ers and Governors of North Shore Country Club (NSCC), led by Mr. Van Salmans, Greens Chairperson approved the construction of a short-game practice facility to augment the USGA putting green.

SHORT-GAME PRACTICE FACILITY

The short-game practice facility consists of a 7,200 square foot (sq. ft.) putting green, a 14,098 sq. ft. creeping bentgrass fairway measuring 55 yards long, 28 yards wide, and two greenside bunkers. It is understood by the membership of NSCC this is a functional complex with several research objectives.

General purposes of the short-game practice facility include:

1) Maintain a functional short-game practice facility, and putting green to the standards expected at North Shore Country Club, while recognizing the research potential of such a site. Regular maintenance on the USGA green will include periodic straight sand topdressing, and

daily mowing at 120-130 thousandths of an inch. The fairway will be mowed at one half of an inch, and will undergo regular mowing, aerification and established maintenance practices.

2) Monitor the performance of 21 different creeping bentgrass varieties for putting green use on USGA rootzone profiles, including 18 NTEP entries, and two blends.

3) Monitor the performance of a creeping bentgrass blend (L-93/SR-1119) grown on 20 amended putting green rootzones within the context of a USGA rootzone profile.

4) Monitor the impacts of forced gas exchange in the putting green rootzone and turf canopy utilizing the SubAir system.

5) Monitor 13 bentgrass varieties at fairway height, grown on a yard-waste compost amended site.

6) Compare and contrast organic soil

amendments to native soil for fairway use.

7) Evaluate a bluegrass blend for use on green surrounds

The major emphasis of the practice facility is to observe turfgrass performance, integrating cultivars and rootzone amendments with management techniques. Field observations, along with detailed monitoring will help develop a better understanding of turfgrass science and ecology. Information gained will further IPM strategies, and foster a holistic philosophy of turfgrass management towards maintaining high-quality playing conditions.

Disease susceptibility, nutrient requirements, infiltration rates, moisture stress, and moisture retention will be noted. Possible areas of interest and potential study include but not limited to: segregation with genetic dominance in varieties, color, texture, density, thatching tendency, recuperative potential, wear tolerance, heat and cold tolerance, ball roll speed, growth habit, localized dry spot severity, nematode assay (beneficial and plant parasitic), resiliency for desired ball bounce, microbial ecology, turfgrass-microbe interactions, stability of soil amendments, dynamics of percolation rates over time, fluctuations of soil and turf canopy gases (i.e. oxygen, carbon dioxide and methane), relative soil temperatures, Poa annua encroachment, inoculation potential of beneficial microorganisms, winter hardiness, fate of rootzone amendments over time, and root mass.

PUTTING GREEN

The putting green site is unique. This will be a functional green receiving approach shots, and being used by the members for putting. This activity will produce ball marks, wear, and compaction, and offer daily stresses seen on in-play

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Matchmaker, matchmaker

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it is working out better yet."

Williams, who had been at Bob-O'Link in Chicago for 21 years, took over the reins as superintendent of Los Angeles Country Club in the spring of 1997. Faubel is the long-time superintendent at Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club. The contacts the two men have within the golf industry are substantial.

Faubel said Executive Golf Search works with course operators, owners, general managers and search committee chairmen to define the superintendent's position at their course, then help find the individuals who best fill their needs.

"So many times they don't really know what [that definition] is," Faubel said. "We look at their needs and thoroughly discuss them and show them the importance of a well-qualified superintendent. Then we set up interviews with the employer and candidate. They negotiate the salary and other terms between themselves."

The company accepts resumes from superintendents for its database. "We now have about 3,000 resumes, but that's over a number of years," Faubel said. "Some of these people are happy where they are, but if the right job comes along we could possibly put them in a better situation."

Faubel said the Executive Golf Search work is "a good fit" with his superintendent position since he's less busy during the wintertime, when the great majority of job searching is done.

Asked if he has seen a change in what clubs are requiring in superintendents, Faubel said: "Yes, they have to know how to grow grass, but they also have to know so many more of the ancillary things. Somebody who is computer illiterate today is going to have a tough time finding a job with a major course. Superintendents at the larger clubs have to be in tune with how to grow turf, but they also probably have one or two assistants who have just as much book knowledge as they do. So, it comes down to personnel management, being able to meet the membership and talk with people on their level. That's more important today than ever before: communication, communication."

"Different courses have multifaceted needs," Williams added. "Some really are looking for working superintendents and some for superintendents who are strong administrators. One of the positive things about [EGS] is being able to match the right individual with the golf course to make the proper fit."

"There is nothing better than putting two parties together and making it an excellent association for both," Faubel said.

"I'm excited to work with Jerry," Williams said. "What we want in the long run is to put good golf course superintendents at facilities that match their skill levels and have win-win situations."

Williams can be reached at 2501 Pine Ave., Manhattan Beach, Calif. 90266; 310-546-2530; email: brucewms@ix.netcom.com.

Faubel can be reached at 699 Westchester, Saganaw, Mich. 48603; 517-797-0677; email: gfaubel@concentric.net.

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