

## BRIEFS



### BRANCH GEORGIA'S SUPER OF YEAR

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Don Branch of Green Island Country Club here has been presented the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association's 1998 Superintendent of the Year Award. He received the honor at the annual Georgia Golf Hall of Fame banquet.

### MAGCS ELECTS MAIBUSCH

BATAVIA, Ill. — The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has elected Robert Maibusch president of the association. Maibusch is the superintendent at Hinsdale Golf Club in Clarendon Hills. Maibusch succeeds outgoing President Kevin Czerkies of Sportsman's Country Club in Northbrook. Vice president for 1999 is Don Ferreri, superintendent at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Brian Bossert of Bryn Mawr Country Club was elected secretary-treasurer. Elected to two-year terms as directors were Kevin DeRoo of Bartlett Hills Golf Club and Greg Thalmann of Fox Run. Dan Anderson of Fox Valley Golf Club was elected to a one-year term. Current directors with one year remaining are Luke Strojny of Poplar Creek Golf Club, James McNair of Orchard Valley Golf Club and Fred Behnke of Mount Prospect Golf Club.

### CASINO MAGIC IN SILVER PROGRAM

A caption in the November issue of GCN identified Casino Magic in Bat St. Louis, Miss., as being a Audubon Gold Signature project. It is a Silver Signature project.

## NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT

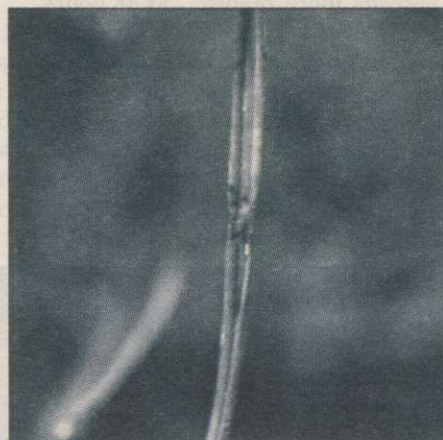
# Out of nowhere, gray leaf spot devastates rye, tall fescue

By DR. ERIC K. NELSON

The 1998 gray leaf spot epidemic on perennial ryegrass and tall fescue has raised this previously little-known turf disease to a high level of respect from golf course superintendents and other turfgrass professionals who have witnessed its devastating effects.

Those responsible for developing turfgrass specifications for new golf course construction or renovation projects should be aware of the risk of planting straight perennial ryegrass, or seed mixtures where it predominates, and adjust future recommendations accordingly.

Since "Pennfine" perennial ryegrass was first released under Plant Variety Protection status in the early 1970s and the subsequent proliferation of hundreds



Gray leaf spot — up close and personal.

of new cultivars, some turf managers have been lulled into believing that perennial ryegrass is easy, inexpensive and invincible as a permanent monostand of turf.

Bouts with both winter kill and now disease on perennial ryegrass in the 1990s are beginning to change those perceptions.

### HISTORY OF PROBLEMS

The fungus responsible for gray leaf spot on perennial ryegrass (*Pyricularia grisea*) also causes blast of annual ryegrass and gray leaf spot on St. Augustine grass. However, since it was first documented on annual ryegrass in Louisiana and Mississippi in the early 1970s, the fungus had been virtually unreported on any ryegrass until Landschoot and Hoyland (1992) of Penn State University first reported it on perennial ryegrass on golf course fairways in Pennsylvania.

Last year, the disease was observed decimating perennial ryegrass and tall

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A leaf and debris blower can operate for hours with an auxiliary fuel tank. This version is the one put together for Ridgewood Country Club superintendent Todd W. Raisch by equipment manager Ronny Cestaro.

Terry Buchen photo

## Leaf blowing all day with auxiliary tank

By TERRY BUCHEN

PARAMUS, N.J. — Faced with the frustration of their leaf blower running out of gas every 1-1/2 hours, superintendent Todd W. Raisch and his crew at The Ridgewood Country Club here found an easy solution.

Equipment manager Ronny Cestaro hooked up a portable six-gallon auxiliary marine fuel tank, similarly used for

outboard motors, with a hand-operated bulb-type fuel primer.

The Giant Vac Leaf & Debris Blower, which has its own gasoline-powered engine with an electric start off its own battery, is bolt-mounted to the flatbed attachment on a three-wheel Cushman Turf Truckster.

"We've had great results," said Cestaro.

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## CGCS to honor Gordon Witteveen

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario — The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) has nominated Gord Witteveen for the John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award for 1998. The award is given to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of the golf course superintendent.



Gordon Witteveen

Witteveen fits the bill. He was one of the founders of the CGSA and has been active in all facets of the organization for the past 30 years. Witteveen was also one of the first editors of *GreenMaster* magazine and continues to write a column called

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## GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## Traveling the wildlife highways

By RON DODSON

In our daily human lives, we travel to a variety of places for a variety of reasons — to work, the grocery store, meetings and social gatherings, and to and from our homes. Some of us even travel from place to place on a golf course — down the fairways by cart or by foot from tee to green. Depending on the purpose of our travel, we use different modes of transportation and different routes.

Wildlife travels as well. Instead of sidewalks, roads and highways, they use their own network of paths and trails. Like humans, their routes depend on the purpose and destination of their travel. They may travel from a thicket of woods to find a pond or stream for water to drink. They

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The pond buffer on the 16th hole at River Run Golf Course in Berlin, Md.

## N.J. Turf Assn. honors Al's Dodson

SELKIRK, N.Y. — The New Jersey Turfgrass Association's distinguished Environmental Steward Award was presented recently to Ron Dodson, president of Audubon International, in Atlantic City at the Trump Taj Mahal.

This award is presented to people or organizations who have performed distinguished service demonstrating dedication to the protection of the environment and preservation of eco-systems. In addition to the award, Dodson's name will appear on the Master Plaque in the Turf Building at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, among such notable past recipients as Robert Shinn, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Judy Bell, former

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# Wildlife highways

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may travel from turfgrass areas of a golf course to tall grass areas where they find protection from predators. In a sense, these are wildlife highways and they are essential to its survival.

The fundamental reasons for much of human and wildlife travel is the same. All living things need food, shelter, water and living space to survive, and we often have to travel to different areas to find those fundamental components.

Wildlife moves around a lot to satisfy basic needs. Although golf courses may provide some habitat requirements, they may not satisfy all the needs of a specific species. So some wildlife may need to move beyond the boundaries of the golf course.

For example, in a rural setting, a golf course lake or pond may provide water and space for Canada geese, but a nearby farmer's field may serve as food source. The Canada geese don't care whose property satisfies which needs.

The challenge for golf course managers is to understand that their courses are part of a larger habitat and the wildlife highways on their course may go beyond their boundaries.

Look around a golf course. Where does wildlife travel? Which of the habitat components are they looking for? What components might they find on or beyond the course?

Answering these questions will help golf course managers not only solve conflicts between human and wildlife use on the course, but to enhance the habitat for wildlife.

Besides the wildlife highways, let us not forget the recreational value for humans. Remember that the history and tradition of the game of golf is rooted in nature.

If we're not interested in the natural part, why not turn the golf course into a football playing field with artificial turf?

Compare that image with a golf course with tall grasses, or a wildflower meadow, or stands of old trees interspersed with turfgrass. It is the contrast between the intensively maintained areas and natural areas of the golf course that is striking.

Somehow, the more golf courses become "managed" with more and more turfgrass, the less interesting, less challenging and the less satisfying they become.

We lose a sense of the "wild" and the beauty of being outdoors, not to mention the loss of valuable habitat for wildlife.

So, for the sake of wildlife and for our own pleasure and satisfaction, let's keep the wildlife highways we have and work toward expanding them.

Besides, without the beauty and little quirks of Mother Nature, golf just isn't the game it was meant to be.

## N.J. Assn. honors Dodson

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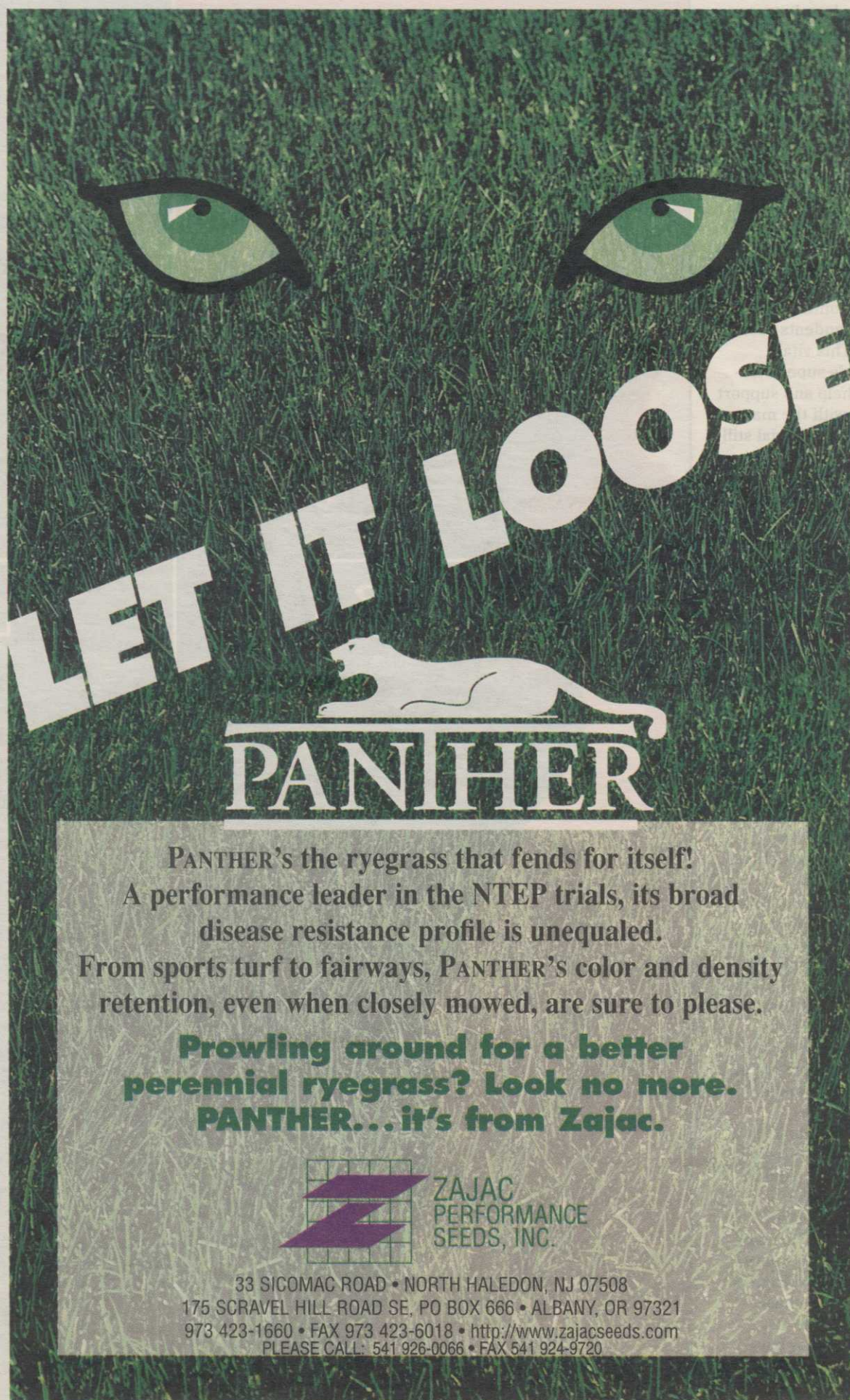
president of the U.S. Golf Association; and John Stossel, news correspondent.

The award was presented to Dodson for "his vision and pioneering efforts in the development of Audubon International's programs," including the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSS). The ACSS educates and encourages people to become actively involved in protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats and conserving natural resources on properties

where they live, work and recreate.

Dr. Richard Caton, executive director of the N.J. Turfgrass Association said, "The benefit to the environment and protection of our ecosystem provided by these programs is enormous."

"The USGA's support has been invaluable in establishing the ACSS as the cutting edge of environmentally responsible golf course maintenance," Dodson said, "and the N.J. Turfgrass Association's recognition of our efforts is a testament to the commitment to environmental stewardship demonstrated by the turfgrass and golf industry."

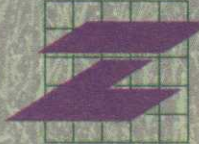


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Ron Dodson is president of Audubon International, headquartered in Selkirk, N.Y.