

Builders Assn. to honor Beard

For the second time in five years, the Golf Course Builders Association of America has tapped an educator to receive its annual Don A. Rossi Award, which honors "individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of golf and its growth."

Dr. James Beard, author of several basic texts and reference books on turfgrass management as well as hundreds of scientific papers and technical articles, will receive the award at the GCBAA's Annual Awards Dinner in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 12.

Last year's honoree was Arnold Palmer. The only other educator to receive the Rossi was Dr. Joseph Duich, retired professor of turfgrass science at Penn State University, who guided the development of the "Penn" varieties of hybrid bentgrass. Duich was honored in 1995.

"Anything that is good for the game is good for those of us who create its venues," said Jim Kirchdorger, president of ISCO Industries, of Louisville, Ky., and chairman of the GCBAA Rossi Award Nominating Committee. "And Dr. Beard has been very good for the game of golf. He has greatly influenced the academic research that has given us the materials and techniques that literally make it possible to build golf courses on sites that would have been unthinkable a generation ago."

Beard, now president and chief scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute in College Station, Texas, is best known for his work during a 17-year career as a professor of turfgrass science at Texas A&M University. He founded the Institute when he retired from the university.

While at College Station, he developed and guided research programs in stress physiology and culture, shade adaptation and wear tolerance, among others. His 658-page text, "Turfgrass: Science and Culture," has been a standard reference work since it was published in 1973.

His latest major work is the second edition of "Turf Management for Golf Courses," scheduled for release early in 1999.

Even with more than 600 published titles to his credit, Beard sees himself first as an educator. While at Texas A&M — and Michigan State University before that — Beard taught undergraduate courses as well as mentoring 46 graduate students. He now lectures on turfgrass all over the world. Texas A&M honored him as Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Science in 1993.

Gill-designed Cedar Creek ready for summer opening

ALBERTVILLE, Minn. — Pilot Land Development Corp. has announced that construction of Cedar Creek Golf Course is complete and the track will open for play in the summer.

Located 30 minutes west of Minneapolis, Cedar Creek Golf Course and Residential Community is the first golf course development for Pilot Land Development Co., lo-

cated in Ham Lake. Kent Roessler and Don Jensen of Pilot Land spearheaded a planning effort that included housing and road layout, golf course design and wetlands mitigation.

The course, designed by Garrett Gill and Paul W. Miller of Williams, Gill and Associates, Inc., of River Falls, Wis., takes advantage of the natural attributes

of the site to appeal to a wide range of golfers.

A wide variety of unique golf holes were created contrasting natural areas to bentgrass greens, tees and manicured bluegrass fairways. Numerous bunkers and water hazards establish the course routing and place a premium on accuracy at Cedar Creek.

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