

# President's Award winner Horton hails environmental summits

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Citing him as a key contributor in building a coalition between the golf industry and environmental activists, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presented its President's Award to Pebble Beach Co. Vice President of Resource Management Ted Horton.

Horton has been "a great help in bringing the golf industry and environmental advocacy groups closer together," said GCSAA President George Renault III in presenting the award. "He has challenged our profession and industry to set and achieve the highest possible environmental standards. At the same time, he has held would-be environmental critics to the facts about golf course environmental impacts, including the many positives.

"Even beyond the Golf and the Environment summit process, Ted has tirelessly devoted himself to educating the public on the positive relationships between golf and the environment. He has also demonstrated a leadership in developing effective golf course recycling and effluent irrigation projects for his courses. He is an innovator and committed to improvement and environmental excellence."

The President's Award is based on exceptional environmental contributions to the game of golf. Instrumental in initiating the Golf and the Environment summits, Horton also oversees Pebble Beach Co.'s extensive holdings on perhaps the world's most famous golf mecca, the Monterey Peninsula.

Saying he was sharing the award with his fellow employees at Pebble Beach Co., Horton noted: "Nothing is accomplished alone."

He said he has come a long ways in understanding environmental philosophies since beginning his career as a golf course superintendent 30 years ago. At that time, he said, "I really concentrated primarily on maintaining the golf course at the highest standards."

Then came the 1960s, a time of concern about water conservation, "and I recognized that a golf course superintendent dealt with drainage, impounding water in ponds, irrigation, and really had all the basic tools to make a very significant difference in handling a very precious resource," Horton said. "I became involved in the Metropolitan New York distribution of water and was a member of the emergency task force, a task I enjoyed tremendously. I met environmentalists and clearly was able to, I think, make a difference in our profession."

As the Golf and the Environment summits moved forward, he said, "we were able to meet environmentalists and become very familiar with some of their problems and understand very quickly that their problems were no different from ours, and that their goals were very similar to ours. With that understanding, it be-

came a very simple process of coalition-building, block by block, understanding what our goals were and then accomplishing them together, rather than apart.

"It has been a wonderful, stimulating process — a process I have enjoyed every minute of, a process that I feel has been very productive for our company, for

our business of turf management in general, and for golf course superintendents."

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In his opening remarks Renault said the GCSAA faces two major national challenges: the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The FQPA "makes sweeping changes in the way we apply pesticides," he said. "The availability of many golf course maintenance products is in jeopardy. GCSAA is working with other pesticide user groups and industry to ensure that the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]

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# Rossi Award winner Beard cites others

ORLANDO, Fla. — Cited as having “touched the lives of many people in this room and at this conference,” Dr. James Beard received the 9th annual Don A. Rossi Award at the banquet of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) here Feb. 12.

Named for the late executive director of the GCBAA, the award is given to an individual who has made major contributions to the game of golf and its growth and who has inspired others by their example.

GCBAA President Bill Kubly of Landscapes Unlimited presented the award to Beard, a noted agronomist best known for

his years as a professor of turfgrass science at Michigan State and Texas A&M universities. Beard is now the chief scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute in College Station, Texas, which he founded when he retired from Texas A&M.

In introducing his former professor, Dr. Bob Shearman of the

University of Nebraska said of Beard: “There is no individual, from an agronomic standpoint and the agronomic sciences, who has had a greater impact on our industry than this man. He has trained an outstanding number of individuals who have gone on to have a great impact on the industry. And that legacy continues.”

Beard, who has won such honors as Distinguished Service Awards from the International

Turfgrass Society and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is a former president of the Crop Sciences Society of America, accepted the award on behalf of his wife, Harriet, and himself.

“I have had an opportunity to work with great people in this industry,” Beard said. “I’ve learned from them. I’ve learned from golf course superintendents, builders, architects and industry reps. I’ve tried to bring good scholarship and science to the field ... to advance the science of this industry. I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to work with a lot of good people in our research and educational programs at Michigan State and Texas A&M University.

“It starts with your fellow researchers and colleagues. Dr. Paul Rieke [sitting] here is an example of that. It starts with good research associates and technicians, like Sam Sifers, who is still working with me. It starts with mentors. As an assistant associate professor trying to figure out what to do, Dr. Jim Watson [sitting] here certainly was helpful in that regard for a long time. It takes good graduate students, because they do a lot of the really good basic research that your technicians can’t do, or you don’t have time to do. We have had over 40 of them and many of them are leaders around the country. Dr. Bob Shearman is an example of that.”

Saying he has enjoyed his students, who number in the thousands, and their interaction, Beard added: “In a sense, probably a lot of you are students with the books I have written.”

But most important, he said, is Harriet who, he said, was a key to his success, especially helping with his eight books and more than 600 articles.

“She worked with me as a team,” he said, as well as raising two sons.

## Ted Horton

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bases its decisions on good science. The strength of our membership is critical in putting pressure on the EPA to ensure it listens to our concerns.”

As the GCSAA’s representative on a national ADA panel, Renault said the association “has taken the lead in providing tools to help golf courses comply” with the new rules. A new draft of those rules was released late last year.

“GCSAA is also successfully leading a coalition of disabled and golf organizations trying to avoid litigation on play issues, such as cart path-only rules,” Renault said. “We made progress by arranging meetings with the Department of Justice and to begin resolving these issues in a non-adversarial manner.”

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