

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Best Builders of the Year



GCN'S GOLF COURSE BUILDERS OF THE YEAR

Golf Course News' annual Builder of the Year Award will be presented to Allan MacCurrach III, right, president of MacCurrach Golf Construction. The Best Small Builder of the Year Award will go to Golf Development Construction, represented by Managing Partner Louis Miller, left. The awards will be presented during the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual banquet on Feb. 18 in New Orleans.

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PERIODICAL



SUPERINTENDENTS STEAM INTO NEW ORLEANS

For a preview on the 71st International Golf Course Conference & Show, Feb. 14-20, see pages 17-28.

Gene that limits plant growth discovered

By ANDREW OVERBECK

SAN DIEGO — A team of genetic scientists at the Salk Institute lead by Dr. Joanne Chory have discovered the gene that controls plant height by limiting the activity of a growth hormone. The scientists have been successful in transferring the gene to tobacco plants and experiments are underway with rice. If

Prospects are bright for no-mow turfgrass

that works, potential applications in turfgrass may not be far off.

"If it works in tobacco there is promise," said Dr. Mike Kenna, director of research for the United States Golf Association (USGA). "If

they can get it to work in corn or rice, then the chances of it working in turf go from promising to highly possible."

In the popular press, the discovery of the growth gene has garnered headlines touting the possibility of "no-mow" turf, prompting joy among homeowners who believe they will

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Century's Top Supers: Sherwood Moore, Warren Bidwell

By PETER BLAIS

Warren Bidwell and Sherwood Moore were the most influential superintendents of the 1900s, according to a *Golf Course News* survey of past Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presidents, former Canadian Golf Superintendents Association presidents and current GCSAA chapter presidents.

Bidwell — a 64-year GCSAA member, national direc-



Sherwood Moore



Warren Bidwell

tor and Distinguished Service Award winner — received the most votes among deceased nominees.

He was followed, in order, by Colonel John Morley and Chester Mendenhall (tied for second), Joe Valentine, Leo Feser, Arthur Snyder, Harold Stodola, Bill Lyons, Marshall Farnham and Tom Johnson.

Moore — a longtime GCSAA member who served as

Continued on page 27

New openings eclipse 500

By MARK LESLIE

JUPITER, Fla. — The golf boom of the 1990s has continued into 2000—in a record-eclipsing way. Some 509 golf courses came on line in the United States in 1999, surpassing the record 468 set in 1995, according to the National Golf Foundation (NGF).

At the same time, the pipeline continues to be full. At the end of the year, 946 courses were under construction and 908 were in planning. This compared to the end of 1998 when 1,069 were under construction and 708 were

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GOLF BOOMING INTERNATIONALLY

The Hole of the Gods — the 3rd hole at Golfplan-designed Bonari Kogen Golf Club in Numajiri, Japan — is one example of the mountains of work being done expanding golf throughout the world. See a report on international course construction, pages 61-68.

Meadowbrook becomes 3rd-largest manager

By PETER BLAIS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Meadowbrook Golf Group has acquired the balance of Fairways Acquisition Corp., the entity formed to facilitate last fall's 30-course acquisition of KSL Fairways from KSL Recreation Corp. Meadowbrook now owns 100 percent of Fairways Acquisition Corp.

KSL Fairways was the non-resort division of KSL Recreation, which continues to own such high-profile properties as Doral in Miami and LaQuinta and PGA West in Palm Springs, Calif.

Fairways Golf consisted of 24 golf properties primarily in Virginia, Maryland,

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Influential supers

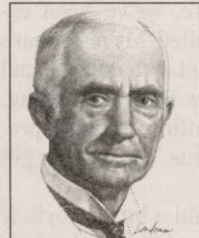
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president in 1962 and is a consultant living in Brewster, Mass. — received the most votes among active/retired nominees. Following Moore were Eb Steiniger, Robert Williams, Gordon Witteveen, Walter Woods, Paul Latshaw, Palmer Maples, Robert Mitchell, Randy Nichols and Edward "Ted" Horton.

Bidwell was an Owensboro, Ky., native who began his turfgrass career in the ninth grade on the maintenance staff of Homestead Golf Club in Cincinnati. He joined the GCSAA in 1934, remodeled Olympia Fields Country Club in Chicago in preparation for the 1961 PGA Championship and later worked at Philadelphia Country Club and Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. He served on the national GCSAA board from 1969 through 1971 and, after retiring from course management, traveled worldwide as a turfgrass management consultant for Tee-2-Green and Turf-Seed Corp..

"He was a true visionary who led by example," wrote Ken Krausz of the GCSA of New Jersey. "He trained many future superintendents and was the consummate professional."

Morley and Chet Mendenhall were two of the original founding members of GCSAA.



John Morley

Born in England, Morley emigrated to the United States before the turn of the century, became head greenkeeper at Youngstown Country Club and served as the GCSAA's first

president from 1926-31. "He was the first to exercise a future vision," wrote Robert Williams.

Mendenhall, who served as GCSAA president in 1948, was the association's last surviving charter member when he died a few years ago. Born in 1895 on an Oklahoma farm, his golf career started on a city-owned course he designed and built in Wichita, Kan. He later worked at Wichita Country Club and Mission Hills Country Club on the Kansas/Missouri border and also designed a number of courses in the two states. "He was the original superintendent," wrote MAGCS President Don Ferreri.

No one is held in higher esteem among the active/retired superintendent ranks than Moore. Moore attended the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts concentrating on turfgrass management and horticulture. He worked at several New Jersey courses before accepting the head superintendent post at Winged Foot Golf Club in New York. He had two tours of duty at Winged Foot, hosting the U.S. Open and Senior Open. Moore was the first superintendent to receive the Old Tom Morris Award, GCSAA's highest honor, and was a frequent contributor to *Golf Course Management* magazine.



Chester Mendenhall

"He had that All-American boy image," wrote Robert Williams of the man who would follow him as GCSAA president four years later. "He had a great track record."

Another voter cast his lot with Moore "for the work he did overseas and his infectious enthusiasm."



Eb Steiniger

Born in Germany, Steiniger spent 53 years at Pine Valley Golf Club, the suburban Philadelphia layout annually voted the top course in the world by most major golf publications. He nurtured the course along to its eventual No. 1 ranking and earned the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award in 1988. The turfgrass maintenance museum at Penn State is named after Steiniger and fellow course manager Tom Moscaro. "He was the nicest, greatest and most talented man ever to serve in a golf course maintenance capacity," wrote Joe Owsik of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Robert Williams, who served as GCSAA president in 1958, spent most of his career as head superintendent of Bob O'Links Golf Club in suburban Chicago. An eloquent speaker, talented writer and capable businessman, he is credited with helping elevate the position of golf course superintendent from a menial job to a profession. "He was the leader of GCSAA during the transition from greenkeeper to superintendent," wrote one voter.

The survey was conducted in November and December. Voters were asked to rank the top 10 superintendents in each category (Deceased and Active/Retired).



Robert Williams

He was a true visionary who led by example. He trained many future superintendents and was the consummate professional.'

— Ken Krausz of the GCSA of New Jersey on Warren Bidwell

Nominees received 10 points for a first-place vote, nine points for a second-place vote, eight points for a third-place vote, and so on.

Also receiving votes in the "Deceased" category (in no particular order of finish) were Arthur Anderson, Bill Beresford, Andrew Bertoni, Fred Burkhardt, Phil Cassidy, Angelo Cammarota, O.B. Fitts, Joe Flaherty, Raymond Gerber, John Gray, James Haines, Lester Hall, Norm Kramer, Frank Maples, Casper McCullough, John McGregor, Mal McLaren, Roy Nelson, Jack Ormond, Emil Picha, William Sansom, Hans Schmeisser, Robert Scott, Robert Shields, Bill Smart, Colin Smith, John Steel, Clarence Wolfrom, Paul Boizelle, Fred Roth, Joe Hadwick, Adolph Bertucci, Art Benson Sr., Leon Lambert, Paul Weiss Sr. and Frank Ermer.

Other "Active/Retired" nominees receiving votes (also in no particular order) were Walter Boysen, Tom Burrows, Paul Frank, Gary Grigg, Dan Hall, Keith Ihms, Dan Maples, David Moote, Keith Nisbet, Sid Puddicombe, John Spodnik, Paul Voykin, Cliff Wagoner, Bruce Williams, Theodore Woehrle, Steve Cadenelli, Bob Alonzi, Doug Peterson, Mike Bavier, Oscar Miles, Richie Valentine, Sonny Debose, Tom Leonard, Donald Hearn, Kevin Downing, Fred Klauk, Tim Hiers, Mark Jarrell, Paul Crawford, Charlie Tadge, George Morgan, Jim Wyllie, Louis Miller, Peter Smith, Carl Beer, David Gourchy and Mel Lucas.

Davies on PDI

Continued from previous page

and a detailed report on a breakdown of costs has been requested.

The costs are appropriate for the work that has been accomplished. Even those who are most aggressive in their views that portions of the proposal must be changed, feel that there is much good in the proposal, if we can simply address their concerns. We agree with this view and expect to address concerns sufficiently to gain the support required.

Our membership is detail-oriented. Before taking our proposal to them, concern was expressed that all details had to be worked out prior to exposing the members to the proposal. The thinking was that if we had any unaddressed issues, the members would reject the proposal. The majority felt it important to show that we had a work in progress and that we desired membership input.

We made many tough decisions, so no one would feel we were unwilling to address core issues. But to give the impression that there was no room for movement, and all decisions were final, was inconsistent with our intentions.

We do walk a fine line. We are exposed to criticism that we should have the answer to every question on one side and on the other that we have already made up our minds, so why are we even asking for input from the membership. Exposure to criticism is a price that leadership must always pay. It cannot be any other way and we do not shun it. We do not glory in it, either.

Our members want to know how the decisions will affect them.

Change is hard for any organization. The issues we are dealing with are important enough to pay the price change requires. We are proud of our membership, especially those who have raised their voices to express concerns. It is a great profession!



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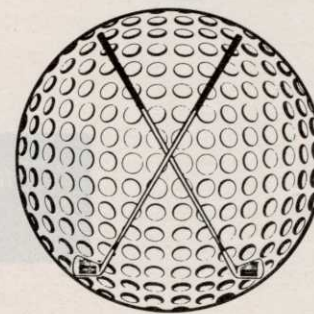
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