

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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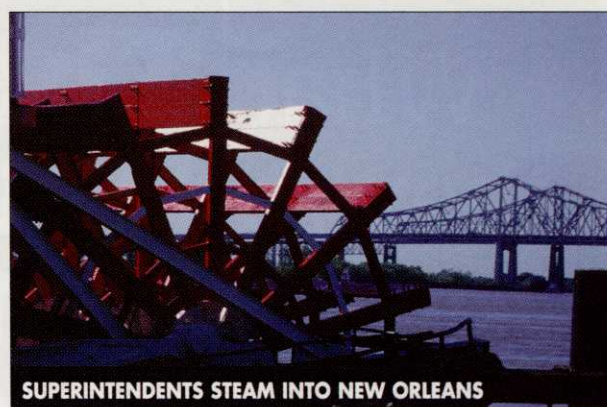
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PERIODICAL



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

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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

Continued on page 3



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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Meadowbrook

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Florida and Wisconsin. The 30 courses are a mixture of private, semi-private and public facilities.

"They are in a segment of the market we are very comfortable with, the mid-market, daily-fee and private segment," said Meadowbrook Chairman Arnold Rosenstein.

Meadowbrook has retained

the staff at the former KSL Fairways properties. "We don't intend to make major changes at the golf course level except for some capital improvement programs at some courses," the chairman said.

Meadowbrook and Apollo purchased the 30 courses from KSL Fairways through a jointly owned company called Fairways Acquisition Corp. last Sept. 30. In January,

Meadowbrook issued 18.4 million shares of its common stock, valued at \$2.75 per share, to Apollo Real Estate Investment Fund IV in connection with the transaction. Apollo basically converted its interest in the former KSL Fairways courses for shares in Meadowbrook, Rosenstein said.

In addition, all the holders of all the Meadowbrook Golf Group Inc. Series A, Series B and Series C convertible preferred

stock converted their preferred shares into Meadowbrook Golf Group Inc. common stock simultaneously with the acquisition. Meadowbrook Golf Group has approximately 34 million shares of common stock outstanding, taking into account the acquisition of the balance of Fairways Golf and the conversion of the Series A, Series B and Series C preferred



shares into common stock.

The company has also authorized a share repurchase program for up to \$3 million of its common stock in the open market and/or privately negotiated transactions from time to time, depending on the market conditions.

"We continue to be acquisitive," Rosenstein said. "The conversion of all the preferred stock into common stock will allow us to consider acquisitions that involve our stock. It cleaned up the balance sheet for additional acquisitions in the future."

The KSL Fairways purchase represents Meadowbrook's largest single acquisition, Rosenstein said. Meadowbrook now owns, leases and manages 60 golf courses, including Fairway Golf's properties. Additionally, through its International Golf Maintenance subsidiary, the company provides outsourced golf course maintenance services for another 39 courses nationwide. Meadowbrook is developing another five courses and, through its Golf Ventures Inc. subsidiary, supplies and distributes equipment and products to more than 1,000 courses.

Meadowbrook and IGM together are believed to be the third-largest operator of golf courses nationwide behind American Golf Corp. and ClubCorp.

The courses included in the KSL Fairways purchase are Birkdale Golf & Country Club (G&CC) in Chesterfield, Va.; Broad Bay Country Club (CC) in Virginia Beach, Va.

The Club at Hidden Creek in Navarre, Fla.; Countryside Golf Club (GC) in Roanoke, Va.; The Gauntlet in Hartwood, Va.; Indigo Lakes GC in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Kiln Creek G&CC in Newport News, Va.; Lake Windsor GC in Madison, Wis.; Marlboro CC in Upper Marlboro, Md.; Memphis Oaks GC in Memphis, Tenn.; Mequon (Wis.) CC; Monroe Valley GC in Jonestown, Pa.; Montclair (Va.) Golf, Tennis & Swim Club; Patuxent Greens CC in Laurel, Md.

Pebble Creek CC in Tampa, Fla.; Prince William GC in Nokesville, Va.; Scenic Hills CC in Pensacola, Fla.; Shalimar (Fla.) Pointe G&CC; Silver Spring CC in Menominee Falls, Wis.; Tantallon CC in Fort Washington, Fla.

Tiger Point G&CC in Gulf Breeze, Fla.; Walden Lake G&CC in Plant City, Fla.; Wellington (Fla.) G&CC; and Willow Run GC in Pewaukee, Wis.

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