

REGIONAL

Turf managers meet in Florida

A broad and varied program of educational seminars and an exhibit area filled with 86 suppliers of seed, chemicals, and equipment drew 750 golf course superintendents and other turf managers to the 26th annual conference and show of the Florida Turf-Grass Association in Orlando recently.



Equipment exhibits in Orlando

Dr. James B. Beard, professor of turfgrass physiology at Texas A&M University, discussed the university's current turfgrass research projects in his keynote address. "We're still a very young science in turfgrass," he noted, "but we're coming."

Research programs such as the one at Texas A&M are producing much valuable information on turfgrass science, but are not cheap. Dr. Beard outlined the costs of his university's 3-year-old program and came up with a total expenditure of \$686,000. That figure includes the value of much irrigation and laboratory equipment donated by manufacturers, as well as a building, a greenhouse, test plots, stress physiology laboratory, and other equipment.

Under Dr. Beard, Texas A&M has built a rhizotron — one of seven in the world, four in the United States. Sort of a cellar with underground glass walls that enable the observation of live root systems in the soil, the rhizotron has produced what Beard termed "the most significant discovery I've been associated with." He was referring to spring root decline observed in Tifgreen and Floratam grasses. During the winter months, Beard said, the plant is dormant but the root system looks healthy. In March, however, when new leaves appear above ground, the roots

turn brown and stop growing. If effect, there is no appreciable root system underneath the grass plant for 3 to 4 weeks in the spring.

Dr. Beard also explained tests underway on heat and wear resistance and shade tolerance of various varieties of turfgrass.

Dr. Harry G. Meyers, turf extension specialist at the University of Florida, discussed "the interaction of mowing, watering, and fertilization" and how they apply to economical turf care. He pointed out that "the healthiest grass plant is unmowed" and that increased mowing height equals increased root growth, increased leaf width, decreased plant density, and lower maintenance costs.

In a session on turf equipment and its maintenance, Jerry H. Cheesman, director of the School of Golf Course Operations at Lake City (Fla.) Community College,



Cheesman: zoned maintenance

outlined how the zonal concept of organizing the maintenance center can enable the superintendent to use and maintain his equipment more efficiently. Typical zones would include administration, equipment maintenance and repair, lubrication, fertilizer storage, equipment storage, and similar functions. Specifics of equipment and golf car maintenance were covered by Ed Combest, an instructor at Lake City; Anthony Saiia, engineer for Jacobsen Turf Products; and John Bush, service training instructor for E-Z-Go.

"I see a new era on the horizon. EPA has weeded out the retired colonels and liberal arts graduates who were interpreting chemical labels they couldn't even read," said Dr. Richard L. Lipsey, pesticide chemical coordinator at the University of Florida during his talk on turf pesticides. He reported that of the 28 Rebuttable Presumptions Against Registration (RPAR's) which have been issued thus far, only DBCP has made it through the process. (see GOLF BUSINESS, November, page 6).

Other programs for golf course



Lipsey: new era for EPA

superintendents covered use of effluent water for irrigation, use of the white amur fish for aquatic weed control, budgeting, worker/supervisor relationships, and irrigation.

CONVENTIONS

Tax bill highlights NCA meeting

An undercurrent of tension and excitement ran through the 3-day annual convention of the National Club Association in mid-October, but it was because of things happening a thousand miles away from the Doral Country Club, where the NCA members met in Miami. In Washington, D.C., the 95th Congress of the United States was debating in its closing hours whether to discontinue tax deductions for club dues.

As the story following explains, Congress voted to continue dues deductions, but the high point of the NCA convention was probably the moment Executive Director Gerard Hurley stepped to the microphone after dinner in the Doral ballroom and announced, "It looks like the House will leave club

News

dues alone."

Taxes in one form or another are an omnipresent problem for private clubs these days, and a large part of the convention program was devoted to the subject. Speaking at the NCA golf club division breakfast, appraiser Warren P. Hunnicutt Jr. told club representatives, "If you are going to protest your property tax assessment, have your facts straight. Know why it's too high or unequal. If you get a reduction without having your facts straight, you're just plain lucky."

Hunnicutt commented that "most tax assessors are pretty sharp and are interested in doing a good job. They will listen to any reasonable argument, but they don't like to be threatened."

If a golf club's owners think their tax assessment is unfair, Hunnicutt said, they should hire someone qualified to make an accurate appraisal of the property's market value. In the meantime, file an appeal — don't miss the filing deadline. Then if the appraiser thinks you have a good chance for reduction, be prepared to proceed — including going to court, if need be.

In another convention session, NCA Tax Counsel William J. Lehrfeld and Conrad Rosenberg, chief of the technical research section of the Internal Revenue Service's Exempt Organizations Divisions, briefed members on current and pending IRS regulations.

Rosenberg asked that his talk be "off the record," but most of the discussion centered around questions of what private clubs can and cannot do in obtaining



Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, outgoing president Bob Meyer, incoming president Herbert Emanuelson, and other NCA officials

nonmember income while retaining their exempt tax status.

Taxes and the deduction of club dues and business entertainment expenses were also on the mind and tongue of Rep. Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.). Speaking at the NCA general business session, he said, "Entertainment to business is like fertilizer to the farmer. You have to spread a little around to increase the yield — and a higher yield increases the taxes the IRS can collect."

Vander Jagt complimented the NCA on its lobbying effort on the dues deductions question, noting that the association had talked with 35 of the 37 members of the House Ways and Means Committee of which he is a member.

In a seminar titled "Get the Best From Your Best," the responsibilities of their constituents were discussed by George Cleaver, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Dr. Gary Wiren, director of club relations of the Professional Golfers' Association, and Horace Duncan, executive director of the Club Managers Association of America.



Cleaver and Wiren at NCA

Cleaver pointed out that "although the superintendent's main job is caring for turf, he is becoming more involved in management of the club." Duncan, Wiren, and Cleaver agreed on the necessity of cooperation and coordination between the club manager, golf professional, and course superintendent.

"Thousands of dollars are wasted and much dissatisfaction caused by major changes to the golf course planned without the participation and knowledge of the superintendent," Cleaver noted.

Herbert L. Emanuelson Jr. was elected to succeed Milton E. Meyer Jr. as president of NCA. Emanuelson is a New Haven,

Conn., attorney and a member of the New Haven Country Club. Other officers elected, and their club affiliations, are:

Vice president — Sam Berry (Quail Hollow CC, Charlotte, N.C.)

Vice president — Harold B. Berman (past president, Columbian CC of Dallas)

Secretary — Joseph N. Noll (past president, Kenosha CC, Kenosha, Wis.)

Treasurer — E. Guenter Skole, CCM (general manager, Metropolitan Club, Washington, D.C.).

PRIVATE CLUBS

Dues deductions saved in Congress

In an 11th hour decision that may save the private club industry millions of dollars, a House-Senate Conference Committee rejected the Senate's provision that would have ended tax deductions for club dues. The 95th Congress passed a tax bill that ends deductions for entertainment facilities such as yachts and hunting lodges but continues deductions for club dues.

"The odds against the Conference Committee's reversing the Senate's vote to end dues deductions were astronomical," said Herbert L. Emanuelson, Jr., the new president of the National Club Association, which led the fight against ending the deductions. "But thanks to the fantastic lobbying effort by our Washington team and the support of our members and other industry organizations, we convinced key members of the committee to defend our cause. Had it not been for this industry effort led by NCA, the club industry could well be facing financial chaos."

Congress' action was a major blow to President Carter, who had made the disallowance of club dues deductions a highly visible part of his tax reform package. It was an important victory for the club industry and NCA, the trade association which lobbies for the interests of private golf clubs and other clubs.

When the President first announced his proposal to disallow deductions for club dues, the NCA and its executive director, Gerard Hurley, vigorously fought the proposal with the support of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the

Professional Golfers' Association, the Club Managers Association of America, and other groups.

NCA had estimated that perhaps 45 percent of the nation's golf clubs could be so impaired by the loss of dues deductibility that their future would be in doubt.

TURF PESTS

Ataenius named; new pest discovered

Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk, professor of turfgrass entomology at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, reports that the 1978 Committee on Common Names of Insects from the Entomological Society of America has approved a common name for *Ataenius spretulus*. The approved common name is "black turfgrass ataenius."

Dr. Niemczyk has also discovered another beetle that damages turf at the same time *Ataenius larvae* do.

"This insect has been determined as *Aphodius granarius*," he said. "I found larvae of this species damaging turf in Boulder, Colo., and at two golf courses in Detroit. At first glance, adults appear identical to *Ataenius spretulus*. The larvae of *Aphodius* are slightly larger and have a somewhat darker head capsule. The most outstanding identifying feature of the larvae is the V-shaped series of spines located in the raster."

TURFGRASS SEED

Seed industry stats subject of workshop

A major effort has been instituted by the grass seed industry in cooperation with the federal government to produce statistics that are meaningful, rather than numbers which often are inaccurate.

Duane Jacklin, chairman of the Statistics Committee of the American Seed Trade Association, headed a workshop in Portland, Ore., recently that included trade association members as well as representatives of the Economics Statistics and Cooperative Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The purpose of the workshop

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was not to blame anyone," Jacklin said, "but to assess where the shortcomings are in the program and to take positive action in all areas to correct them.

"One segment, and very key to the whole program, is the completion of forms sent to seed producers. If the statistics are not there, the industry has no way of gauging where it's at and where to go from there."

John Kirkbride, director of the Estimates Division of the ESCS, several members of his Washington, D.C. staff, and staff members from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho presented the morning program. They outlined the problems faced in attempting to provide a comprehensive and accurate annual report for 41 kinds of seed, including acreage and yield per acre.

"The seed industry is a small part of the ESCS statistics-gathering service throughout the U.S., but it is important to the seed growers, processors, and marketing firms as well as industries that serve these producers," Jacklin said.

Accurate information on seed production can also be valuable to golf course superintendents and other turf managers who purchase seed — particularly in regard to pricing and availability.

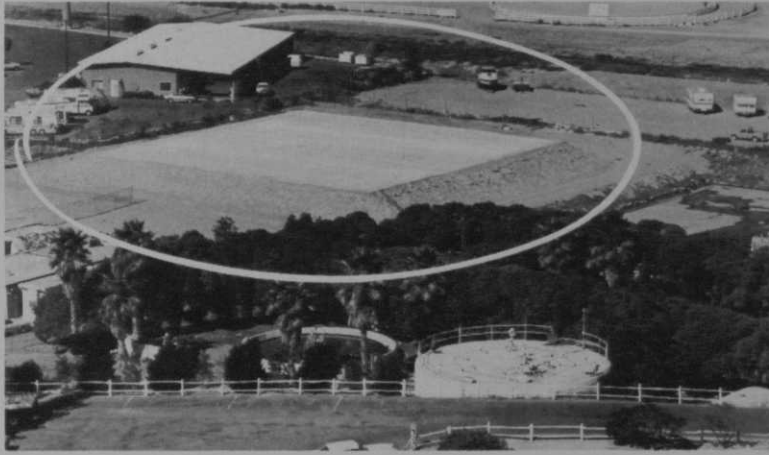
Impetus for the workshop was generated at the ASTA annual meeting earlier this year in Kansas City. Copies of the workshop discussions can be obtained by writing to Duane Jacklin, Jacklin Seed Co., Route 2, Box 402, Post Falls, ID 83854.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

Nuisance standards revoked by OSHA

Assistant Secretary of Labor Eula Bingham, head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, on October 24 revoked 607 general industry safety standards deemed unneeded or unrelated to job safety and health.

Standards revoked ranged from those covering U-shaped toilet seats, the type of wood used for portable ladders, and the height for mounting fire extinguishers to others such as minimum age requirements for certain jobs, dikes and drainage areas around storage tanks, and the location of certain buildings in relation to public thoroughfares.



Circled area in photo stores 800,000 gallons of effluent water which eventually will be used by Rancho La Costa CC.

"Unnecessary and overly complex regulations place a tremendous burden on workers, employers, and the agency's limited inspection resources," Dr. Bingham said. "Getting rid of nitpicking and irrelevant provisions enables all of us to concentrate on reducing or eliminating the more serious and significant workplace safety and health hazards."

The revoked standards made up roughly 10 percent of the word volume of OSHA's standards and were finalized as the result of extensive public review and comment on the more than 1,100 provisions proposed for revocation last December 13.

Criteria used to determine which provisions were to be revoked, in order descending of frequency used, were:

1) encumbered by unnecessary details, 2) adequately covered by other general standards, 3) directed toward public safety or property protection, 4) obsolete or inconsequential, 5) subject to enforcement by other regulatory agencies, 6) contingent upon manufacturer's approval or recommendation, and 7) concerned with comfort or convenience.

IRRIGATION

Rancho La Costa uses effluent from county

An agreement between Rancho La Costa Country Club and the Leucadia County (Calif.) Water District seems to be paying off for both the golf course and the county. The golf course buys effluent water for irrigation at 30 percent less than it would pay for tap water, and the county receives payment for effluent which was previously pumped into the Pacific Ocean.

There was one hangup in reaching the agreement, however. The golf course wanted the water at night, although most of it was available only during the daytime. The solution was an 800,000-gallon, embankment-supported Fabritank water storage system.

Liquid-proof, the Fabritank is made of tough Neoprene rubber-impregnated nylon by the Firestone Coated Fabrics Co. Because it weighed about 5 tons, the Fabritank was lifted into place by a crane, then unrolled and secured by engineers inside a 13-foot-high, 116-foot-square earthen bank at the Leucadia sewage treatment plant.

Now the water district can store effluent water during the day, and the nearby Rancho La Costa Country Club can pump it out at night.

COMPANIES

Distributors hear new Jacobsen plans

Nearly 300 representatives of major distributors of turf maintenance equipment attended the recent Jacobsen Turf Products' sales meeting and were introduced to top management of Textron Inc. as well as to new products and plans for the coming year.

Textron acquired Jacobsen from Allegheny Ludlum Industries earlier this year. Textron President Robert P. Straetz told the distributors that his firm had first discussed merger possibilities with Jacobsen in the mid-1960's and that Jacobsen's "established name, product quality, and leadership in turf maintenance equipment" were criteria in the acquisition decision.

Jacobsen President Frank Depew said Jacobsen sales have nearly doubled during the past 4 years and are running about 30 percent ahead for the current fiscal year. As part of a 5-year Forward Business Plan, Depew said, the company has been reorganized into three separate units: Turf Products, Consumer Products, and Central Parts Supply. Turf Products manufacturing has been consolidated at Racine, Wis.

According to Howard McPherson, vice president and general manager of Turf Products, improvements have been made in design, engineering, manufacturing, sales and service, and purchasing.

Substantial improvements have been made in expediting repair parts orders, said Jack Krug, vice president and general manager of Central Parts Supply. Howard Cooper, manager of product planning and development, reported that new guidelines and procedures have been developed to tailor equipment to user needs. He gave the new Turfcut as an example.

NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION BOX SCORE

January-October 1978		REGULATION COURSES	EXECUTIVE COURSES	PAR 3 COURSES	TOTAL
OPENED FOR PLAY	New	36	11	3	91
	Additions	33	8	0	
STARTED CONSTRUCTION	New	39	5	2	81
	Additions	31	2	2	
PROSPECTIVE		76	8	4	88