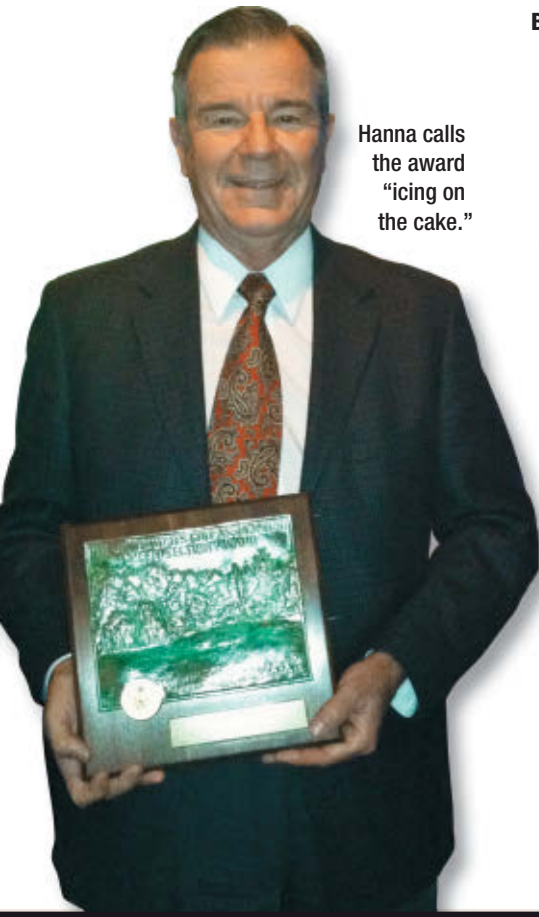


Off The Fringe

HANNA Garners Green Section Award

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, TIFTON SCIENTIST IS RECOGNIZED FOR HIS TURFGRASS CONTRIBUTIONS.

BY BETH GERACI



Hanna calls the award "icing on the cake."

Wayne Hanna, Ph.D., has worked as a turfgrass scientist at the University of Georgia, Tifton since 1971.

Today he's the latest recipient of the USGA Green Section Award.

The USGA Green Section presented Hanna with the award at the 2012 Golf Industry Show, citing his many contributions in developing environmentally friendly turfgrasses.

"It's nice getting paid for something that you enjoy doing so much," Hanna said in accepting the award. "It's been a joy working with the industry, all of you, and I appreciate the enjoyment that comes from being a servant of the taxpayer."

In introducing Hanna, USGA agronomist Patrick O'Brien recalled Hanna's many accomplishments in developing hybrid bermudagrasses over the last 40 years, including Tif-

Sport, TifEagle and TifGrand.

All of them "are industry standards used on golf courses," O'Brien said. "They have enhanced the enjoyment of millions of golfers, including those at USGA championships and at all levels of golf."

In return, Hanna credited the USGA Green Section for circuitously helping him revive the breeding program at UG Tifton back in 1983. Hanna had just presented about Tif-Dwarf at a USGA Green Section conference in Boca Raton, Fla. when a superintendent approached him.

"He said, 'You know, we need to start developing some bermudagrasses that have a putting surface similar to bentgrasses,'" Hanna recalled. "I thought it was a pretty good idea. So I went home and started reviving the bermudagrass breeding program at Tifton."

A native Texan, Hanna earned a Ph.D. in genetics from Texas A&M University. In 1971, he launched his long career as a research scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Georgia.

The turfgrass breakthroughs Hanna made with Dr. Glenn Burton led Tifton to become known as the "bermudagrass capital of the world."

PHOTO BY: BETH GERACI; ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK INTERNATIONAL INC.

**FAST
FACT**

Course **OPENINGS**
in 2011:

19

Source: National Golf Foundation

Course **CLOSINGS**
in 2011:

157.5

CLOSED

For the sixth consecutive year **more golf courses have closed than opened**. The number of closing in 2011 is the high water mark thus far.

358.5 courses have closed since the industry's peak in 2005.

Golembiewski says leaving OSU was “the hardest decision I ever had to make in my professional career.”



Golembiewski to Bayer

Former Oregon State University turf director chooses to move family back home **BY SETH JONES**

The week of the Golf Industry Show was stressful for many, but especially for Rob Golembiewski, Ph.D.

Golembiewski was trying to decide what he wanted to do. Stay at Oregon State University, what he calls the “premiere turf program on the west coast,” or take a job with Bayer CropScience as a technical service specialist.

When he returned home on Monday following the

GIS, he made up his mind: he was taking his family back home to Columbus, Ohio, and joining Bayer.

“It was not one thing,” Golembiewski told *Golfdom*. “It was the position. It was the location. It was family. I tell you what, man, it was the hardest decision I ever had to make in my professional career.”

With Bayer, Golembiewski will be performing the same job as former UC

Riverside plant pathologist Frank Wong, Ph.D., who left a similar position to work for the same company. Golembiewski will focus on the Midwest while Wong continues to work on the East Coast.

“It’s a fairly new position for the company. These positions were previously only research and development, but Bayer is making a conscious effort to invest in the industry,” Golembiewski says. “As products come to market, they’ll be passed along to me and Frank to provide support to end-users.”

Golembiewski says he’s “99-percent sure” Oregon

State will replace him. He says the position supports not just Oregon, but the entire West Coast. In the three-and-a-half years Golembiewski worked for Oregon State, he did 80 presentations to more than 30 different groups.

Golembiewski is the 10th child of a family of 11. He says eight of his siblings still live in the Columbus area. “I’m excited for my three kids to get to know all their cousins,” he says.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has issued a final rule that would make significant changes to the H-2B program. Due to become effective April 23, the rule would make it more expensive for golf courses to hire and retain foreign workers, a large part of the industry’s work force.

Rep. Rodney Alexander of Louisiana recently introduced a House joint resolution (H.J. 104) that would block the DOL from enforcing the rule. And the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is urging its members to rally in support of the resolution.

Ask your congressional representa-

GCSAA Fights DOL Rule

Urges superintendents to oppose possible changes to the H-2B program.

BY BETH GERACI

tives to co-sponsor and support it, the GCSAA says, because if the resolution does not garner enough congressional support, many golf facilities won’t be able to hire an adequate number of workers during the peak season.

The GCSAA is actively working with the H-2B Workforce Coalition to prevent the changes in the H-2B wage

rule from being implemented. The association and its members submitted comments opposing the proposed rule last year, and the GCSAA is currently supporting pending litigation. The association is now focused on a legislative response from leaders on Capitol Hill.

Members are asked to contact Chava McKeel, the GCSAA’s senior manager of information and public policy, at (800) 472-7878 ext. 3619 for help in taking action. Or log on to <http://capwiz.com/gcsaa/issues/bills/?bill=61029011&alrtid=61029016>.

