

# Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



## //SUMMIT

**"I look forward to spending time with such an esteemed group of golf course superintendents from around the country."**

**ANNIKA SORENSTAM**

When asked about guest-speaking at the *Golfdom* Summit.



## ANNIKA ADDED TO SUMMIT ROSTER

'MS. 59' TO SPEAK TO SUPERINTENDENTS ABOUT HER CAREER AND BUSINESS VENTURES



Widely regarded as the best female golfer of all time, 2003 World Golf Hall of

Fame inductee Annika Sorenstam will speak to attendees of the *Golfdom* Summit, Dec. 3-6 at the Reunion Resort in Orlando.

Since retiring from competitive golf in 2008, Sorenstam has focused on her family and her ANNIKA brand of business, including the ANNIKA Academy, headquartered at Reunion.

"To host the greatest female golfer of all time at such a small, intimate event reminds us that we truly are hosting one of the most unique and exciting meetings in our industry," said Patrick Roberts, *Golfdom's* publisher.

"I always enjoy talking about the business of golf and just as equipment

technology has advanced tremendously over the years, so too has the ability to maintain excellent course conditions and this group has a lot to do with that," Sorenstam said.

Other speakers include Steve Mona, World Golf Foundation CEO; Wayne Kappelman, superintendent, Sharp Park; Mark Woodward, senior vice president, OB Sports; Tray Maltby, director of grounds for the 54-hole Reunion Resort; and Seth Jones, editor-in-chief, *Golfdom*.

This year's sponsors include: Air-O-Lator, Cushman, E-Z-Go, FMC Professional Solutions, GenNext Biotech, Holganix, Jacobsen, John Deere, Lebanon Turf, Oregon Cutting Systems, Phoenix Environmental Care, Quali-Pro and Smithco.

## //IN MEMORIAM

### TURF INDUSTRY LOSES THREE LEADERS

Three leaders of the turfgrass industry passed away recently. Dr.s Joseph Duich, A.J. Powell and James Watson each played a role in turf management as it is known today and will be missed.

Duich obtained both his B.S. and Ph.D. from Penn State. He then joined the Penn State faculty in 1955. He aided in the education of thousands of



Joseph Duich

undergraduate, graduate and two-year turfgrass students through his career. Among his many accomplishments, Duich helped to develop Penncross bentgrass, Pennfire perennial ryegrass, Pennstar Kentucky bluegrass,

Pennlawn creeping fine fescue and Penneagle creeping bentgrass.

Watson earned his B.S. in agronomy from Texas A&M University and his Ph.D. from Penn State University.

He then continued on to become an assistant professor with Texas A&M. In 1952 Watson started with the Toro Co. where he spent 46 years of his career. Throughout his career he wrote over 400 articles in his field covering turfgrass management, water conservation and cultural practices. Watson also was a proponent for water conservation, utilizing waste water and water's role in turfgrass care.

Powell earned his B.S. and M.S. in agriculture from the University of Kentucky. He continued on to earn his



A.J. Powell

Ph.D. in agronomy at Virginia Tech. Powell taught for 30 years at the University of Kentucky. Throughout his career he had many accomplishments, including the release of a new bermudagrass named Quickstand.

For a perspective on Duich and Watson and the future of research, check out "Clark Talks Turf" on page 38.



James Watson



// ON THE ROAD AGAIN

## The fraternal order of greenkeepers

➔ My most recent journeys have been to state and local chapter events. They were reminders of the positive benefits of the camaraderie of people with similar interests, common goals, and challenges.

One of these events was the Florida GCSA Golf Championship. All eleven local chapters had a team competing for the Chapter Team Trophy and state bragging rights. The Palm Beach Chapter swept the event with Low Individual and Team victories. It was a bittersweet victory. While they were victorious on the course, back home they have been inundated with torrential rains from April to August, with reports of double-digit daily rains and 20- to 30-inch monthly totals. Renovation and re-grassing project costs escalated, as continuous washout repairs were required and opening dates were postponed.

The other journey was to the annual Palm Beach and South Florida Chapters

joint meeting. The South Florida GCSA was formed in 1939. As golf expanded northward the Palm Beach GCSA split away in 1978, and in the early 1980s they began these joint meetings to share their common history.

I had lunch at the joint meeting with Kevin Downing, the third president of the Florida GCSA. Now a supplier, Downing and I reminisced about common experiences we've had and people we've known over the years. These lifelong friendships provide continuity and fond memories. These relationships combine the old adage "It's who you know" with "what you know" which can lead to personal and professional growth opportunities. I know that my volunteer participation and involvement led me to a rich and satisfying career in this industry.

Do yourself and your career a big favor — go to meetings and get involved!

Joel Jackson, CGCS-Ret., is a contributing editor for *Golfdom*.



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GO FIGURE



The number of readers who said if they could have any superintendent job in the world, would choose Bushwood CC.

*See full story on page 20*

// ACQUISITION

## EAGLE ONE GOLF FOLDS WESTERN GOLF UNDER WING

Eagle One Golf recently announced the acquisition of Western Golf. Western Golf is a leading manufacturer and distributor of golf course equipment and golf course accessories. Products made by Western Golf are sold to thousands of golf courses throughout North America as well as 38 countries worldwide.

"The addition of Western Golf to our portfolio of companies will help broaden our product offerings to better serve our customers," said Paul Cherrie, president and CEO of Eagle One Golf.

Western Golf is a third generation business headed by Bob Wagner. Wagner will continue to play a key role in the company going forward.

// THAT-A-BOY!

## FISHER HONORED BY CAROLINAS

Georg Fisher, who spent more than 20 years as a sales manager and manager of customer relations for Smith Turf and Irrigation, will be honored with the Carolinas GCSA Distinguished Service Award. He will be presented the award this month at the Carolinas annual Conference and Trade Show.

"Superintendents, architects, owners, developers, builders, PGA pros, turfgrass industry leaders, educators, fellow distributor personnel and countless others call on George and rely on his guidance and more importantly, his friendship," said Steve Smith, president of STI.