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Continued from page 60

turfgrass arm of CSSA, at the urging of the Turf Breeders Association (TBA), did vote to use *Festuca arundinacea*. Score one — maybe two — for the breeders.

In fact, there is a strong argu-

ment to be made that recent

CSSA guidelines say the scien-

tific name to use for tall fescue is

Lolium arundinaceum (Schreb.)

may be a New Age versus Old Age

situation. The standard reference

for turfgrass on the Web, "The

Grass Manual," says fescue is now

books like the standard "Manual of

the Grasses of the United States" by A.S. Hitchcock (and revised by

Those who use hard-copy

Agnes Chase), point out that it uses Festuca

arundinacea — and the editors reached that

decision after looking at all the options for

many years. Vickie Bradley says her portion of

GRIN (the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

research group known as the Germplasm

GRIN, even though part of the Agricultural

Research Service, is not an official site for

nomenclature. Supporters of the new name

say they suspect GRIN is still using the old

binomial only because they have world-

wide clientele and many folks, who are not

privy to current literature, don't know about

norus phoenix (Scop.) Holub as the official

binomial on-line (http://www.ars-grin.gov/

cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxonpl?429056) but also

Actually, GRIN does recognize Schendo-

Those favoring the change note that

Information Network) still calls it Festuca.

Schendonorus arundinaceus.

Some observers suspect this

Darbysh.

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Many turf agronomists say the change took them aback, but they were willing to accept it because someone has to be the naming authority.

If you need to point to one person responsible for the change in taxonomy, it likely would be Barkworth. She chose the name *Schedonorus* from among four proposed alternatives

> and put it in her recent revision of Flora North America. In effect, that made it the official name for fescue, at least here in the United States.

> To throw some fat onto the fire, she says she has questions on *Volpia* (foxtail or Zorro fescue), too. Barkworth notes that its name is based on European conventions that simply were imported with little question. But she is firm that *Festuca* is not where the broadleaf fescues belong.

"In my honest opinon, I consider them *Lolium*, but I'll go along with either *Lolium* or

Schedonorus," she says.

Many turf agronomists say the change took them aback, but they were willing to accept it because someone has to be the naming authority and Barkworth, given her position of prominence in the field — coupled with her knowledge and stature — is the logical person to make that decision. Supporters say CSSA should be using the name Schedonorus, not Lolium and Festuca.

If you're keeping score, it might be safe to discount *Lolium*. *Lolium arundinaceum* hasn't been an accepted name for tall fescue historically. While it received some attention, it seems to be a transient name.

The conflict between CSSA and Intermountain Herbarium over use of *Schedonorus* and *Festuca* is likely to go a few more rounds. Referees in the fight will be the editors of the many reports done by researchers in all areas — genetics, chemicals, fertility and mowing. Each time one refers to tall fescue another gong will sound and an editor will stand up and score points for one side or the other.

On the golf course, however, it will likely remain plain, old tall fescue.

Curt Harler is managing editor of Golfdom's TurfGrass Trends section.

uses Festuca arundinacea.

the name change.

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THE FINAL WORD

Shack Attack

Mum Is the Word

n the annals of eyebrowraising Augusta National moments that make you go "hmmm," I offer the following two anecdotes for no good reason other than it's April and the just-completed Masters is still on our minds.

You probably know about the first item if you have an e-mail address and work in the golf industry. This involves the extensive series of Augusta National images taken Feb. 13, where the glorious home to golf's first Major tournament is seen under a thick blanket of snow. The serene pictures looked like something kitchmeister Thomas Kinkade conjured up for a United States Golf Association Christmas card collection if Augusta National would allow such a thing. (Thankfully, even Augusta draws the line when it comes to good taste.)

An image of No. 12 was particularly striking because, for an instant, the sun slightly poked through. It's quite possibly the most beautiful golf course image I've ever seen.

Also noticeable in the photographs was how little snow was on the green floors, thanks to the club's subsurface heating system. If nothing else, the images made for the perfect "gone viral" SubAir Hydronics systems ad campaign.

I waited a few days to post the images on my Web site until a few other bloggers had posted them. I even cropped out the date in an attempt to protect the innocent on the off chance the club would be upset about the images. If club co-founder Clifford Roberts were alive, he'd likely launch an investigation into the heathen who exposed the beautiful Bobby Jones and NATURALLY, AUGUSTA NATIONAL DENIES THAT ANY CHANGES WERE MADE TO THE COURSE FOR THE RECENTLY COMPLETED MASTERS

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



Alister MacKenzie design the world now knows is susceptible to low scores and . . . snow!

Sure enough, I was talking to a photographer from another major golf publication a few days later who said his magazine requested permission from the club to run the images. The club said "no" and also intimated it was looking for the source of the photos even though they were taken out of admiration for the beauty and sent harmlessly to friends who would appreciate them. Those friends just so happened to think *their* friends would feel the same way — and off to the viral races the images went.

It was yet another attempt by Augusta to control information. But as Tiger Woods will tell you, such efforts usually backfire in this day and age. Should it turn out the photographer lost his job, it'll just reflect poorly on the club. After all, what is there to cover up?

Another Augusta surprise came when I was interviewing Ben Crenshaw about the design and its ties to the Old Course at St. Andrews. When I posed the question to Crenshaw that perhaps Augusta had lost much of its Old Course-inspired strategic charm thanks to the introduction of rough, he shocked me by saying he believed the club had actually widened out many landing areas the past few years so some of the key angles of attack he so cherished were in play again.

Naturally, the club says no changes were made to the course for this year's event. And we longtime Masters analysts know, the club will never acknowledge any undoing of former chairman Hootie Johnson's wretched changes, even if they were made in a well-intentioned attempt to offset what is widely considered by most in golf to be the faulty golf ball regulatory work of the governing bodies.

An alleged fairway widening is exciting and just the kind of thing Masters fans *should* know about. It could also be a huge boon to golf course superintendents and green chairmen across the land looking for a positive example from Augusta National. But we'll never get an official acknowledgement that such work took place to get the design back to its original intent.

Once again, an attempt to cover up a so-called alleged crime will be far more embarrassing than the so-called alleged crime itself. Especially since there's nothing to be embarrassed about!

Visit Shack, Golfdom's contributing editor, at www.geoffshackelford.com.



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