

## There's Another Famous Watson In the World of Golf

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### Dr. James R. Watson Has Received Several Awards in Agronomy and Turf Management

Besides Tom Watson, there's another famous Watson in the world of golf, and he's visited more than 5,000 courses, received numerous awards for his contributions to the game, and probably knows more about the environment of golf than any other professional in the business.

He's Dr. James R. Watson, the world's Ph.D. of Turfgrass Agronomy, namesake of the patented Marvalawn, and Toro's vice president of agronomy/turf management.

**During his 43-year career,** Dr. Watson has received numerous recognition awards, including the 1976 Green Section Award for distinguished service to golf from the U.S. Golf Association, the 1977 Agronomic Service Award by the American Society of Agronomy, the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents of America and the 1987 Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award from the Crop Science Society of America.

He was an organizer of the International Turfgrass Research Conference and has served on the Board of Directors of the International Turfgrass Society, and as its president. In 1982, he was appointed to the U.S. Golf Association Turfgrass Research Committee and, the next year, was appointed adjunct professor in the Department of Horticulture Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota. He has also earned the title of "Man of the Year" from both *Landscape Management* and *Landscape and Irrigation* magazines.

Watson travels to countries around the world, visiting with golf course superintendents, giving lectures on course maintenance and researching and writing textbooks on turfgrass science. In his travels, he has had the chance to meet thousands of superintendents, many whose jobs go far beyond the daily maintenance of the greens.

"The pioneering superintendents were the nucleus for the development of the field," says Dr. Watson. "They were leaders. They pushed for the training, education and advancement the industry enjoys today."

**The contributions of early golf superintendents** include experimenting with various types of grass in an effort to reduce labor costs and improve the quality of the course, says Dr. Watson. He remembers Joe Valentine, who grew the first Merion bluegrass at Philadelphia's Merion Club, and Bill Gluver, former superintendent at Fairfax Country Club in Virginia, who was the first to use Zoysia grass. Superintendents like these cultivated slow growing grasses that enabled maintenance crews to cut down on the number of cuttings and therefore decrease course maintenance costs.

Other early superintendents whom Dr. Watson has had the opportunity to meet include Marshall Farnham of the Philadelphia Country Club and Bill Benesford of the Los Angeles Country Club. Bill kept a greenhouse on the grounds, in which he grew the flowers that were placed on the clubhouse tables at dinner. And Gomer Simms of Texas, who moved to California after oil was discovered on the homestead. According to Watson, these and other superintendents were masters of course management and upkeep, all contributing to the industry in their own way.

Since becoming involved with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) in 1947, Dr. Watson has watched the job of maintaining golf courses evolve from an apprenticeship position to the task of total club management today, and he has observed a recent rise in the number of degreed professionals. Watson says that, along with a new surge in the popularity of golf, there is an increasing interest in the superintendent field. With more than 200 golf courses currently under construction in the United States, more opportunities in golf course management are now available. According to Dr. Watson, the stress of today's work environments makes an outdoor job more desirable to many professionals.

**"Besides being able to work in a healthy environment,** the managing and maintenance of



**Dr. James R. Watson**

The World's Ph.D. of Turfgrass Agronomy

golf courses is a challenge," says Dr. Watson. "Superintendents must be able to keep their courses safe for golfers as well as environmentally sound."

After all, he believes, golf courses serve as refuges for many types of wildlife. Not only are golf courses a wonderful place to work and play, their turf and root systems are instrumental in purifying ground water and breaking down pollutants from the atmosphere.

Thousands of golfers around the world, including professionals like Tom Watson, know that the quality of the greens on which the game is played is critical to the success of the golfer. Although the cutting, watering and raking may go unnoticed, every player can appreciate the effort of the superintendent each time he steps on the course for a day of golf.

### 15,000 Expected At 61st International Show In Orlando

Orlando is set to host an expected 15,000 attendees for the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), sponsor of the annual event, is predicting that new records for both attendance and trade show participation will be set with the 1990 Conference and Show Feb. 19-26.

More than 70 new exhibitors are already scheduled to display their lines at the 1990 show. The total number of exhibitors for the 1990 show is expected to be between 475-500. The 1989 GCSAA Trade Show in Anaheim, Calif., featured 463 exhibitors from the United States and around the world.