

Membership Report

New Members: October 16, 2000

Mark Kamish Class
Siren Glen Golf Club.....B (pending)
P.O. Box 640, Siren, WI 54872
W: 715/349-8258

Martin Klatte
Elm Creek Golf Links.....B (pending)
4105 Shenandoah Lane N., Plymouth 55446
763/557-0472

Tony Kramer
Madden's Resort.....B (pending)
906 S.E. 15th St., Brainerd, MN 56401
W: 218/825-4968

Bill Brooks
Rose Lake Golf Course.....C
P.O. Box 49, Rake, IA 509465
W: 507/235-3981

Carl Mielke
University of Minnesota.....C
Box 77, Almelund, MN 55002
H: 651/583-2813

Jeff Schaefer
North Oaks Golf Club.....D
4233 Clark Circle, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
W: 651/484-1024

Jeff Forsberg
Bearpath G&CC.....Associate -- GCSAA
17005 Weston Bay Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347
WL 952/975-0541

Patrick Lynch
Premier Irrigation.....Affiliate
P.O. Box 564, Hastings, MN 55033
651/480-8857

Jim Tisland
MTI Distributing Inc.....Affiliate
2729 Lakeview Ave., Roseville, MN 55113
W: 763/475-2200

Dale Walesheck
MTI Distributing Inc.....Affiliate
13575 Freeland Ave. N., Hugo, MN 55038
W: 763/475-2200 ext. 277

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Benjamin T. Ratzlaff
River Oaks Municipal GC.....B to A--GCSAA

Robert Traver
Majestic Oaks GC.....B to A--GCSAA

Kyle Nygaard
Royal Wood G&CC.....C to B--GCSAA

Submitted by Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS
Membership Chairman

Infinity and Beyond--

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can also be applied to the auto industry will reach the market faster than optical disease sensors. "A lot of the technology to do these things exists now," Greif says.

"You have to balance the costs of how much it will take to bring a feature to market with how much the market will be willing to pay," Greif says. "Otherwise, your investment won't pay off."

Electric greens mowers with the same capabilities of current hydraulic mowers will become available soon, says Peter Whurr, vice president of product management for Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products. These new engines will address pollution issues and reduce noise.

"Alterations to the machine will allow for less noise and meet the ever-demanding emission standards put forward by legislative bodies across the land," Whurr says. "A gradual process of evolution is to be expected, but we're getting there."

Robert Maibusch, CGCS at Hindsdale GC in Clarendon Hills, Ill., says he's excited about everything he has heard about the new fuel cells for greens mowers.

"That would help superintendents located in environmentally sensitive areas," Maibusch says. "It would eliminate the noise and pollution problems, which are big issues in a lot of areas."

Whurr says future mowers will help superintendents save money on fuel costs, as well as being lower maintenance. Greg O'Heron, superintendent at Peterborough Golf & CC in Peterborough, Ontario, hopes it will happen soon.

"My ideal mower will provide maintenance-free onboard diagnostics and repair," O'Heron says. "Any repairs that are made will be transmitted to a central database so we can keep track of all the repairs done to the mowers."

John Deere's Greif and Toro's Ullrich believe that, with the exception of the electric power sources, it may be five to 10 years before superintendents see all the high-tech gadgets they want. And despite these advances, however, they shouldn't expect greens mowers to look like spaceships anytime soon, Textron's Whurr says.

"The machine's appearance will not change significantly," Whurr says. "Any changes to greens mowers should enhance the machinery to meet the ever-changing needs of the superintendents."

(Editor's Note: Frank H. Andorka Jr. may be reached at fan-dorka@advanstar.com)

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE 7TH ANNUAL
MTGF CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
DECEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 2000**

**MGCSA ANNUAL MEETING
IS ON DECEMBER 7, 2000**

Bentgrass--

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Independent Seeds (a division of ABT) markets several varieties. Among them is 18th Green. John Zajac, who heads Independent Seeds, describes this variety as a specialty grass. It has excellent brown-patch tolerance, but is especially noted for its adaptation to cold temperatures. This is understandable, considering its Canadian origins.

Lopez, another of Independent Seeds' bents, "fits into the category of broadly adapted grasses and is used primarily in fairways and tees," says Zajac. However, Lopez seems to be compatible with Penncross and works well as an overseeded grass on older Penncross greens.

Century and Imperial are two more Independent varieties that display good density and disease resistance, and perform well in a broad range of conditions.

Seed Research has been a fairly prolific source of new bents. Providence has been a good performer in actual use for several years. From the same breeding program, Seed Research has introduced SR1119, which exhibits better color, texture and disease resistance. Skip Lynch, director of Seed Research's Golf and Sports Turf division, explains that SR1119 is a good compliment to either Providence or SR1020 (another of Seed Research's varieties) in blends. However, Lynch notes that SR1119 also is a valuable stand-alone variety that has gotten great reviews from superintendents. It's an especially good choice for the Northern tier where summer heat is short-lived but disease pressure is high.

Unlike other current Seed Research varieties, which are appropriate for tees and fairways as well as greens, Brighton is best suited to greens use. Brighton is sold under the Royal brand and hails from the SR1020 program, but exhibits disease resistance superior to SR1020.

Jacklin Golf markets Putter. Although this variety exhibits good general quality, its real strength is that it fills a couple of specific niches. One is disease resistance (to dollar spot and, especially, take-all patch), for which Putter was selected. The other, according to Mark DeBolt, director of Jacklin Golf, is resistance to *Poa annua* encroachment. Thus, although Putter is a respectable greens variety and a "good working bentgrass," especially where disease pressure is heavy, DeBolt says that superintendents are finding Putter to be particularly valuable as a fairway grass.

Jacklin also co-markets Brighton, the Seed Research variety discussed above.

Wayne Horman of The Scotts Co., explains that Scotts still markets ProCup, a good fairway bent. However, this variety will be phased out as Scotts focuses on its genetically modified, "Roundup-ready" bents. Herbicide-resistant bents promise to revolutionize greens maintenance and should hit the marketplace in a few years.

Turf Merchants Inc. carries two bents-Trueline and Backspin.

According to TMI's Steve Tubbs, both have per

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formed well in fairway use, which is becoming more prevalent in some regions due to gray leaf spot.

On greens, Trueline, well-adapted to more cooler climates, is particularly useful for winter overseeding of dormant bermudagrass greens. Backspin, with its notable heat tolerance, is a good year-round variety for Southern greens. Tubbs notes that Backspin has been a strong performer on Southern greens in the ongoing On-Site putting green trials.

International Seed markets Viper and Cobra, but is phasing out the latter. Viper exhibits many of the strengths of Cobra (from which it is derived) but with increased density. International's Craig Edminster explains that although Viper does not have the density of the new "elite" types (such as Penn A and G, and L-93), it is considerably improved over Pencross in that and other characteristics. Thus, it is a good as a fairway grass because it isn't as prone to thatch as the "elites," and also produces a good putting surface suitable for courses not geared toward the high maintenance requirements of the high density types.

Pickseed West supplies Cato. Derived from the same breeding program as Crenshaw, it too shows good heat and drought tolerance. Another Pickseed variety, National, is described as "a robust, winter-hardy variety" well-adapted to northern U.S. and to Canadian climates. National also has excellent establishment characteristics, making it a good overseeding choice.

Barenbrug carries Regent, describing it as a widely adapted cultivar that resists several important bentgrass diseases. Barenbrug also carries Bardot, which it calls a "vigorous, disease-resistant variety for superb playing especially in fast, consistent putting."

Disease Resistance in Bentgrasses

The Achilles heel of bentgrasses has always been their susceptibility to fungal diseases. Every year, golf courses spend millions of dollars controlling diseases like dollar spot, brown patch and *Pythium* blight. This is part of what makes golf courses targets for environmental groups, which single them out as pesticide-intensive management systems. Consequently, many breeders have intensified their efforts to find bentgrasses with good disease resistance.

Recently, some seed companies have contended that certain bentgrass cultivars show improved resistance to one or more diseases. Sorting out such claims is confusing because resistance can have different meanings. There are varying degrees of disease resistance in turfgrasses, ranging from highly resistant to extremely susceptible. Complete resistance, where the grass simply doesn't get the disease, probably does not occur with any cultivar.

Although it would be convenient to categorize disease resistance as high, moderately high, moderate and low, and then relate these categories to the amount of damage you could expect, no such system exists with turfgrasses.

Consequently, claims of "high" or "moderate" disease resistance do not have much value. It's best to evaluate the degree of disease resistance of a turfgrass cultivar by comparing its reaction to a disease with that of other cultivars growing at the same site. Such comparisons are made by planting individual cultivars in small plots and then evaluating their disease resistance under the environmental and management conditions at the site. Such trials are conducted regularly by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) and other research programs.

The NTEP coordinates evaluation of hundreds of turfgrass cultivars, including bentgrasses, at numerous locations across the United States and Canada. When a disease occurs in a test area, an evaluator assesses the amount of turf injury caused by the disease. These data, as well as other data on other aspects of cultivar performance, are compiled, analyzed and reported by NTEP. Understand that this is not a perfect system. For example, data may be incomplete or unavailable for certain diseases. Also, stresses that are common on golf courses, such as shading and

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Editor's Corner

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club



ALL WRAPPED UP....

By now all of us have, for the most part, finished all of our projects for the year and can finally take a deep breath and relax. Our irrigation systems are all winterized and our greens, tees and fairways put to bed and awaiting that first snowfall. Also getting ready for deer hunting for all of us that do so, as well as checking out the ice fishing house to be sure it's comfy enough for us to relax and kill some time over the winter months.

SEE YOU IN DECEMBER....

The time has come for all of us to make our reservations for the upcoming MTGF conference if you haven't already done so.

I always look forward to going to Minneapolis for this event. Either for the education or just to see a lot of old friends to visit with and talk about old times. Make sure you plan on coming to our MGCSA annual meeting as well this year. See you in Minneapolis!!

THANK YOU!

I want to take the time to thank all of you for putting up with my writings over the past three years. Being editor of *Hole Notes* has been very rewarding for me. I have had many nice compliments and support from many of you. But as all good things must come to an end, so does my time as your editor. Besides I have simply run out of intelligent things to talk about. Without Scott, Jeff and Ralph Turtinen, our *Hole Notes* wouldn't be what it is. I want to thank them most of all!

With that, I'll close. No more, "see ya next month."

— Steve Shumansky
Editor

Bentgrass-- (Continued from Page 32)

intensive wear, are not usually imposed by NTEP trials. Despite such limitations, NTEP and similar programs are about the only means of obtaining unbiased, comparative information on disease resistance of turfgrass cultivars.

A key point to consider when gathering disease information from cultivar trials is that turfgrass pathogens often have different strains or races that can affect cultivars differently. For example, race 'A' of a fungal pathogen may predominate at one location and injure cultivar 'X' more severely than cultivar 'Y'. At a different location, race 'B' of the pathogen may be more prevalent and cause more damage to cultivar 'Y' than cultivar 'X'. Thus, disease ratings from different locations will vary. In some cases, there may even be more than one race at the same location. Therefore, try to determine if disease-resistance trends are consistent for certain cultivars at two or three locations nearest you and are consistent for 2 to 3 years at the same location(s). If you see no consistent trends over locations and years, it may be premature to draw any conclusions about disease resistance.

When assessing the disease resistance of a cultivar, make sure that you look at its reaction to all diseases. Good resistance to one disease does not equate to good resistance to others. For example, in trials we conducted at Penn State, we were impressed by the resistance of a few colonial bentgrass cultivars to dollar spot and snow-mold diseases compared with creeping bentgrass. Unfortunately, most of these colonial bentgrass cultivars are much more susceptible to brown patch than creeping bentgrasses—a fact that limits acceptance of colonial bentgrasses on golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

**THE NEXT ISSUE
OF HOLE NOTES
WILL BE PUBLISHED
EARLY JANUARY**

Analytical Services By:



Paskvan Consulting
24070 315th Ave./P.O. Box 249
Akeley, MN 56433
218-652-3542 Office/612-889-8546 Cell
218-652-2949 Fax
craig@paskvanconsulting.com e-mail

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Ready For Winter Yet?

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3080 Centerville Road
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800.592.9513