

Supers are design winners at ASGCA meeting; Sarazen to get Ross Award at May Toronto event

Winners of the American Society of Golf Course Architect's "Golden Anniversary Design Challenge" are David Anderson, Evergreen Country Club, Haymarket, Va.; Bruce Scott, Colorado State University; and Jim Ramey, CGCS, Sunriver Golf Club, Sunriver, Ore. The winners each received a framed copy of their design, signed by judges Jack Nicklaus, Rees Jones and Art Hills, and an autographed copy of *Golf Has Never Failed Me* by Donald Ross.

The "Golden Anniversary Challenge" commemorated the ASGCA's 50th Anniversary. The Society was founded in 1947 by 14 of America's finest golf course architects, and has since grown to include 128 leading golf course architects in the U.S. and Canada.

Golf great Gene Sarazen has been selected to receive the ASGCA 1997 Donald Ross Award.

The Donald Ross Award will be presented to Sarazen at a banquet on Friday, May 16, at St. George's Golf and Country Club during the Society's annual meeting in Toronto.

"As the golf industry enjoys a time of unprecedented popularity, it is fitting that we honor Gene Sarazen, whose rise from the caddy ranks to become one of the game's best players is truly inspiring," says Denis Griffiths, president of the Society.

Sarazen, now 95, was 20 years old when he edged Bobby Jones in the 1922 U.S. Open.

Sarazen was the first of only four golfers ever to win the four Grand Slam events of golf: the U.S. Open; the PGA Championship, British Open and Masters.

Past recipients of the Donald Ross Award include golf course architect Pete Dye; agronomist Dr. James R. Watson; ASGCA founding member, Robert Trent Jones; entertainer/golf advocate Dinah Shore; and James Rhodes, past governor of Ohio.

Moore leads new USGA construction program

James Francis Moore, former director of the Mid-Continent region of the United States Golf Association has been named to the new post of Director of Construction Education programs.

The program provides education and information to persons interested in or associated with golf course construction.

Moore is coordinating a program in cooperation with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program to evaluate bentgrass cultivars for greens at existing golf courses throughout the U.S. The USGA is providing funds to build approximately 10 bentgrass greens and five Bermudagrass greens. The greens will be exposed to regular play, most likely as practice greens. The goal of the program, according to *Cornell University Turfgrass Times*, is to generate data under more realistic conditions, and show the golfer the variety of choices available to a superintendent when selecting a bentgrass.

Liability on the premises a concern

The West Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and GCSAA report "Premises Liability" is becoming a growing area of litigation for golf facilities. In a reported case, a Wisconsin golfer—who consumed eight beers and five mixed drinks in six hours—tripped when his golf spikes caught in a brick ramp. The golfer fell face first, breaking his jaw and shattering his teeth. He was awarded \$41,540, despite the testimony of a doctor who described the man as

being in "a stupor," with a blood alcohol level of 0.28 (90 minutes after the accident). The court opined that gaps in the bricks could have caused even a sober person to fall.

To avoid or minimize liability, WTGCSA suggests any

man-made change such as a brick path should be examined as part of a golf club's liability prevention program to eliminate dangerous situations, or, be sure to give appropriate warnings to the public.

New D.C. digs for National Club Association

The National Club Association has settled in to a new headquarters address:

National Club Association, One Lafayette Centre, 1120 20th St., N.W., Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20036. Phone: (202) 822-9822; fax: (202) 822-9808. The NCA's toll-free number remains, (800) 625-6221.

GCSAA reviews stand on 'alternative' spikes

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America plans to examine scientific and agronomic data as it rethinks its position on the merits of "alternative" golf shoe spikes.

Previously, the GCSAA recommended individual courses adopt a policy that best served their respective operations. However, an ad hoc committee has started to examine a position based on stronger evidence that the alternative spikes do, indeed, reduce wear on golf greens.

"There is an obvious trend towards a conversion from metal to alternative spikes," says outgoing GCSAA President, Bruce R. Williams, CGCS.

"However, we owe the membership a policy decision that is based on complete and accurate information."

Williams says the Association's policy is to: present complete, relevant and useful information; suggest that course management consult with the superintendent when establishing a policy; stay in touch with research on the subject; and encourage golf facilities to examine the merits of using GCSAA resources to examine their current position.

A white paper will be presented to the board this spring. Information packets should be available for distribution June 1.

The United States Golf Association Green Section reports that alternative spikes are "here to stay in the southeast," and that more than 1500 golf courses have mandated "spikeless" shoes.

During a day of golf, a green sustains more than 12,000 holes from golf spikes. Spikeless shoes, reports the USGA Green Section's *Clippings*, result in better putting quality, improved turf health and less damage to high-traffic areas. □

Met Golf Assoc. starts member help committee

The Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Elmsford, N.Y., reports it has formed a Club Relations Committee, to offer a variety of services to golf clubs and member superintendents.

"The committee is prepared to help with just about any problem that could exist in the business, whether it's turf-related, political or even personal," says John Carlone of The Meadow Brook Club, who serves as committee chairman.

"If there's an issue that goes beyond the scope of our committee's expertise, we could certainly find someone in the association with the necessary knowledge and experience to help," adds Carlone.

The MetGCSA draws its membership from New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. Superintendents in those states who would like more information on the Association may call (914) 347-4653. □

OPEI adds golf products to program

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute has added golf equipment to its Shipments Program, a new program to enhance the industry's efforts at obtaining information on member products.

Data from members and distribution of final reports is to be included in ADSTAR, the OPEI's computerized tracking system.

Current products included in the program are:

walking/riding greens mowers; triplex trim mowers; riding fairway mowers; tow-behind gang reel mowers; greens aerators; powered fairway aerators; ground drive fairway aerators; utility vehicles; and sand trap rakes.

OPEI members with question on the program may call Michael Sherman at Association Research, Inc., at (301) 948-1262. □

Williams loves L.A., moves West to LACC

Bruce Williams, immediate past president of the GCSAA, has been named superintendent of the Los Angeles Country Club.

For the past 20 years, Williams was superintendent at Bob O' Link Golf Club, Highland Park, Ill. Williams' dad, Bob, preceded Bruce at Bob O' Link.

"There are mixed emotions when you leave a place after 20 years, especially when you have the honor of succeeding your father," says Williams. "But this move presents a tremendous professional opportunity. The Los Angeles Country Club is perennially ranked among the top 30 courses in the nation. Who

knows, perhaps we will start a 'new' Williams tradition in Los Angeles."

Williams will first oversee a renovation of the 18 greens on the club's South Course, to USGA specs. South Course green side bunkers will also be renovated. □