

Industry inventor Tom Mascaro dies at 81



Tom Mascaro:
invented the turf
aerator, other
tools.

Thomas Mascaro, whose lifetime of contributions to green industry technology helped modernize turf management, died May 6 at the age of 81.

Mascaro held many patents for golf course maintenance equipment. His inventions include the West Point aerifier, the first such tool to be used for cultivating turfgrass; the verticut mower for removing thatch; and the green industry's first battery-powered mower.

Mascaro was past president of West Point Products, West Point, Pa., and former president of Turf-Tec International, Oakland Park, Fla.

"We've lost a pioneer," said Dr. Eliot Roberts, of Rosehall Associates, Sparta, Tenn., and past executive director of The Lawn Institute. "Tom had a keen sense of observation. Over the years, he took thousands of color slides of turfgrass conditions to use in educational programs all over the world.

"He was a wonderful person, with a great sense of humor," said Roberts. "Whenever Tom was around, he stood tall. It was a pleasure to be included with him on conference programs."

Mascaro is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons John and Bobby; daughters Tammy Shackelford, Linda Owens and Stella Churchill; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made in Mascaro's name to the Golf Course Superintendents Association Foundation's Historical Preservation Fund, 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS, 66049.

GCSAA reports on EPA activity

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America reports a strategic action plan on wetlands conservation has been drafted by the Environmental Protection Agency water office. The agency intends to reduce the complexity of wetlands regulations, increase integration of wetlands into watershed management planning, and pursue technical outreach efforts.

The agency may also rely less on voluntary initiatives and more on enforcement.

According to Environmental Policy Alert, industry representatives expect increased oversight of development projects and tougher penalties for violations.

The plan has been circulated to EPA regional offices for review.

Endocrine disruptor debate

The GCSAA also says that an interim report from the EPA's Office of Research and Development has found limited evidence exists that traces human illness to chemicals called "endocrine disruptors."

The report, according to GCSAA, says the effects of certain industrial chemicals on human endocrine or hormonal systems are unclear and that further investigation on the human and wildlife connection is essential.

For a copy of the report via the World Wide Web, dial up: <http://www.epa.gov/ORD/whatsnew.htm>.

Musser Foundation names award winner

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has given Robert C. Golembiewski its 1997 Award of Excellence.

Golembiewski earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop and Soil Science at Michigan State University. He also earned his Master of Science degree in Botany and Plant Pathology from MSU.

Golembiewski is currently working on his doctorate in Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University. His thesis is titled *Characterization of Creeping Bentgrass Using Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) Markers*.

Over the past nine years, the Musser Foundation has awarded \$79,000 to graduate students at 11 different universities around the United States of America.

USGA awards Rieke for service

The United States Golf Association Green Section has given its 1997 Green Section award to Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State University.

Rieke, a researcher, teacher and state turfgrass extension specialist at MSU for the past 35 years, was chosen for his service to the game of golf through his work in turfgrass science.

Nominators noted Rieke's achievements as a teacher. More than 1,000 turfgrass and soil science undergraduates have studied under Dr. Rieke, many of whom later worked their ways into prominent posts in a variety of green industry professions, from academia to golf course management.

GCSAA warns of unionizing

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has expressed concern recently over an apparent threat of unionizing in light of increased AFL/CIO activity, "its most ambitious organizing effort in decades."

The AFL/CIO, reports the Association, is "funneling significant dollars into union organizing activities, and endorsing research to increase its knowledge about workers and employers and ways to garner community support."

Golf courses may be ripe for union organizing, says the Association because workers usually aren't well-paid; they don't

receive significant benefits; and often are not treated with respect by customers and employers.

To maintain union-free status the Association suggests the following:

- ▶ Review personnel policies and practices for potential discrimination and violations of federal and state wage/hour laws.

- ▶ Foster an environment of trust and respect. Involve employees in planning, set goals together, communicate in person often and recognize employee achievements.

- ▶ Educate golfers that employees deserve respect. Be a role model for the way employees should be treated by customers and by their peers.

- ▶ Know your own rights as an employer. If your employees are discussing unionizing, you have the right to speak to your employees and give your views, under the national Labor Relations Act.

Super Jones wins for writing

The Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association has presented the John Walter Award to Mike Jones, superintendent at the Lochmoor Club.

The award is given to a superintendent who writes what is judged to be the best article written by a superintendent and which is published in the Association's Patch of Green magazine.

Jones' article is entitled, "Producing Quality Putting Surfaces Through Overseeding."

USGA, Wildlife Foundation discuss golf & environment

The United States Golf Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation met at the headquarters of the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. May 16 for a day-long summit on "Golf Environments of the 21st Century: Integrating Wildlife Conservation into Golf Courses of the Future."

The summit was held to find common bonds between green industry recreational groups and environmental organizations.

"The idea of partnerships is what brought us together today," said Kimberly Erusha, Ph.D., USGA director of education.

"There have been many excellent partnerships that have been established between organizations in the golf and the environmental community that are working towards the common goal of protecting our environment," said Erusha.

Reg Murphy, president of the National Geographic Society, urged involvement in environmental issues to end the extinction of various plants and animals.

"Unless people like you take a great interest in the environmental subjects that we are going to talk about today, this [extinction] will continue," said Murphy, who said control product applicators must be aware of "what is damaging to the environment and what is healthy for the environment."

Catherine Waterhouse, an expert on environmental enhancement, spoke of golf course involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program as a positive force in golf.

"Environmentally dedicated superintendents abound both here in the United States and in Canada," said Waterhouse.

—Look for a full report on the symposium in the July issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*. Thanks to Saul Keeton, USGA media relations, for preliminary information—ed.

COURSE CORRECTIONS

Thank you very much for featuring the Golf Club at Eagle Mountain in your April issue. If I may, please allow me to clarify a few issues that perhaps were not entirely clear.

Our unusually warm location caused our bermudagrass fairways to resist dormancy—not excessive overseeding. As a result, our fairway stand

appears very strong leading into the summer.

The AERA-vator enhances permeability. Obviously, the accompanying amendments improve moisture retention. With our various treatments we are attempting to improve the carbon to nitrogen ratio, not change carbon to nitrogen.

The product being used on heavily-trafficked areas,

such as cart path edges, is called Athletic Mix, and is produced by Redi-Play, Inc. We have no plans to utilize the material on our fairway surfaces.

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Smith, CGCS

We apologize for the errors, Kevin, and wish you and the Golf Club at Eagle Mountain a successful summer, at what is indeed a fine golf course!—ed.