Architects honor Judy Bell

The American Society of Golf Course Architects chose Judy Bell, immediate past president of the U.S. Golf Association, to receive its 1998 Donald Ross Award. Bell will receive the award at a banquet on Monday, April 27, at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles during the 1998 ASGCA annual meeting.

"Judy Bell has devoted many years to the selection and preparation of tournament sites," says Alice Dye, president of the Society;. "Her work in the USGA's selection process that presents great golf courses for tournaments has helped millions of people, especially those watching on television, appreciate the artistry of golf course architects. Her appreciation of good strategic design is rooted in the game of golf that she plays so well and loves so much."

Bell, of Colorado Springs, CO, was the first woman named to the USGA Executive Committee in 1987. She served as USGA treasurer in 1991, secretary in 1992-1993 and vice president in 1994-1995 before being elected president in 1996.

Bell and Dinah Shore are the only two female recipients of the award, named after Donald Ross, the legendary golf course architect and one of the founding members of the ASGCA.

Golf course design info is on the web

Developers, municipalities, and interested golfers seeking more information on golf course development can consult www.golfdesign.org, which now boasts more than 20,000 hits per month. In addition to the Architect's Corner, the ASGCA web site contains information on all members of the Society, tips for remodeling a course or building a new one, media information, and other helpful material.

Le Sage gets big honor from AEC

The Alliance for Environmental Concerns (New Jersey) presented Armand H. Le Sage with its 2nd Annual "Illona Gray Environmental Award" at its annual meeting last fall at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Bedminster, NJ. Le Sage is golf course superintendent of White Beeches Golf & Country Club.

The AEC is an organization comprised of individuals from the pesticide regulated community in New Jersey. It represents professional pesticide users at the state regulatory and legislative meetings; it educates members concerning certification, training and licensing through newsletters, seminars and conferences; it communicates facts about responsible pesticide use to the public; and it joins forces with allied associations to coordinate appropriate responses to key issues.

Le Sage has served twice as president of the AEC and has been on their Pesticide Regulation Task Force. He is an active member of GCSAA and is participating in its Ambassador Public Speaking Program. He is also a member of GCSNJ and is a guest lecturer in the Turf Management Program at Rutgers University. A decorated Vietnam veteran, he and his wife Mary-Justine Lanyon, have two children.

John Buechner of Lawn Doctor made the presentation to Le Sage who is retiring as a board member after 11 years of service.

Combined turf evaluation effort

The USGA, the GCSAA and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) combined resources to manage a national research project to evaluate grass varieties (cultivars) on actual golf course settings.

Practice putting greens built to USGA specifications at 16 different golf courses across the nation featured bermudagrass and/or bentgrass varieties. The northern locations tested bentgrass cultivars and the far-south venues are looking at bermudagrass varieties. Both are being evaluated in the transition zone.

The USGA/GCSAA/NTEP project has been using the combined efforts of superintendents, university researchers and USGA Green Section staff for monitoring and evaluation.

Here is a list of the on-site GCSAA/USGA/NTEP research trials last year: CC of Green Valley, Green Valley, AZ; Westwood CC, Vienna, VA; Westchester CC, Rye, NY; The Missouri Bluffs, St. Charles, MO; The Jupiter Island Club, Hobe Sound, FL; The CC of Birmingham, Birmingham, AL; SCGA Members Club, Murrieta, CA; Purdue University North, West Lafayette, IN.

North Shore CC, Glenview, IL; Lakeside CC, Houston, TX; Fox Hollow at Lakewood, Lakewood, CO; Crystal Springs GC, Burlingame, CA; CC of Mobile, Mobile, AL; Boone Links/Lassing Pointe GC, Florence, KY; Bent Tree CC, Dallas, TX; GC at Newcastle, Bellevue, WA.