

## George Manuel Leaves Green Section Staff

George B. Manuel, agronomist for the USGA Green Section, has left the staff to become the golf course superintendent at Pine Forest Country Club, in Houston, Texas. George joined the staff in 1990 and has made Turf Advisory Service visits in the Mid-Continent Region, working with regional director Jim Moore. George's agronomic expertise and sense of humor will be greatly missed. His friends on the Green Section staff wish him continued success in his new position.

## Turf Advisory Service Fee Changes for 1995

To keep up with the increasing costs of providing top-quality advisory services to its member courses and the game of golf, it's

necessary for the USGA to increase the fees charged for the Green Section's turf advisory visits from time to time. Despite the increase this year, the USGA will be subsidizing the Turf Advisory Service with more than \$1 million in 1995, reflecting a commitment to provide golf courses with the best services from a top-quality staff of 15 full-time agronomists.

Following is the fee schedule for 1995:

	If Paid by May 15	After May 15
Half-Day Visit	\$ 900	\$1200
Full-Day Visit	\$1400	\$1700

A visit by a Green Section agronomist is still a bargain for the many benefits that can be realized, perhaps more so now than ever. Please schedule your Turf Advisory Service visit early, and plan to join us for great golfing turf in 1995!

## Subscription Changes for the Green Section Record

Due to rising production costs, 1995 subscription rates for the *Green Section Record* must be increased. Following is the annual fee schedule for 1995:

U.S. subscription	\$15
Canada/Mexico	\$18
International (air mail delivery)	\$30

Six issues per year provide the most up-to-date information regarding agronomics, equipment, research advances, environmental issues, and maintenance philosophy in the field of turfgrass science. The *Green Section Record* is a favorite magazine of golf course superintendents, Green Committee members, and golfers interested in turfgrass and golf course management. Be the best in the business by reading the best information available in the business!

# ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

# A LOW-IMPACT GOLF COURSE? PROBABLY NOT!

by KEITH A. HAPP

Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section

THE USGA and the New York Audubon Society are jointly working to make golf courses enjoyable habitats for golfers and wildlife alike. Golf course architects focus on fitting courses into the environment, allowing for the use of the land while developing green space. The benefits of green space, both physical and emotional, have been documented by research. Turfed areas provide erosion control, filtration following rains, and generate oxygen that is returned to the atmosphere. No matter what the level of maintenance, I propose that many golf courses are not low impact.

Golfers themselves can have a tremendous impact on the manner in which their courses are maintained. Tolerating slight imperfections rather than insisting upon a zero-tolerance base would allow superintendents to implement integrated management approaches. A wait-and-see approach could be utilized. At times slight weather changes can affect disease activities. If the weather

changes for the better, disease treatments may not be warranted. For many turf managers, this option is not available. Fear of losing employment more often dictates that preventative pesticide applications are the norm rather than the exception.

Golfers who love the game must be willing to tolerate some minor inconveniences during the season, such as aeration, so that turfgrass managers can implement the cultural programs needed to strengthen the turf and thus provide better wear and disease tolerance. Superintendents know that cultural and chemical programs must be balanced to provide the turf conditions desired. Players should view aerification as a proactive management approach and not postpone it until it is less inconvenient or disruptive. A healthy turf recovers from aerification much sooner, thus minimizing the disruption of play. Sound cultural programs implemented when they are most beneficial will have a tremendous impact on course conditions as well as the environment.

Television golf has given the false impression that golf courses are in perfect condition every day of the year. Perfection is impossible to achieve. Most tournament courses are prepared a year or more in advance to peak for a single week during the season. Even at these courses, during an entire season, turf conditions and playability change. When the superintendent is free to implement foundation cultural programs (when they are most beneficial), changes in turf quality and playability are less noticeable. More consistent playing conditions result.

No matter what the level of course maintenance (budget), golfers can have an impact on how the course affects the environment. If the superintendent says the turf needs to be aerified, then support him or her. Turf quality will be enhanced, but most important, the balance between cultural and chemical inputs can be maintained. Balanced inputs can easily be equated to the turf conditions golfers desire and the "low-impact" golf course most people speak of!