

# NEWS NOTES



*A group from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New South Wales, Australia, took time to visit Golf House and golf courses in the Northeast during August. Their tour through the United States included golf courses and research institutions across the country.*

## INFORMATION SOURCES

Where can you go to get reliable, authoritative information about turf and golf course maintenance practices? It's always difficult, and sometimes risky, to single out a few places to go for such assistance, but we'd suggest the following four groups as excellent starting points. All feature a wide range of materials that are too numerous to mention in this article, so a good way to start with any of them might be a telephone call to determine the scope of available titles and services.

First, in our book at least, remains the **United States Golf Association**. Besides this magazine, we offer many book titles about turf, the environment, putting green construction, irrigation, and wastewater re-

use. In addition, we also have several pamphlets that outline issues as diverse as our Turf Advisory Service to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. You can call our Order Department at 800-336-4446 to receive a detailed listing of offerings, or to ask questions about these resources.

Another excellent information source is the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)**. They feature an exhaustive list of books, brochures, and videos on nearly every conceivable turf topic. The GCSAA also has compiled information packets to answer their most frequently asked questions. If you already know a title you want, just call the GCSAA's bookstore at 800-974-2722. If you're not sure

what's available through the GCSAA, or if you want them to perform a topical information search for you, call the GCSAA main number at 800-472-7878.

The next stop on the information road you may want to consider ends at the **National Golf Foundation (NGF)**. The NGF has produced more than two dozen InfoPacs, which are full-text collections of articles, reports, and studies compiled by the NGF's Library/Information Center regarding topics of interest to the golf industry. Among the titles that may be of interest to turf professionals are:

- Slow Play Solutions
- Accommodating Disabled Golfers
- Caddie Programs
- Renovating Your Golf Course

- Golf Course Design
- Storm and Disaster Preparedness

The NGF has plans to augment this current list with additional titles this fall. Contact the NGF's Information Services Department at 800-733-6006 with your questions or orders.

Finally, don't overlook the **Turfgrass Information Center** at Michigan State University, particularly its Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) bibliographic database. This database includes a myriad of better than 30,000 records pertaining to all kinds of turf topics gleaned from publications throughout the world. Better than 95% of the entries have appeared since 1968, reflecting an emphasis on more recent materials. It can be accessed through computer hookup or telephone, or through the Internet.

TGIF also has published a vast array of "Turf TOPICS," a compilation of current and more widely available publications on a specific issue in turf culture or turf facility management. More than 60 TOPICS are now available and cover subjects as diverse as:

- Canada Geese
- Dollar Spot
- Erosion Control
- Green Speed
- Groundwater Issues
- Leaching
- Mole Crickets
- *Poa annua* Control
- Runoff
- Salinity
- Topdressing
- Winterkill

Place a call to TGIF at 800-446-TGIF to find out more about this vast archive of information.

#### WANTED: GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS

No, we haven't added a law enforcement mechanism to the Turf Advisory Service visit. What we're actually looking for are copies of old Green Section publications to augment our archives at Golf House.

Before you conclude that you don't have any, let's review a brief history of Green Section publications that have appeared under several different titles through the years. First came *The Bulletin of the Green Section*, from 1921 through 1933, followed by *Turf Culture*, which appeared sporadically during the late 1930s and then more regularly from 1939 until 1942.

If that seems somewhat confusing, you won't like to hear that another publication was introduced in 1940 under the title *Timely Turf Topics*. Then, in 1948, the publications were consolidated into the *USGA Golf Journal* combining *Timely Turf Topics*, adopting the name *USGA Journal and Turf Management* in 1950. This format and name endured for more than a dozen years until Vol. 1, No. 1 of the *Green Section Record* was published in 1963.

What years are we looking for back issues of these various publications? Anything prior to 1970 is needed. We're pretty well stocked up on back issues published since 1970 except, curiously, 1985 (maybe George Orwell was onto something after all, but a year early).

If you have any copies of pre-1970 magazines, or any from that mysterious year of 1985, we'd be most grateful to hear from you at the Green Section (908-234-2300). Your donation would help ensure that future generations of turf specialists will know what problems others struggled with in previous decades at golf courses around the country.

#### CENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

The final, and perhaps most novel, event of the USGA Centennial celebration took place at Golf House on Friday afternoon,

*"Crenshaw" bentgrass and "609" buffalograss seed, developed with funding from the USGA Turfgrass Research Program, was placed in the USGA centennial time capsule to be opened in 2095.*



October 13th. This ceremony featured a ground-breaking experience, but not in the sense you probably think. Instead of starting the construction of a new building, the USGA entombed a time capsule on Golf House's front lawn that will be opened during the USGA's Bicentennial celebration.

Since most of us, to put it kindly, won't be able to attend the grand reopening in 2095, we've thought we'd reproduce for your perusing pleasure a couple of items placed in the capsule demonstrating the Green Section's role in improving playing conditions during the organization's first century of existence. These items included two vials containing two varieties of grass seed developed through USGA funding, and the following narrative:

*"Developing better grasses for the game of golf has been the major focus of the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Research Program since its inception in 1920. By the year 2000, the USGA will have awarded more than \$15 million in research money to university turfgrass research programs across the country.*

*"These vials contain two varieties of grass seed that were developed as a result of research funding provided by the USGA. In recent years, the plant breeding effort has focused on developing heat-tolerant bentgrasses, cold-tolerant bermudagrasses, and seeded zoysiagrasses, and identifying alternative grasses for use on golf courses.*

*"During the 1980s, buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*) was developed for use in golf course roughs and out-of-play areas. USGA funding was responsible for such varieties as 609, 315, and Cody. Its minimal irrigation, fertilization, and maintenance requirements met the goals of the USGA's research program. Seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*), with its excellent drought and salt tolerance, has been identified as the next potential alternative turfgrass to impact the golf industry.*

*"The golf industry's desire for bentgrass putting greens has had a significant impact on research surrounding this species. Pennlinks, Cato, Crenshaw, and Providence are just a few varieties developed during the 1980s and 1990s at universities that received research funding from the USGA. October 5, 1995."*

It's nearly impossible to imagine what those folks of 2095 will think of the "innovations" so proudly displayed in the 1995 time capsule.

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,  
MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION**

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code.) 1. Title of Publication — USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD. 2. Date of Filing — September 29, 1995. 3. Frequency of issue — Bimonthly: January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. 3A. Number of issues published annually — 6. 3B. Annual Subscription Price — \$15.00. 4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication — USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, Somerset County, N.J. 07931-0708. 5. Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher — USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, Somerset County, N.J. 07931-0708. 6. Names and addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher — United States Golf Association, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708. Editor — James T. Snow, USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708. Managing Editor — James T. Snow, USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708. 7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) — United States Golf Association, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708; President — Reg Murphy, USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708; Vice Presidents — Judy Bell and F. Morgan Taylor, Jr., USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708; Secretary — Gerald A. Stahl, USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708; Treasurer — Trey Holland, USGA, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, N.J. 07931-0708; 8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities — None. 9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates — The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months. 10. Extent and nature of circulation —

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	19,300	18,000
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales (not mailed)	508	None
2. Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions	16,424	16,635
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 & 10B2)	16,932	16,635
D. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies)	648	598
E. Free Distribution Outside the Mail	133	300
F. Total Free Distribution (Sum of D and E)	781	898
G. Total Distribution (Sum of C and F)	17,713	17,533
H. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	1,587	467
2. Return from News Agents	None	None
I. Total (Sum of G, H1 and H2)	19,300	18,000
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	96	95

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

JAMES T. SNOW, Editor

# ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

## The Need For Teamwork

by **JAMES F. MOORE**  
Director, Mid-Continent Region,  
USGA Green Section

**I**N CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, people are tired of *gridlock*. They have had it with those who will not work together, constantly snipe at each other, and are so driven by self-interests that they are unable to contribute meaningfully to a common goal. By the way, I'm not talking about politics — I'm talking about a relationship that is, unfortunately, all too common between the golf course superintendent, golf professional, and general manager.

At a time the GCSAA, PGA, and CMAA are making a greater effort than ever before to work together for the betterment of the golf industry (which benefits everyone concerned), I seldom visit a course where the three individuals represented by these organizations manage to get along. On that rare occasion when I encounter a management team that is truly a team, the predictable result is a golf clientele that greatly enjoys their course, their game, and their facility — regardless of the stature of that facility. Not surprisingly, there also will be at least three employees who enjoy their work.

Obviously, the benefits of teamwork in any management scheme (as well as the drawbacks of the lack of same) are well recognized, given the thousands of books written on the subject. I doubt that there's a superintendent, golf pro, or manager at any course who would dispute the worth of this goal. But how many of these individuals make an honest effort to be part of a team? Instead, it's all too common to visit courses where each individual complains about the others, usually along the lines of "they don't deserve their salary," "they don't do anything except sit around all day," "they say one thing to your face and just the opposite to the golfers," or "without me, this place would fall apart." The most damaging complaints are those voiced to the golfers in a not-too-subtle effort to undermine the credibility of one of their co-workers. Where does teamwork fit into this picture?

All three of these key individuals share a desire to be viewed as "pros" in their respective fields. Jack Burke, of the Champions Golf Club in Houston, Texas, has revealed the secret of being a professional in this industry. To paraphrase Jack, the abbreviation "pro" should not stand for *professional* but rather for *promote*. Superintendents, golf professionals, and managers should *promote* their facility, each other, the game of golf, and anything that increases the enjoyment of those who use the facility. If you do this honestly and actively, you indeed are a professional. You enhance the credibility of your co-workers and yourself, and in the process make your course more enjoyable for everyone.

Much has been written concerning the inevitable changes facing this industry as a result of environmental concern and legislation. For most parts of the country, course operations have already been affected through the restriction or complete loss of pesticides that offered lengthy and broad-spectrum control. At the same time, the cost of running a golfing facility has continued to rise. Golfers are just beginning to find out that they may soon be getting "less for more." However, this does not have to mean they have to accept less enjoyment from the game itself. It *does* mean that the team of professionals responsible for providing that enjoyment must work together better than ever before. Those responsible for hiring the course superintendent, golf professional, and manager, should seek out individuals who honestly are willing to be part of a management team. I believe that this general requirement is as important as the specific skills associated with each position. I also believe that any employee who cannot participate as a team member is a liability who threatens the success of the entire facility and should be replaced.