

Piper & Oakley Award Presented



USGA President F. Morgan Taylor, Jr., presents Jaime Ortiz-Patino with the USGA Green Section Piper & Oakley Award.

Jaime Ortiz-Patino was recently awarded the USGA Green Section Piper & Oakley Award. The award was established in 1998 to recognize meritorious service to the USGA Green Section and the game of golf by a volunteer. Dr. Charles V. Piper and Dr. Russell A. Oakley were among the earliest scientists to conduct studies in the fields of turfgrass science and golf course management, and served as the first Chairman and Co-Chairman of the USGA Green Section. They were men of great character, keen vision, and remarkable achievement, whose contributions to the improvement in early greenkeeping methods cannot be overstated.

Mr. Patino was a loyal and dedicated member of the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee for more than ten years, retiring from

the committee in 1999. Through his interest in the Green Section, his international influence in the game of golf, and his real world experience in the game he was a very effective proponent of the work of the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee and other Green Section programs.

He has been a strong proponent of environmental issues within the industry. He quickly grasped the vision of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, put it into practice, and got his golf course, Valderrama Golf Club, in Spain, fully certified in the program, and became a model for others to follow. The USGA Green Section has been blessed with his ability to effectively communicate our environmental message to people at every level of the game of golf and well beyond.

Valderrama Declaration Signed

Dignitaries from the governing bodies of golf and international environmental organizations gathered at the Valderrama Golf Club, Spain, for a two-day summit on golf and the environment. The event culminated in the signing of the first international declaration supporting environmentally responsible golf course management.

The Declaration set out a forward-looking perspective on the golf community's role in initiating and supporting environmental education, research, and conservation programs. The document was endorsed by leaders from organizations including the USGA, European Golf Association, International Olympic Committee Sport and Environmental Commission, World

Wide Fund for Nature, and the United Nations Environmental Program.

Specifically, the Declaration states the golf community's commitment to sustainability through continuing support for the practices and principles of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the European Committed to Green program. These two related initiatives are designed to promote environmental awareness and to encourage the implementation of good environmental practice on golf courses and other sports facilities.

To read the entire Valderrama Declaration, visit the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program website at: www.audubonintl.org/news.

Moore Honored by Texas Turfgrass Assn.



James F. Moore

James F. Moore, director of the USGA Green Section Construction Education Program, was honored with the 1999 A. W. Crain Diamond Award, the highest award bestowed by the Texas Turfgrass Association.

Dr. A. W. Crain, a professor at Texas A&M University, was instrumental in developing interest in turfgrass in the state of Texas and was an important early leader in the growth and development of the Texas Turfgrass Association. The award is given to individuals who have participated in programs leading to the improvement of the turfgrass industry, initiated special programs on behalf of others in the turfgrass industry, shown a willingness and ability to handle related tasks over and above normal activities, and participated actively in the affairs of the Texas Turfgrass Association. Individuals also must have maintained the highest standards in personal conduct, established a history of community and civic responsibilities, and contributed to projects affecting the turfgrass industry.

Jim has been active in the Texas Turfgrass Association for more than 20 years, and he served as president of the Association in 1984. Since that time he has continued to provide input in the Association and provides leadership in program development for the Annual Conference. Before joining the USGA in 1985, Jim was a golf course superintendent for a number of years.

In nominating Jim, one of his peers stated, "Jim is highly respected by his peers across the country as an individual who can speak well on behalf of the turfgrass industry. He has had countless articles and stories published in various turf-related magazines, and he is invited annually to speak at conferences around the world." Jim continues to share his wealth of experience through his activities with the USGA Green Section.