

Getting the Most From the Club Dollar 1976 Green Section Education Conference

Dr. James R. Watson, Jr., receives 16th USGA Green Section Award

Dr. James R. Watson, Jr., of Minneapolis, was present to receive the United States Golf Association's Green Section Award for distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. The Award was made at the Association's Annual Conference on Golf Turf Management by Harton S. Semple, of Sewickley, Pa., President of the USGA; John L. Crist, Jr., of Charlotte, N.C., Chairman of the Green Section Committee, and Will F. Nicholson, Jr., of Denver, USGA Executive Committeeman, on January 30, 1976.

Dr. Watson, a leading authority on turfgrasses, is vice-president for customer relations and chief agronomist for the Toro Company. He has conducted research on adaptability of species and strains of turfgrasses, fertilization practices, snowmold prevention techniques for the winter protection of turfgrasses, etc. He was instrumental in organizing The First International Turfgrass Research Conference in 1969 at Harrogate, England.

Dr. Watson developed and released Northland creeping bentgrass which resulted in the cultivar becoming the most widely used bentgrass for greens and tees in the Northern Plains region and the Central Canadian provinces.

Born December 24, 1920, in Leesville, La., Dr. Watson received his bachelor's degree in science at Texas A&M in 1947 and his Ph.D at Pennsylvania State University in 1950.

Before an audience of nearly 600, Dr. Watson accepted the Award by saying:

"As some of you know, I was already deeply indebted to the USGA Green Section. It was a Green Section fellowship which permitted me to do graduate work at Penn State University from 1947 to 1950. If not mistaken, I held the first such fellowship given for work toward an advanced degree. It enabled me to study with a teacher I have always admired and respected, Professor H. Burton Musser. I know the USGA shared that

admiration and respect because it gave the USGA Green Section Award to Professor Musser in 1966. Dr. Fred Grau, who was honored in a similar manner three years later, was the Director of the Green Section at that time. I am equally indebted to him and to Dr. Richard Potts, of Texas A&M University, who sponsored me and who introduced me to Fred.

"At the risk of sounding like a refugee from the movie Oscar awards, I should like to share this moment with some of the people who have made it possible for me to receive this coveted award.

"First, my thanks to Dave Lilly and Dave McLaughlin, the Chairman and the President of the Toro Company. They are good people and they are good people to work for, but even more, they have always been interested in and supportive of work on turfgrasses and involvement in Green Section and other USGA activities.

"I want also to express my appreciation to the members of the Green Section staff. What, other than a humble thank you, can one say to valued friends, associates and colleagues for their confidence. An equally valued association over the past 28 years is my privilege to know and to have known many golf course superintendents—such outstanding and valued men as Eb Steiniger, Joe Valentine, Marshall Farnham, Jim Haines, Leo Feser, Ray Gerber, Sonny DuBose, Dave Mastroleo, and many, many more.

"This opportunity, afforded each of us who share an interest in golf, to maintain contact with colleagues in the field and at our colleges and universities, is more than a privilege; it is a virtual necessity for anyone who wants to function and to grow in our profession.

"And finally, I want to thank my family for the love and understanding they have always shown me: my father, my uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Dain, and especially my wife, Audrey. She knows that this award is as much hers as it is mine. On behalf of both of us, thanks to all of you."