

# News Notes for Spring 1989

## New Video on Green Construction Now Available

*USGA Putting Green Construction* is a brand-new videotape just released by the Green Section and now available only through USGA, Golf House, Box 2000, Far Hills, NJ 07931. Narrated by Steve Melnyk, the 25-minute presentation takes the viewer step-by-step through today's latest specifications and actual construction techniques for a USGA Putting Green.

The reasons and justification for rebuilding greens to the Green Section specifications are dramatically illustrated, from the concept of a perched water table, to a physical soils laboratory, to on-site comments from architect and superintendent alike. This tape will prove invaluable to every club, green committee, superintendent, architect, and builder contemplating new putting green construction. It provides guidelines for the proper building of greens based on the latest scientific research, and the experience of the Green Section staff.

Beautifully filmed, *USGA Putting Green Construction* is available in VHS or Beta for \$19.95.

## New Brochure on the Green Section Putting Green Specifications Also Available

Coincidental to the new videotape on putting green construction, a new booklet, *Green Section Specifications for Putting Green Construction*, has also become available recently. This is the latest revision in presenting the specifications. It has been in the rewriting stage by the Green Section Staff for over a year. Except for a few minor, subtle changes, the specifications remain exactly as they were originally published in 1960, including the incorporation of the intermediate two- to four-inch coarse sand layer. The new publication offers greater detail of the steps involved, and warns there is no such thing as a "modified USGA green." The new booklet and videotape offer companion reading and viewing.

## Golf Course Builders Association Presents Annual Award to USGA Green Section

The Golf Course Builders Association of America presented the 1989



Marion Farmer (left) accepting the 1989 Annual Builders Award from Dave Canavan.

Annual Builders Award to the USGA Green Section during its banquet last February, in Anaheim, California. Marion Farmer, former Chairman of the Green Section Committee and member of the USGA's Executive Committee, is shown accepting the award from Builder Association President Dave Canavan. Don Rossi, Executive Director of the Golf Course Builders Association, coordinated the ceremonies.

## Mole Cricket Correction

Author/superintendent Tom Burton, of Sea Island Golf Club, Sea Island, Georgia, advises us we had the names reversed when we identified the two species of mole crickets in the January/February, 1989, *GREEN SECTION RECORD*. Naturally enough, the correct labeling should indicate Mr. and Mrs. Tawny Mole Cricket on the right and Mr. and Mrs. Southern Mole Cricket on the left.

Incidentally, this may not be an inconsequential correction. Unless some means is soon found to control mole crickets, golf course superintendents throughout the country may soon get to know mole cricket identification firsthand. The problem is widespread.

## The Turfgrass Advisory Service: Still the Biggest Bargain in Golf Course Management

If your golf club has not subscribed as yet to the USGA Green Section's Turf

Advisory Service for 1989, there is still time to take advantage of the Service at reduced rates. By signing up before July 15, the following rates apply:

Half-day visit — \$650.00.

Full-day visit — \$975.00.

No other charges are made. Your club will receive a direct, on-site consultation visit by an experienced turfgrass agronomist who has specialized in the management and problems of golf turf. Each visit is followed by a full written report detailing the recommendations and discussions of the day. Follow-up assistance by telephone and regional meetings offer further contacts throughout the year. There is no better or bigger bargain in golf course management. The Green Section TAS fee is still less than two-tenths of one percent of most golf course maintenance budgets today. Contact the office nearest you as shown inside the front cover of this issue of the *GREEN SECTION RECORD*. Your best golfing turf is yet to come.

## The Passing of Herb Graffis

All of golf lost a dear friend with the passing of Herb Graffis, 95, on February 12, 1989, at Fort Myers Beach, Florida. His contributions to all facets of the game for over half a century cannot be measured. As a golf writer, a war correspondent, a columnist for the Chicago *Sun-Times*, a television personality, an author, a ghost writer of books on golf, and co-publisher of *Golfdom* and *Golfing* magazines with his brother Joe, Herb Graffis has left this a far better world because of his love of this game.

He was a founder of the National Golf Foundation, in 1936. He was a founder of the Golf Writers Association of America. He has received far-ranging awards in golf, from induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame, to the USGA Green Section Award, the GCSAA, and the PGA Distinguished Service Awards. Few will ever equal the recognition he so justly deserved. He created the slogan "Golf Keeps America Beautiful," and gave it to the USGA Green Section.

The pain of knowing Herb Graffis has left us is ours. But so is the joy his life has brought and meant to us all.