

NEWS NOTES FOR SPRING



Bill Bengeyfield

Bill Bengeyfield Retires After 34 Years With Green Section

William H. Bengeyfield, National Director of the Green Section since 1982, has retired after 34 years with the Green Section staff. Bill joined the USGA as an agronomist and director of the Green Section's Western Region in 1954, at a time when the Turf Advisory Service was just becoming established in many parts of the country. He served the USGA in that capacity for 25 years, and during that time made thousands of TAS visits at courses throughout the western United States. His influence in promoting sound golf course management practices spread far beyond his regional boundaries, though, for Bill spoke at hundreds of meetings and conferences and wrote extensively for golf and trade publications.

Bill left the Green Section in 1978 to become Director of Golf Courses and Park Maintenance at Industry Hills Golf Course in Industry Hills, California, a move that allowed him to practice what he had been preaching for the previous 25 years. He returned to the Green Section staff in 1981, and became National Director in 1982. In addition to supervising activities of the agronomists in the regional Green Section offices, Bill served as Chairman of the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee. Since its inception in 1982, the committee has distributed nearly \$3.5 million to universities and research institutions throughout the country to develop turfgrasses that use less water, are more resistant to pests and diseases, and are

less costly to maintain. Bill Bengeyfield has been instrumental in establishing the foundation of this research program, which will profoundly affect the way we maintain our golf courses well into the next century.

One of Bill's great interests during his years with the Green Section was the GREEN SECTION RECORD. He served as its editor from 1967 to 1978 and again from 1982 to 1990. His sound editorial perspective and his convincing writing style made the GREEN SECTION RECORD an invaluable reference for golf course superintendents and course officials throughout the United States and the world.

The departure of Bill Bengeyfield from the Green Section staff marks the end of an era. In his 34 years serving the game of golf and the turfgrass industry, Bill made a difference. His friends and associates wish him health, happiness, and pleasant pursuit of the little round white ball in retirement.



Jim Snow

Jim Snow Appointed National Director

James T. Snow, formerly Northeastern Region Director for the USGA Green Section, has recently been named National Director. He replaces Bill Bengeyfield, who retired after 34 years on the Green Section staff. Jim is a native of Trumansburg, New York, and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from nearby Cornell University. He joined the

Green Section staff in 1976, serving as an agronomist in the Northeastern Region for six years. In 1982 he became Director of the Northeastern Region, a position he held until his recent promotion. Jim has also served as co-editor of the GREEN SECTION RECORD for several years, and he will take over as editor in his new position.

As National Director, Snow will be responsible for all Green Section activities, including those of the Turf Advisory Service, the GREEN SECTION RECORD, and the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee.

Bob Brame Appointed to Green Section Staff

Robert A. Brame of Carmel, Indiana, has been named as the new agronomist for the Green Section's Mid-Atlantic office. He replaces David Oatis, who has relocated to New Jersey as Director, Northeastern Region. Bob will assist Stanley Zontek, Mid-Atlantic Region Director, in providing Turf Advisory Service visits to golf courses in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

Bob comes to his new position from the Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was the golf course superintendent since 1980. Prior to that he served as superintendent at several other courses, including the Guadalajara Country Club in Guadalajara, Mexico. He has spent more than 22 years as a worker and supervisor on golf courses, bringing broad experience to his new role as a consulting agronomist with the Green Section.

A native of Evansville, Indiana, Bob received his B.S. in turfgrass science from Purdue University, where he also did some graduate work. He participated in golf at the college level for two years, and now plays to a 5 handicap.

Bob will soon be relocating to the West Chester, Pennsylvania, area with his wife Rhonda, son Scott, and daughter Jennifer to assume his new duties with the Green Section. We are delighted to welcome to the Green Section staff an individual with Bob's background and experience.



John Foy



Dave Oatis

John Foy and Dave Oatis Are Promoted

The Green Section is pleased to announce the promotion of two of its regional agronomists to positions as Regional Directors for their respective areas.

John H. Foy has recently been appointed to the newly created position of Director, State of Florida. Because of John's great success in building up participation in the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service and because of the state's leading role in golf activity, Florida has now been designated a separate region with respect to Green Section activities.

John Foy is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he received B.S. and M.S. degrees. After several years as a sales representative, John joined the Green Section in 1985 as an agronomist in the Southeastern Region. Since then he has more than doubled the use of the Turf Advisory Service in Florida, with nearly 160 courses taking advantage of

the TAS in 1989. John has set high standards with respect to his advisory work, and the Green Section is proud to acknowledge his contributions with this appointment. John will continue to be located in Hobe Sound, Florida.

David A. Oatis has been named Director of the Green Section's Northeastern Region. He replaces Jim Snow, who takes on new responsibilities as National Director. Dave joined the Green Section staff in 1988 as an agronomist in the Mid-Atlantic Region, where he made Turf Advisory Service visits in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and several other states. Dave is a native of Indiana but received his education from the California Polytechnic Institute. Prior to joining the Green Section he was the golf course superintendent at the Rio Hondo Country Club in Downey, California, for three years.

Dave is a personable, experienced agronomist whose broad background will serve him well in the Northeast. He and wife Cindy will soon be moving their household and month-old daughter Rachel to New Jersey, where Dave will be located at Golf House.



Mike Kenna

Mike Kenna Named Director of Green Section Research

Dr. Michael P. Kenna has recently been appointed Director of Green Section Research, a new position on the Green Section staff. The position was created out of a need to extend greater administrative support to the USGA's growing turfgrass and environmental research program, which is distributing nearly \$750,000 for research grants in 1990 alone.

Dr. Kenna brings an impressive academic background to his new post. He did his undergraduate work at the California Polytechnic Institute, and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Oklahoma State University. His graduate studies involved turfgrass breeding, and bermudagrass improvement work in particular.

After graduate school, Mike assisted Dr. Milt Engelke with the zoysiagrass breeding work at Texas A&M University, supported by a grant from the USGA research program. In 1985 he joined the faculty at Oklahoma State University as assistant professor, responsible for turfgrass research activities and a statewide extension program. He was selected for the Young Scientist position on the USGA Research Committee in 1988, and was invited to remain on the committee as a permanent member after his one-year term had expired. His academic background and familiarity with the workings of the Research Committee make him particularly well suited for his new position.

Mike is a native of San Diego, California, but in his Green Section post will remain in Stillwater, Oklahoma, with his wife Susan and son Patrick. Mike is a weekend golfer and sports a 12 handicap.

Robert C. Vavrek, Jr., Joins Green Section Staff

Robert C. Vavrek, Jr., has been appointed to the Green Section staff to serve as agronomist in both the Great Lakes and Mid-Continent Regions. A native of Ohio, he holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Marietta College and a master of science in turfgrass entomology from Ohio State University. Bob is completing the requirements for a doctorate in turfgrass science at Cornell University with a dissertation on the influence of calcium on thatch formation.

His work at Cornell and Ohio State provided experience in diagnosing disease, insect and weed problems, as well as nutritional deficiencies in golf turf. He also has extensive laboratory experience in the physical analysis of mixtures to be used in putting green construction.

Bob will reside in the Milwaukee area, but will use his agronomic expertise in both the Great Lakes and Mid-Continent Regions to provide more timely Turf Advisory Service to subscribers throughout the midsection of the United States.