

Chuck Gast Joins Green Section Staff

The Green Section is pleased to announce the appointment of David "Chuck" Gast to the position of agronomist in its Florida office. Chuck is an Illinois native, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in horticulture from Kansas State University.

For the past 13 years Chuck has been the golf course superintendent at the Tascosa Country Club in Amarillo, Texas. During that time he was involved in several major course renovation projects, including the changes associated with the construction of 115 homesites within the course itself. More recently, he supervised the construction of a 9-hole addition to the golf course.

Chuck has been very involved in professional organizations and activities, having served as director on the boards



Chuck Gast

of several turfgrass and golf course superintendents associations. He has been a participant in many conferences, and in 1982 obtained Certified Golf Course Superintendent status.

In his new position on the Green Section's staff, Chuck will report to John Foy, Director of the Florida Region. He will also assist Pat O'Brien, Southeastern Region Director, in making Turf Advisory Service visits to golf courses in several southeastern states. He will soon be moving his family, including wife Linda and two children, to the Hobe Sound, Florida, area.

With more than 20 years of golf course management experience to his credit, Chuck Gast brings a wealth of experience to the golf courses participating in the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service in the Southeastern United States.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Patience, Gentlemen, Patience

by DAVID A. OATIS

Director, Northeastern Region, USGA Green Section

WE ALL have heard the saying "patience is a virtue," but it is something I sometimes find absent in golf turf management. We live in a society that demands instant gratification, and I can give you hundreds of examples of this fact. Have you ever stopped to consider just how many fast-food establishments there are? Today eyeglasses can be made in an hour, telephone calls can be made from cars, and documents can be faxed across the country in seconds.

This feeling of impatience has definitely carried over to golf, where members and club officials are exerting more pressure on superintendents to produce superior playing surfaces

without giving full consideration to the needs of the turf. Clubs with severe problems want them addressed instantly and at little cost. And yesterday is not soon enough for results.

A typical example of how impatience causes long-term problems occurs when a newly constructed green is rushed into play. The consequences usually include thinning, weedgrass invasion, and poor playability . . . all of which add up to membership dissatisfaction. Along those same lines, sodding a new green to get it into play more quickly often results in mismatched soil types and long-term soil layering problems.

Unfortunately, most agronomic programs do not achieve overnight results,

and they should not be expected to since managing fine turf is not a short-term proposition.

Solid agronomic programs have to be developed and implemented, and they must then be given time to produce the desired results. Golfers sometimes forget that superintendents are working with fickle Mother Nature. Superintendents, too, are sometimes guilty of expecting too much too quickly. Keep in mind an old truism passed on to the Green Section staff by former National Director Bill Bengeyfield: "The only thing that happens fast in agriculture is crop failure." In short, have patience, gentlemen, have patience.