

NEWS NOTES FOR MIDSUMMER

USGA Announces \$3 Million Environmental Impact Study

USGA President Grant Spaeth has announced the funding of a three-year, \$3 million research program that will focus on the impact of golf course activities on the environment. The effects of pesticide and fertilizer use on surface and subsurface water supplies and on people, wildlife, and other non-target organisms will be investigated as part of the study. This expenditure is in addition to the \$2.4 million that will be spent over the same time frame as part of the USGA's continuing effort, in cooperation with GCSAA, to develop grasses for golf that are more pest resistant and stress tolerant than currently used cultivars and species.

The USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee will oversee the program, which will run from 1991 through 1993. The committee is composed of technical specialists from American universities and industry, along with representatives from the USGA, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the American Society of Golf Course Architects, and the Sports Turf Research Institute in England. Representatives from a governmental regulatory agency and an environmental organization are also being sought.

The Research Committee has requested research proposals from land-grant universities that address the following issues:

- 1) The fate of pesticides applied to golf courses.
- 2) The fate of fertilizers, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, applied to golf courses.
- 3) Development of alternative (non-pesticide) methods of pest control.
- 4) The benefits of turfgrass and golf courses to humans, wildlife, and the environment.

At the Research Committee's recent meeting in July, 83 pre-proposals were reviewed. Detailed proposals from the finalists will be requested, and a final decision concerning projects to be funded will be made at the Commit-

tee's meeting in December. The pesticide and fertilizer studies will be done at several sites across the country, representing various soil, turf, and climatic conditions.

It is anticipated that the studies will broadly expand our understanding of the impact of pesticide and fertilizer use and other golf course activities on the environment, providing scientific documentation of these effects and offering responsible alternatives wherever necessary and possible. USGA staff responsible for administering the program include Jim Snow, National Director of the Green Section and Chairman of the Research Committee, Dr. Mike Kenna, Director of Green Section Research, and Dean Knuth, Director of Green Section Administration.

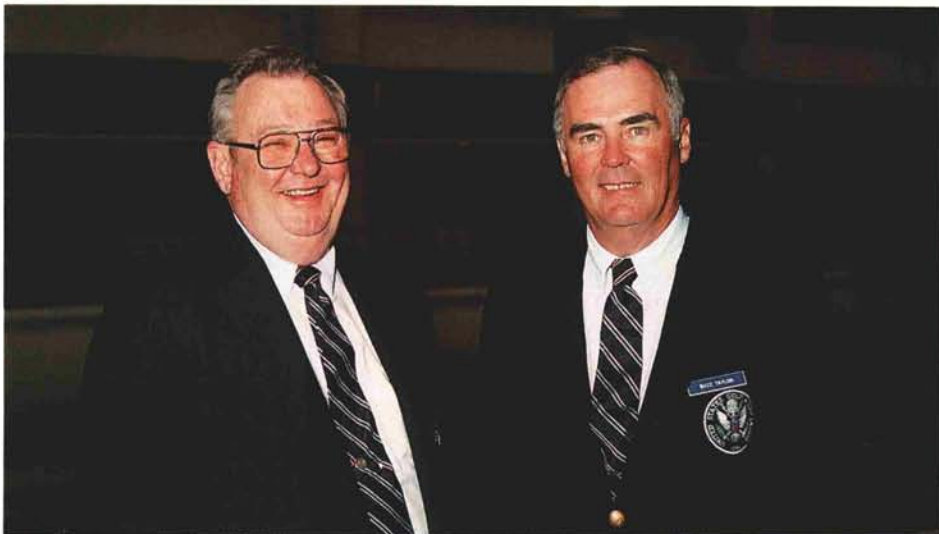
Raymond B. Anderson Named Green Section Committee Chairman

At its recent Executive Committee meetings held in conjunction with the U.S. Open Championship at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Illinois, the USGA announced the appointment of Raymond B. Anderson

as chairman of the Green Section Committee. He replaces F. Morgan Taylor, who steps down to become chairman of the USGA's Equipment Standards Committee.

Anderson is no stranger to the activities of the Green Section and the turfgrass industry. As president of the Chicago District Golf Association, he was instrumental in establishing a turfgrass extension position with the CDGA that was filled by Dr. Randy Kane, a turfgrass pathologist.

In his new role as Green Section Committee Chairman, Anderson will be responsible to the USGA Executive Committee for overseeing the activities of the Green Section, including its Turf Advisory Service and research functions. He will serve as a member of the USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee, which, in addition to its ongoing work in developing stress-tolerant and pest-resistant grasses, is currently developing a \$3 million study concerning the impact of golf course activities on the environment. He will also lead a team of 113 volunteers who serve on the Green Section Committee to promote the Turf Advisory Service and other Green Section activities.



Raymond B. Anderson (left), incoming chairman of the Green Section Committee. F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor (right), immediate past chairman.

George Manuel Appointed to Green Section Staff

The Green Section is pleased to name George B. Manuel as agronomist in its Mid-Continent Region. The appointment fills a new position on the Green Section staff, and comes in response to the increased use of the Turf Advisory Service by USGA member clubs in the region. Manuel will report to James Moore, director of the Mid-Continent Region.

George brings a broad background in the turfgrass industry to his new position with the Green Section. He has most recently been construction supervisor of the 4th Nine at the Sweetwater Country Club, in Sugar Land, Texas, where he previously served as golf course superintendent. He also spent several years in turf chemical and



George Manuel

fertilizer sales, including a stint as a technical representative for Scotts.

George is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he also gained some experience working on the research turf plots and on the university golf course. He has recently served as president of the Texas Turfgrass Association and as vice-president of the Lone Star GCSA.

In his new responsibilities with the Green Section, George will be relocating to Waco, Texas, with his wife Ginger and children Ashley, Joshua, and Kendall. He will be joining Jim Moore in making TAS visits to USGA member clubs in the Mid-Continent Region, including the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Louisiana, Wyoming, and New Mexico. The Green Section joins in welcoming George Manuel as a member of its staff.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Glitz and Glamour Golf

by AL RADKO

Former National Director, USGA Green Section

THE MORE I SEE of new golf course design and the new direction in golf course maintenance, the more I become disturbed about the future of golf in this country.

I'm not happy about the "Hollywood Glitz & Glamour" approach to new course construction now that the Tour Pros have become self-acclaimed Golf Course Architects (hereinafter referred to as Pro-archs). Most of their productions are maintenance nightmares — seemingly produced with but one aim — to replace Pine Valley as the #1 rated golf course in America. Maintenance costs for many of these Pro-arch courses have to be at least twice the cost of long-established 18-hole clubs . . . whose budgets no longer are considered small.

And this "Hollywood Glitz & Glamour" approach has now become ingrained into the maintenance of fairways — maintaining fairways more like putting greens through lightweight mowing and clipping removal . . . which again impacts significantly on the budget and labor force of all courses so involved. Lightweight mowing has its place in periodic cross-cutting *and* for some courses with special problems of terrain, bumpy fairways, etc., but continually on all courses? RIDICULOUS!

As an avowed traditionalist, I ask, "Is all this hoopla necessary? More important, is it good for golf? Does every fairway lie have to be picture perfect? Does all this mean that luck, chance, and "rub-of-the-green" situations no longer belong in the game? Isn't skill in

golf the ability to play well from a variety of lies? Isn't this what adds to the challenge of the game? Does it matter to the majority of golfers (the so-called average golfers) whether their lies are 95% perfect or just 90% perfect? And where is all this leading?"

I for one believe all this glitz and glamour detracts significantly from the purpose, the spirit, and the challenge of the game . . . as well as the aesthetics of golf courses. All courses are beginning to play and look alike — robotic and stereotyped! As a result, golf is unnecessarily becoming so expensive that it will once again be known as a game for only the very rich. And with apologies to Churchill for taking liberty, "For the average golfer, golf is fast becoming an expensive walk with Nature spoiled!"