

# SPRING NEWS NOTES

## 75 Years of the USGA Green Section

The USGA Green Section celebrates its 75th anniversary this year as the nation's chief authority regarding impartial, authoritative information about golf turfgrass management.

The Green Section involves itself in every phase of golf course maintenance and management. These activities include the control of diseases, insects, and weeds; the development of improved strains of turfgrass that require less water and are more resistant to pests and stresses, and the promotion of construction and maintenance practices that are environmentally sensitive.

The Green Section's **Turf Advisory Service** remains the focal point of activity. Each Green Section agronomist visits more than 130 courses annually. The worth of the program is evident: more than 95% of all TAS subscribers continue regular visits. The 1994 list of America's Greatest 100 Golf Courses compiled by *Golf Digest* featured 72 TAS subscribers, including 40 of the top 50.

Besides the TAS service, the Green Section maintains a variety of other programs. From 1983 through 1994, the USGA spent \$6.3 million on turfgrass improvement research projects at 22 universities throughout the country. This commitment to innovative research dates back to the Green Section's inception, when the USGA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture collaborated in research activities at Arlington Turf Gardens near Washington, D.C., the site where the Pentagon stands today. A majority of lawns in the U.S. today contain grasses developed in these programs.

The Green Section has become increasingly concerned about the effects of golf courses on people, wildlife, and the environment. That's why the organization committed \$3.2 million from 1991 through 1993 to underwrite university studies examining pesticide use, turfgrass benefits, and alternative pest control methods. The USGA has opted to continue these efforts with another three-year, \$1.5-million program.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, a cooperative effort between the Green Section and the Audubon Society of New York State, promotes ecologically sound land management and conservation of natural resources in six categories: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, member/public involvement, integrated pest management, water conservation, and water quality management. More than 1,400 golf courses around the country have joined this effort.

More than two dozen facilities have already become fully certified sanctuaries in all six categories.

Finally, the Green Section remains a publisher of advanced, authoritative information. Foremost among these publications is this bimonthly magazine, *USGA Green Section Record*. We've also produced many definitive books, as well as conducted numerous seminars around the country regarding general golf-oriented topics.

Inquiries about the Green Section and its activities are always welcome. Write or call: USGA Green Section, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931, (908) 234-2300.



Marty Parkes

## Parkes Named Manager of Communications

In filling a new position dedicated to promoting Green Section activities, Marty Parkes has assumed the position of manager of Green Section communications. He will work with Kimberly Erusha, director of education, to establish an effective program to communicate the Green Section's activities.

This program, no doubt, will include writing articles for *Golf Journal* and the *Green Section Record*, publications outside the USGA, writing non-technical summaries about Green Section research and other activities for use in response to general inquiries, and developing contacts with various publications and other media.

Marty joined the USGA in 1991 as manager of communications in the communications department. He later held the position of manager of publications in the same department before moving to the Green Section. He has published articles in a wide variety of publications, including *The New York Times*. Marty's communications background will be a valuable asset to the Green Section.

A Connecticut native, he graduated from Trinity College in Hartford with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics in 1981. He also completed one year of graduate study in international relations at The London School of Economics and Political Science, in

London, England. Marty lives in Stewartsville, New Jersey, with his wife, Catherine, six-year-old daughter, Nicole, and one-year-old son, Trevor.



Michael T. Huck

## Huck Joins Green Section Staff

The Green Section is pleased to announce that Michael T. Huck has been named an agronomist in the Western Region. Huck, who possesses an extensive turfgrass management background with both warm- and cool-season grasses, joins agronomist Pat Gross and director Larry Gilhuly in conducting Turf Advisory Service visits throughout the Western states.

Mike has had extensive involvement with USGA specifications for green construction and possesses expert knowledge in areas as diverse as turf equipment service and repair, plus computerized irrigation control systems.

Most recently, Mike served as superintendent of The Mission Viejo Country Club, in Mission Viejo, California. He oversaw golf course and grounds maintenance of the 18-hole private club that is irrigated with reclaimed water. He also remained involved in the implementation of a master plan for remodeling this Robert Trent Jones Sr. design, while coordinating improvements such as expansion of teeing areas, reconstruction of sand bunkers, and many other aesthetic improvements.

Prior to his service at Mission Viejo, Mike completed a stint as director of grounds and golf course maintenance at Industry Hills & Sheraton Resort, in City of Industry, California. This 650-acre recreational complex is built upon a landfill site and received irrigation from effluent water sources.

Mike graduated in June of 1982 from California State Polytechnic University, in Pomona, California, with a Bachelor of Science degree in ornamental horticulture. His work in the USGA's TAS will include course visits in Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah. He will share office space with Pat Gross in Lake Forest, California, while Larry Gilhuly works out of the Western Region office in Gig Harbor, Washington.