

DAVID STONE — 1995 Green Section Award Recipient

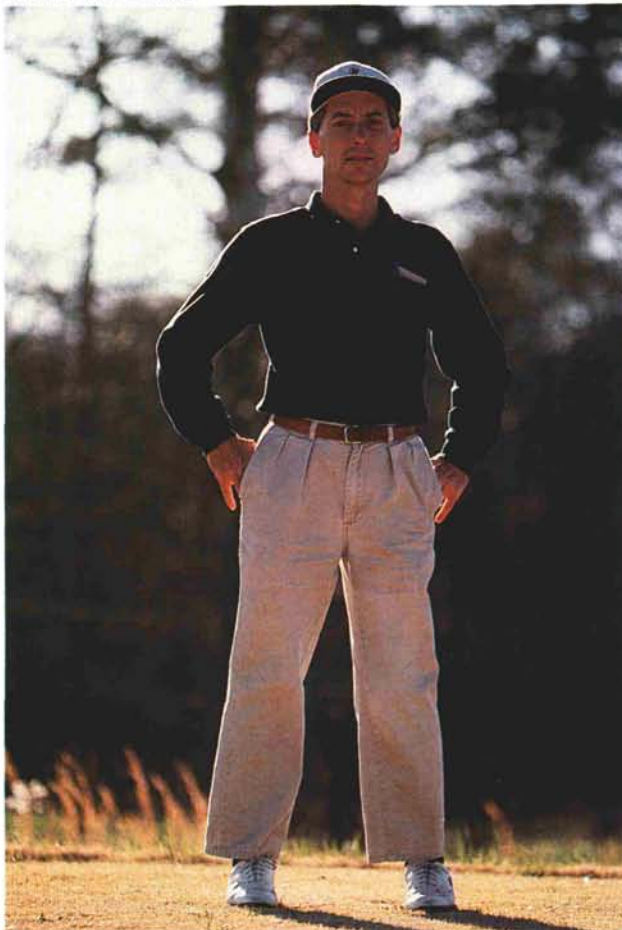
DAVID STONE, golf course superintendent of The Honors Course in Chattanooga, Tennessee, has been selected as the recipient of the 1995 Green Section Award. Granted by a distinguished panel of experts, this annual award recognizes persons for distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass. Stone received the award in February at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference in San Francisco, California.

A Tennessee native, Stone grew up on his family's dairy farm and became interested in the game of golf, like so many in those years, by watching Arnold Palmer play on television. He built his first green on the dairy farm so he could practice his game. When he realized he would probably never be accomplished enough as a player to become a professional, Stone decided upon a career in golf course maintenance. His interest led him to enroll at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he received a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture in 1971.

Upon graduation, Stone labored in golf course maintenance until landing his first superintendent's job in 1974 at Crockett Springs Golf Club in Nashville. He stayed there until 1977, when he assumed superintendent duties at Holston Hills in Knoxville. In 1982, Stone moved to Chattanooga and The Honors Course.

The Honors Course has received recognition for its programs promoting conservation and preservation of wildlife habitat. The site has already proved worthy of welcoming important national championships such as the 91st U.S. Amateur Championship and the 1994 Curtis Cup Match. Stone's work throughout his dozen years at The Honors Course has attracted many accolades, including the Turfgrass Professional of the Year Award from the Tennessee Turfgrass Association, nomination to the Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame, and service as past-president of the Tennessee Turfgrass Association and the East Tennessee Golf Course Superintendents Association. He has spoken at more than 100

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David cares for the golf course like it was his own. His commitment to the environment is evident with his every project at The Honors Course.

local, state, and national turfgrass meetings, and at several Golf Course Superintendents Association of America meetings.

Stone has received the recognition of his peers for several innovative agronomic accomplishments while at The Honors Course. Among these innovations:

- Establishing the first zoysiagrass fairways in the southeast region in 1984;
- Experimenting with herbicides to control bermudagrass in zoysiagrass in 1988, which led to Fusilade being labeled for this use on turfgrass;
- Formulating experiments in 1989 with a new experimental fungicide called Prostar that proved effective in controlling zoysia patch;
- Overseeing a four-acre experimental area for several turfgrasses in 1989 to test various cultural practices, including over-

seeding zoysiagrass with perennial ryegrass;

- Conducting a bentgrass variety trial in 1991 in both a full-sun and good-air-movement area, and in a partial-shade and poor-air-movement area, which quickened the acceptance of the new heat-tolerant bentgrass varieties over the old standard, Penncross;

- Assisting last year in the planning of The Little Course at Aspen Grove near Nashville, which is operated by the Tennessee State Golf Association and the Tennessee PGA. It will serve as a turfgrass research station and provide opportunities for junior golfers to learn to play the game.

David's soft-spoken and gentle manner underscores the feelings of accomplishment and tranquility he has developed from his job. As an example, his ongoing efforts to construct nestboxes to promote the bluebird population of The Honors Course is obviously a labor of love. The tone of his voice reveals all the affection and warmth of a parent as he describes the nurturing of generations of bluebirds that have inhabited the property. His commitment to promoting such harmony between the golf course and its surroundings is always in evidence, and serves as a worthy

example to others.

Although he admits that the days spent by a golf course superintendent are often tense, hectic, and long, David Stone clearly wouldn't want to do anything else. He and his wife, Mary — a schoolteacher and fellow bluebird enthusiast who obviously has resigned herself to having a husband who is often near home but not at home — live at The Honors Course. One receives the unmistakable impression they live a fulfilling, joyous life there.

David Stone's nomination for the 1995 Green Section Award attracted widespread and enthusiastic support. One letter, though, seemed to sum up best the underlying sentiment: "David Stone, in my opinion, is the epitome of the golf course superintendent. The profession is a cross between science and art. David is that blend."