



## JIM LATHAM

Veteran USGA agronomist Jim Latham passed away in Deltona, Florida, on July 16, 2008. Jim worked for the United States Golf Association on two different occasions, from 1956 to 1960 as an agronomist in the Northeast and Southeast Regions, and then again from 1984 to 1994 as director of the Great Lakes Region. The intervening 25 years were spent with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, promoting one of the nation's first businesses designed to recycle waste products into landscape fertilizers.

Following his retirement from the USGA, he actively volunteered as a member of the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee for eight years. In 2003, Jim was named a recipient of the USGA Piper & Oakley Award, which recognizes meritorious service to the USGA Green Section and the game of golf by a volunteer.

Jim Latham was admired for his practical insight and straight-shooting assessments of turfgrass management problems and solutions that resulted from his long involvement in the turfgrass industry.

## WHEN THE FROST IS ON THE PENNCROSS

When the frost is on the Penncross and the water line is drained,  
And ever southward go the golfers, Cads and Jags so aimed;  
Hear the rustle of the leaves as they cover rough and green . . .

And traps and tees and fairways . . . and most everywhere between;  
Oh, it's then the time a feller's a-feelin' at his best  
With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest,  
As he wears a sweater mornin's and the clocks have all been changed,  
When the frost is on the Penncross and the water line is drained.

When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here . . .  
Of course we miss the foursomes and the markers on the tees  
And the rumble of the mowers and the buzzin' of the bees;  
But the air's so appetizin' and the landscape through the haze  
Is the crisp and sunny wonderland of early autumn days  
And you can count up on your fingers all the times it's rained  
When the frost is on the Penncross and the water line is drained.

The husky, rusty rustle of seed heads on the *Poa*,  
The clank and bang of units as in the shed they go,  
The flags in greens . . . kinda lonesome like, but still  
There's a few diehard golfers whose needs we have to fill;  
The ball washers are in the workshop, the sprayers in the shed,  
The hose is coiled up neatly on the rafters overhead!  
Oh, it sets my heart a-beating . . . with a fury never tamed  
When the frost is on the Penncross and the water line is drained.

— William "Bill" Smart, Head Greenkeeper, 1970s  
The Powelton Club, Newburgh, N.Y.

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

1. Title of Publication — USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD. 3. Date of Filing — September 1, 2008. 4. Frequency of issue — Bimonthly: January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. 5. Number of issues published annually — 6. 6. Annual Subscription Price — \$18.00. 7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication — United States Golf Association (USGA), Golf House, 77 Liberty Corner Road, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708, Contact Person: James T. Snow, Telephone: 908-234-2300. 8. Complete mailing address of the headquarters or general business office of the publisher — USGA, Golf House, 77 Liberty Corner Road, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708. 9. Names and addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher — USGA, Golf House, 77 Liberty Corner Road, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708. Editor — James T. Snow, USGA, Golf House, 77 Liberty Corner Road, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708. Managing Editor — James T. Snow, USGA, Golf House, 77 Liberty Corner Road, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708. 10. Owner (If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) — United States Golf Association (USGA), Golf House, 77 Liberty Corner Road, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708. 12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates — The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months. 13. Publication title — USGA Green Section Record. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below — Sept./Oct. 2008. 15. Extent and nature of circulation —

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	16,761	16,500
b.1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	15,746	15,685
b.2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
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e. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	235	195
f. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	830	723
g. Total Distribution	16,576	16,408
h. Copies Not Distributed	185	92
i. Total	17,761	16,500
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	95%	95.6%

I certify that all information furnished by me above is true and complete. — JAMES T. SNOW, Editor