

# NEWS NOTES FOR SPRING



Green Section staff members, from left: National Director Jim Snow, Jim Latham, Jim Connolly, Bob Vavrek, Jim Moore, Chuck Gast, Paul Vermeulen, Dr. Michael Kenna, George Manuel, Nancy Sadlon, Jim Skorulski, Larry Gilhuly, Stan Zontek, David Oatis, Pat Gross, John Foy, Dr. Kimberly Erusha, Bob Brame, and Pat O'Brien. Photo taken February 1992.

## Green Section's Turf Advisory Service Celebrates 40 Years of Service to Golf

"Direct service to USGA member clubs and courses — helping clubs at the local level with their own particular problems." That was the emphasis of the USGA Green Section Regional Turf Service when it was introduced in the February 1953 issue of the *USGA Journal and Turf Management*. It was the brainchild of Richard S. Tufts, then Chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee, and Joseph C. Dey, Jr., then Executive Director of the USGA. The new service represented a departure from the long-standing program of turfgrass research, which had been the primary activity of the Green Section since its inception in 1920. The essence of the Regional Turf Service was to help golf course superintendents and course officials keep up-to-date on the best scientific and practical developments in turf management.

That objective has remained pretty much the same over the past 40 years. The field staff has grown to include 16 agronomists, field offices have been established in seven regions, and the national headquarters has settled at Golf House in Far Hills, NJ, but the goals of the Green Section's turfgrass research program and Turf Advisory Service have continued throughout this 40-year period of activity.

Initially, two Green Section regional offices were established, and there were hopes of eventually expanding to five or

six. Alexander M. Radko served as the first director of the Green Section's Eastern Region in Beltsville, MD, and Charles G. Wilson was appointed Western Region director and was located in Davis, CA. The Western Region office provided service to the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. Within a year of the onset of the Regional Turf Service, the Northeastern Region office was established at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, and Al Radko was given responsibility for the Northeastern office as well as the office at Beltsville. The Northeastern Region office made the Regional Turf Service available to Connecticut, New York, and northern New Jersey.

In July of 1953, the Southwestern Region office was opened in College Station, TX, for service to golf courses in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson was named the Southwestern Director and served also as the National Research Coordinator of the Green Section. Less than a year later a fifth Green Section office opened in Tifton, GA, to provide the Regional Turf Service to the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. B. P. Robinson served as the Southeastern Director for these eight Southern states.

Charles K. Hallowell joined the Green Section staff as Mid-Atlantic Regional Director when the Turf Service was further

expanded in April 1955. This Beltsville, MD, office serviced golf courses in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. William H. Bengeyfield, Green Section National Director from 1982 to 1990, joined the staff in 1954, serving as an agronomist in all five regional offices during his first year. In 1955, Bill succeeded Charles Wilson as Western Region Director.

The Regional Turf Service was available to all member clubs in 1957, when an office was opened in Chicago to service the remaining 13 states. The new Mid-Continent Region encompassed both the Chicago office, which included the midwestern states, as well as the College Station, Texas, office.

The initial fees for a Regional Turf Service visit were established at:

	Less Than 18 Holes	18 Holes	More Than 27 Holes
1. Service fee, including travel expenses	\$ 58	\$ 78	\$ 98
2. Appropriation to research	15	20	25
3. Subscription to <i>USGA Journal and Turf Management</i>	2	2	2
Total fees	\$ 75	\$100	\$125

For areas of the country not serviced by a regional office, the Green Section made advisory visits for a fee of \$50 per day, plus travel and living expenses.

When the service was started in 1953, the USGA strongly suggested that green chairmen and golf course superintendents make the cost of the Green Section Regional Turf Service a permanent item in their club's annual budget. The initial announcement of the service stated, "We feel confident that the returns will far outweigh the expense." Forty years later, we still do!

### **The Green Section Record Marks Its 30th Anniversary**

The USGA Green Section has recorded and published "information of value respecting proper maintenance and upkeep of golf courses" since 1921, but May 1963 marked the debut of what golf course superintendents and course officials everywhere have come to know as the *USGA Green Section Record*. More than 180 issues later, it continues to provide the game of golf with pertinent information and a unique perspective on the maintenance and management of golf courses.

Over the past 72 years, Green Section publications have taken several forms. From 1921 through 1933, *The Bulletin of the Green Section* published a tremendous amount of research and cultural management information. *Turf Culture* was begun in 1936 and appeared sporadically during the late 1930s and then more regularly from 1939 until 1942. Another publication, based on a newsletter format, was introduced in 1940 and was called *Timely Turf Topics*. It contained short articles and notes of current interest and was published more frequently than *Turf Culture*. In 1948, USGA publications were consolidated into the *USGA Journal combining Timely Turf Topics*, changing names in 1950 to *USGA Journal and Turf Management*. This format and name continued until Vol. 1, No. 1 of the *USGA Green Section Record* appeared in 1963.

The May 1963 issue of the *Record* was dedicated to "one of the most urgent problems of our day" — TRAFFIC. Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson was the *Record's* first editor and served in that capacity until 1967. He was followed by William H. Bengeyfield, who served as editor from 1967 to 1978 and again from 1982 to 1990. Issues from 1978 to 1982 were edited by Alexander M. Radko.

The *Record* continues today as a bi-monthly publication, offering articles with the latest information on research, turfgrass culture, golf course management, and environmental issues. A feature that has main-

tained its popularity since the first issue in 1963 is "Turf Twisters," which always has appeared on the back cover of the magazine. It offers readers quick tips on dealing with nagging little turf problems, and many readers tell us it is the first thing they look for when they receive the magazine. Did you know that the titles of the three turf twisters, when read together from the top down, always have offered the observant reader a quick extra message? Look for it, and let us know how we can make the *USGA Green Section Record* even better for the next 30 years!



Keith A. Happ

### **Keith A. Happ Joins Green Section Staff**

The Green Section has named Keith A. Happ, CGCS, as agronomist in its Mid-Atlantic Region. Keith joins Agronomist Bob Brame and Director Stanley Zontek in visiting TAS clubs in the Mid-Atlantic states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Keith joins the staff with a broad background in the turfgrass industry. He was golf course superintendent at Legend Lake Golf Club in Chardon, Ohio, where he also was an active member of the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association. As a member of its board of directors, Keith served as chairman of the public relations committee and co-chairman of the editorial committee. He was a member of the Ohio Turf Foundation and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Keith received his business management degree from John Carol University in University Heights, Ohio. In 1992, he completed his B.S. degree in agronomy from Ohio State University in Columbus. Keith has relocated to West Chester, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Mary Beth, and their four-year-old son, Christopher. The Green Section welcomes Keith and his family to the USGA.

### **Five Golf Courses Cited as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries**

Kapalua Bay Course in Maui, Hawaii; St. Charles Country Club, in St. Charles, Illinois; Prairie Dunes Country Club, in Hutchinson, Kansas; Aurora Country Club, in Aurora, Illinois; and Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club, in Tampa, Florida, have been named the first "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries" in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP).

The ACSP was initiated in 1990 to enhance wildlife habitat on golf courses, encourage active participation in conservation programs, recognize golf courses and course officials for their environmentally responsible activities, and educate the public and the golfing community about the benefits of golf courses. The program is sponsored in part by a grant from the USGA and is administered by the Audubon Society of New York State. More than 750 golf courses currently are registered and involved in the ACSP.

The Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation recognizes outstanding environmental programs at golf courses that successfully have met certification requirements in seven categories. After joining the ACSP, golf courses can become involved in environmental planning, public involvement, integrated pest management, wildlife food enhancement, wildlife cover enhancement, water conservation, and water enhancement projects. Golf courses that successfully meet the certification requirements in all seven categories are awarded Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status.

The USGA commends superintendent Peter Leuzinger of St. Charles CC; Short Honma, golf maintenance director at the Kapalua Bay Course; P. Stan George, superintendent at Prairie Dunes; Aurora CC superintendent John Gurke; and Greg Plotner, superintendent at Tampa Palms, for their environmental leadership in establishing their golf courses as Certified Audubon Sanctuaries.

For information on how to involve your course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, contact the Audubon Society of New York State (518-767-9051) or the USGA (908-234-2300).