



## Short Cutts

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### A Note of Passing *Dr. C. Richard Skogley*

The turfgrass industry has lost one of its great pioneers and gentleman with the passing of Dr. C. Richard Skogley in early September. "Doc" as he was referred to fondly by his many students and colleagues embodied the essence of a man committed to serving his family, his country, and his scientific discipline. Dr. Skogley, born in Deer Lodge, MT, was a navy veteran of World War II returning to college as many of his era on the GI Bill to pursue an education in agriculture. He received degrees from the University of Rhode Island and Rutgers in the 1950's and joined the URI faculty in 1960.

Dr. Skogley's legacy lives on in the many turf students he advised in his career and the many graduate students he guided to become leaders in the turfgrass industry, e.g. Dr. Rich Hurley of Lofts Seed, Dr. Rich Cooper of North Carolina State University, Dr. J. Scott Ebdon of UMass, Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club, John Carlone, Meadowbrook Golf Club, and Dennis Petruzelli of LakeOver National among others. The Rhode Island Golf Superintendents who benefited regularly from his "What's up, Doc?" column awarded him their "man of the year" honor in 1977. He received the United States Golf Association Distinguished Service Award in 1992 as a measure of his widespread influence on the selection and development of bentgrasses and fescues. Dr. Skogley was involved in the development and release of industry standards such as Jamestown chewings fescue, Exeter colonial bentgrass, Kingstown velvet bentgrass, and most recently, Providence creeping bentgrass.

I recall the days during my graduate studies at URI, when every Friday afternoon, Doc would walk the plots with me to rate the hundreds of varieties in his collection. He always viewed himself as a collector, not a breeder. He would place his cap on his head with a slight tilt to the right, pack his pipe, and off we went. I recall those afternoons with great fondness as he told stories of the students and friends that passed through his office. Later during my studies Doc and Jane opened their home to me and I had the privilege of sharing a room with C. David Skogley. That time with the Skogleys provided a unique opportunity to experience Doc as a husband and father, as well as my mentor. I carry a piece of that experience with me each day as do many turfgrass managers who had the privilege of sharing his polite and sincere company. Our thoughts are with Jane, David, Tom, and Elizabeth as well as the entire Skogley family.

FRANK ROSSI

### Emmons Recognized for Excellence in Teaching

Professor Robert (Bob) Emmons, the turfgrass program leader at SUNY Cobleskill, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the 1997 graduation ceremonies. The effort to bring this award to Bob was headed by Professor James Bates who was charged with collecting letters of support from current and former students as well as turfgrass industry leaders. As expected, the letters not only poured in, but were filled with genuine admiration and respect for a man that had a positive influence on their professional and personal lives.

Bob, a native Bostonian trained at the University of New Hampshire, has spent much of the last twenty two years mentoring students to become leaders in the golf turf industry. In addition, he has elevated the Cobleskill program to be one of the finest in the country, due in no small part to the attention he brought with the publication of his text, *Turfgrass Science and Management*. The program at Cobleskill continues to grow under his leadership and with the support of the turfgrass industry in New York State, especially the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA). Bob remains actively engaged in a variety of activities outside of his heavy load at Cobleskill, including teaching at Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYSTA Programs such as the Turfgrass Short Course and Sports Turf Field Days.

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