CUTT

Clippings

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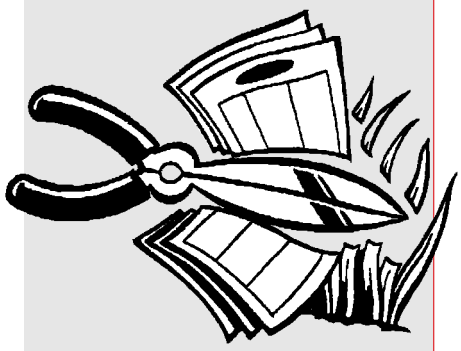

Emmons Receives GCSAA Honor

Bob Emmons, Professor of Turfgrass Management at SUNY Cobleskill, received the 2003 Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America at the International Golf Course Show in Atlanta, GA. This is one of the association's highest honors and recognizes a lifetime achievement for one of the leaders of the turfgrass industry in New York State.

Over 60 letters were submitted from former students and members of the turfgrass industry in support of Bob's nomination. Tim O'Neill, GCSAA Director said, "It was an overwhelming package, filled with letters and testimonials how Emmons had made a difference in so many people's lives."

In his typical humble way, Emmons deflects the praise saying, "this is so important for the continued success of the program here at Cobleskill. We have an excellent team of instructors who have helped to develop a high quality graduate."

Cornell Graduate Student Watson Fellow

Cornell University graduate student Micah Woods was selected as one of the James Watson Fellows. The Watson Fellowships recognize an outstanding graduate student in turfgrass science and is named for the legendary agronomist Dr. Jim Watson.

Woods, currently pursuing his Ph.D. with Professor Frank Rossi at Cornell University, is attempting to address current deficiencies in soil testing procedures that are significantly reducing the precision in modern nutrient management programs. This is truly foundational research that demonstrates Micah's interest in assisting golf course superintendents not sure about the value of soil testing and interpretations. Of course, as a former superintendent himself, Micah is able to bridge the gap between basic soil chemistry and developing a nutrient management program for golf turf.

In supporting Woods, Rossi writes, "I had the pleasure of becoming friends with "Doc" Watson during my tenure on the USGA Research Committee and say without reservation that he would be pleased to know a person like Micah was a candidate for this honor. Micah's international experience and desire to continue to contribute on an international scale bodes well for his establishing a global influence in golf turf management."

NYSTA Keeps You Informed

The 2002 season will be remembered for concerns over water use, devastating diseases and how to meet consumer demand for perfect turf with less pesticides. Each year, meeting consumer expectations grows more challenging. The New York State Turfgrass Association is committed to assisting members to meet that challenge through dedication to supporting research and education.

For more than a decade NYSTA has provided over a half million dollars for turfgrass research. This research has helped to develop new technologies at Cornell such as emerging IPM and biological control products. Cornell researchers have determined the movement of fertilizers and pesticides applied to turf, identifying key areas for managers.

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light and are more resistant to certain pests than the average creeping bentgrass.

In an effort to exploit the dollar spot resistance (almost immunity) velvet bentgrass was installed on three putting greens on the Bethpage Green Course. The Green Course is the site of the USGA-sponsored project to develop nonchemical approaches to putting green management (see related story on page 8). The three greens were completely devastated by dollar spot in 2001 when not treated with fungicides. Many questions remain unanswered about this grass, but several golf courses in the northeast are using it successfully. The key might be managing it properly and keeping the annual bluegrass from invading the site.

Implications and Modifications

Performance factors such as tolerance to low mowing have been improved with many of the new bentgrasses and Bermudagrasses. However, there are some consequences from these developments. When the turfgrasses are mowed lower, ball roll distance (green speed) increases. This is forcing many golf course architects to design less dramatic undulations in their putting greens for fear of rendering the surface unplayable. Also, there are challenges to incorporating surface drainage into the design when surfaces are "flatter".

I often wonder why in our pursuit of turfgrasses that help superintendent's meet increasing golfer expectations, there weren't more turfgrasses that address society's interests. The 88% of the American public that does not care about green speed, does care about water use on golf courses as well as pesticides and fertilizers that could contaminate drinking water.

Paradoxically, genetically modified turfgrasses offer the best opportunity for rapid development of turfgrasses that meet society's needs. Yet it is this technology that inspires the wrath of that same society it might serve best. The ability to insert particular traits into turfgrasses needs more research.

Roundup Ready turfgrasses will be with us shortly and the debate will continue. How will we plant these turfgrasses? When is the best time? What is the best management program? Ultimately the real benefit of this technology will be realized when it is fully integrated into course design and management, not looked at in a vacuum.

Frank S. Rossi

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Subsequently, the information is transferred in a meaningful way through the quarterly newsletter, *Cornell University Turfgrass Times (CUTT)*. Yet it seems that information is needed in a more timely fashion than ever before. Also, NYSTA members must be aware of research beyond New York's borders so that the best thinking can be brought to bear.

Several years ago the Cornell Turfgrass Team began the weekly electronic newsletter *ShortCUTT* to meet the needs of an information hungry industry. Not only is the information the latest, but it is delivered in a timely fashion, right when you need it—during the growing the season!

For 30 weeks, a succinct 2-page newsletter is emailed to NYSTA members with the latest weather records and forecast with exclusive access to a weather web site. Also, regional observations from experts in the field and an update from Frank Rossi. Finally there is a current topic that is discussed by the leading expert in the world. Much of the information is not available through any other source because of Cornell's unique access to university and industry experts.

The cost to you as a NYSTA member is supplying your email address. A major grant from NYSTA allows us to provide this service to members at no charge. So, send your email address today to shortcutt@nysta.org and be ready when the 2003 season begins.

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