Sup’s Scoop

Short Honma Recap by: Scott Nair

In April, a good time was had by all the participants in the 10 year anniversary Short Honma Golf Tournament at Turtle Bay’s tough Arnold Palmer course. The course and the day were exceptional as we honored the man behind the event. As in past years, the grand prize of a trip for two was graciously donated by Bruce Heymanson, a long time friend of both Short and HGCSA. This year’s winners, and future world travelers, were Ed Okamoto and Steve Takashige – great job guys and we all want a rematch (and erasers)!

Superintendent Flight
1st Dan Honma / Brian Laroya
2nd Bryan Grady / Andy Miekle
3rd Howard Hamada / Bob Lillie
4th Curtis Kono / Bob Itamoto
5th Scott Nair / Jim Russell

Guest Flight
1st Chris Hudnall / Wally Brown
2nd Jay Yasumishi / Kalani Voeller
3rd Lorna Nishihara / Miyoko Honma
4th Short Honma / Bruce Heymanson
5th Al Kakazu / Scott Ushijima

Closest to the Pin:
#4 Bryan Grady - Vokey wedge
#8 Lorna Nishihara - Cameron putter
#13 Bryan Grady - Vokey wedge
#15 Short Honma - Cameron putter

Special Thanks to:
Turtle Bay Resort
Paradise Beverage
Patty Keaweamahi
Mike Honma & staff

Pictured below (left to right): Clint Tolbert, Ed Okamoto, and Ryan Wood

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Experts Visit Lanai by: Les Jeremiah Jr.

I am always excited about meeting with other turf professionals and relative counterparts within our industry. A couple of weeks ago, before they were scheduled to give talks at the LICH conference on Oahu, Dr. Micah Woods, who owns and operates the Asian Turfgrass Center Co., Ltd. in Thailand and Dr. Lane Tredway, Extension Turfgrass Pathologist at North Carolina State University, came to Lanai to visit with me and tour our two golf course properties. It was interesting to hear from Micah about different grasses, maintenance practices and philosophies used throughout Asian countries like Japan, China, and the Philippines. It was also very interesting talking to Lane about the various diseases he has come across and researched during his career. His focus on Lanai was to gather and examine “dollar spot” samples from our seashore paspalum, creeping bentgrass, and bermudagrass cultivars. He commented that a recent study showed a huge percentage of fungicides purchased nationally are being spent on dollar spot control and prevention and that there is still much to learn about this disease. I would like to extend my deepest aloha to Micah and Lane for taking the time to share their knowledge and expertise with me. If you have any questions or would like to contact either of them, e-mail addresses are listed below: Dr. Micah Woods - micah@asianturfgrass.com and Dr. Lane Tredway - lane_tredway@ncsu.edu

From left to right: Les Jeremiah Jr., Dr. Micah Woods, and Dr. Lane Tredway

President’s Message

By: Bob Lillie, HGCSA President

Aloha fellow Superintendents and Members of the HGCSA,

It’s that time again when I cap off the newsletter with my President’s Message. So much has gone on since the last newsletter that I’m afraid I won’t be able to share it all in this message, lest we do two newsletters!

The Board continues to press on with Association matters. Some of our investment vehicles are approaching maturity, and decisions have to be made on how to best reinvest them during these turbulent financial times. Discussions on how to improve our newsletter continue to arise, with new ideas popping up with great regularity. Updates to our events calendar make it a dynamic, but very high maintenance, document. And, of course, there’s the Annual golf tournament that’s fast approaching. All of this has kept your Board of Directors on their toes, and I must say that they’ve done a magnificent job of staying on top of things.

Anyway, I hope that you enjoy reading this month’s newsletter. Les and his associates have worked hard to bring you more articles, with features from people that we don’t normally hear from. I am continually impressed with the energy that he brings to the table to make our newsletter more informative, interesting and enjoyable for our readers. Hat’s off to the HGCSA editorial staff!
**USGA Regional Conferences by: Larry Gilhuly, NW Director**

Since the early 80’s the USGA Green Section has offered annual regional conferences in Hawaii aimed at golf course superintendents, golf professionals, general managers, suppliers and interested golfers with a goal of providing 60-70% of the topics related to turfgrass with the other 30-40% related to the game, such as rules, equipment, communication and budgetary issues. During the past decade overall attendance has slipped noticeably as costs to travel to Oahu increased; thus, the past two years the USGA has decided to allow us to bring this conference to you on each of the four major islands.

The program for 2008 was created in 2007 with Mainland speakers requested to give two presentations, thus Pat Gross (Southwest Director, USGA Green Section) started off with an insiders look at the US Open.

The second presenter was Dr. Micah Woods, director of the Asian Turfgrass Center based in Thailand. Dr. Woods gave an informative talk on soil testing and a second presentation on the differences between how grasses respond in Asia compared to Hawaii. In regard to the soil testing presentation, he focused on the difference between SLAN (sufficiency) testing vs BCSR testing. While there are those on both sides of this issue, excellent scientific research can be found at numerous sites, such as the University of Georgia soil testing web page. Dr. Woods took a very strong stance on this issue based on scientific data and should be contacted with any specific questions via email at [www.asianturfgrass.com](http://www.asianturfgrass.com).

![Superintendents participating in Todd Gray’s seminar at the USGA Regional Conference](image)

We were very pleased to also have your new local turfgrass expert, Dr. Jim Brosnan speak on the latest research project being conducted in Hawaii regarding the removal of weeds using various rates of salt. This has been viewed for many years at numerous golf courses with seashore paspalum, yet no study has been completed on rates that are most effective and if granular or fluid is the best approach. The initial research shows rates of 10 lbs./M applied as a granular, approximately one week, apart are very effective for hilograss control. Look for more applicable results coming from Dr. Jim’s work as he is a great addition to the Hawaii turf industry.

The final presenter that gave a 2+ hour seminar of equipment fleet management was Todd Gray, VP, Golf & Turf Division of Wells Fargo. Based on the over 15 golf courses that have either decided to take advantage of Mr. Gray’s free advice or have already started using his assistance, this may have been one of the best speakers with relevance brought to Hawaii in the past two decades. If you wish to contact Mr. Gray, his email is [toddgray@wellsfargo.com](mailto:toddgray@wellsfargo.com).

I look forward to having this conference in Hawaii again next year in late March or early April with every intention of going to all four islands. Our overall attendance was in excess of 140; thus, I want to personally thank all of you that attended for making each one of these unique gatherings a success. See many of you this year as part of our regular USGA TAS visits and hope to see more of you in the future.

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**Farewell from the Manoa Valley By: Jim Brosnan, Ph.D.**

As many of you may have already heard, I have accepted a new position at the University of Tennessee beginning in August. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me over the past year; University and industry support for turfgrass research and extension activities could not have been stronger.

Over the past year, the foundation for a strong turfgrass program at UH began to take shape. Some highlights included:

- The debut of a new resource for the Hawaii turfgrass industry [http://turfgrass.ctahr.hawaii.edu](http://turfgrass.ctahr.hawaii.edu)
- Updates to a majority of the University turfgrass extension bulletins
- New research focusing on weed control and PGRs in seashore paspalum
- An economic profile of the Hawaii’s Golf Course Maintenance Industry
- A successful turfgrass program at the LICH conference

I hope that you will to continue to support the person selected to fill my position at UH in the future.

I will not forget the friendships I have made over the past year either. I hope that we can continue to stay in touch.

Thank you again for your support over the past year and best of luck to all of you!

Take care,
Jim
Turfgrass Certification in Hawaii by: Danny Green

Turfgrass purity is one of the greatest concerns in golf course management. Keeping pure stands of turf affects playability, aesthetics, cultural/chemical practices, and labor costs. Many golf courses are looking to licensed varieties to ensure that monostands, through varietal purity, are established.

The Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (DOA) requires a one-year quarantine on all vegetative turfgrass varieties coming into the state. Shipping is directly from the breeder or Foundation material to the DOA at the Honolulu airport. DOA agents move the grass to the quarantine facility. The quarantine facility is located near Sand Island Access Road on Auiki Street. Quarantine greenhouses are equipped with double door systems and sanitation assurances around each building. Extremely fine screens are used as “windows” to keep insects and airborne contaminants from moving between rooms and exiting the building.

After introduced grass completes the quarantine process, it is released to the licensed grower and is considered Foundation stock for planting Certified fields. The Hawaii State Department of Agriculture is a member of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and is bound by certification standards. In turfgrass certification for vegetatively propagated grasses, the state of Hawaii uses training and standards originally set by the Georgia Crop Improvement Association (GCIA). Vegetatively Propagated Turfgrass Certification Standards (2003) are used in Hawaii and constitute the standard for certification of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses. These standards provide the protocol for propagation and a regiment of required inspections that maintain official certification.

The general standards are as follows:

1. **Foundation Turf** – shall be the vegetative increase of Breeder Turf or in certain cases the increase of Foundation Turf.
2. **Registered Turf** – shall be the vegetative increase of Foundation Turf.
3. **Certified Turf** – shall be the vegetative increase of Registered or Foundation Turf.
4. A map showing the location of each kind and variety must accompany the application for field inspection and certification.
5. The field of each kind and variety must be identified at all times by an appropriate sign and field number and map with field number noted.

* Not normally used in Hawaii due to the following guidelines for Registered Turf: A grower of registered turf may increase the original Foundation class planting to no more than 10 acres if the increase is continuous within the original field and a qualified state inspector is present at harvest and planting.

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**Got RO?** By: Joseph M. Przygodziński V

RO or Reverse Osmosis Treatment Systems are water treatment systems that transform well water into potable water for consumption or irrigation. Osmosis is a naturally occurring process by which water passes from a dilute (or fresh) solution to a more concentrated solution across a semi-permeable membrane. The cells in our body get water via osmosis. The membrane is a barrier that allows the passage of water molecules, but not the passage of dissolved solids in the water. For example, if there are two containers, one with fresh water and the second with salty water filled to the same level and connected to the first container by a semi-permeable membrane, the natural tendency is for the two solutions to achieve the same concentration of salt.

This occurs due to water from the fresh side passing to the salty side until they reach equilibrium. The water level on the original salty side will then be higher (and now less salty), and this water height difference is called the osmotic pressure. If pressure is applied to the salty side, it will slow down or prevent osmosis from occurring. If we apply more pressure on the salty side, we will not only prevent osmosis, but we will cause water to flow in the other direction, and this is called reverse osmosis. The reverse osmosis water treatment process applies enough pressure to a salty water supply to make pure water flow through a membrane. The saltier the supply water, the higher the pressure needed to produce the water.

All reverse osmosis process systems have some degree of pre-treatment needed to condition the water to minimize plugging or fouling of the membranes. Most membrane elements today can remove up to 99.5 percent of the salt from the water.

A reverse osmosis treatment system (illustrated in Figure 2) consists of four major processes:

**Pretreatment:** The incoming feedwater is pretreated to be compatible with the membranes by removing suspended solids, adjusting the pH, and adding a threshold inhibitor to control scaling caused by constituents such as calcium sulfate.

**Pressurization:** The pump raises the pressure of the pretreated feedwater to an operating pressure appropriate for the membrane and the salinity of the feedwater.

**Separation:** The permeable membranes inhibit the passage of dissolved salts while permitting the desalinated product water to pass through. (Continued on next page)
Turfgrass Certification (cont)

Field inspections are a vital part of the certification status and are dictated in the Certification Standards, which state:

**Handling the Crop after Planting and Prior to Inspection:** A field must be rogued and/or sprayed with the recommended herbicides during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties, (2) other perennial grasses, (2) most common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds. **Note:** When spraying, the herbicide will be applied to the area containing the mixture plus an 18” border surrounding the outer limits of the visible area of mixture. Spraying will continue until the mixture is eradicated.

**Time and Number of Inspections:**

1. Foundation, Registered and Certified (three inspections required) during the Spring, Summer, and Fall
2. Every two years an intensive field inspection will be made of the Registered Class.

**Production fields that fail to meet the published varietal purity standards for the class applied for within one growing year will be permanently downgraded to the next lowest class if the field meets the standard of the next class or removed from certification.**

Specific requirements of the field standard include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>Registered</th>
<th>Certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Varieties</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 plant/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Crops</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 plant/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noxious/Objectionable Weeds</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Certified Turfgrass Certificate must be signed by an Authorized Representative of the Licensed Grower. The Turfgrass producer must notify the DOA office in writing or in the space provided on the Application for Membership and Field Inspection the name of the person(s) authorized to sign the certificates.

The duties of the authorized representative of the grower include making sure the certificate accompanies each shipment of grass and preventing non-certified grass from being sold as certified grass.

The image below is a copy of an actual certificate that is issued to the grower from the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture. It is your protection for controlling the purity and integrity of the turfgrass variety. If you do not receive this with your order you are not planting a Certified grass. Known pedigree, known performance.

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HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Kauai Superintendent News by: Ed Okamoto

KIAHUNA GOLF CLUB
Work continues with developers and Kaua’i Nursery on the grassing of common areas between home sites, the golf course, and irrigation installation. Dust fences have been removed on the 11th and 18th holes providing golfers with great ocean views not seen prior to the new development. More landscaping and boundary restoration will continue in the coming months. Native plants and cinders were added to the lava rock garden on the 2nd hole as part of our cave habitat restoration. These caves are home to the Kaua’i cave wolf spider.

POIPU BAY GOLF COURSE
Greens aerification was completed at the end of April. That went very well. Bunker renovation work continues. The continued rising cost of sand will determine how much bunker work will get done this year. Along with the bunker renovation, a few landscape renovation projects are also on the agenda. A pump station is scheduled to be installed in early June.

WAILUA GOLF COURSE
It’s been a busy tournament schedule the first half of the year with a college tournament, the Kaua’i Collegiate Cup, in April, HHSAA girls and boys tournaments, the US Open-local and WAPL qualifiers in May, and the APL qualifier in June. Greens aerification was completed in-between the college and HHSAA tournaments. A new course record, 63, was shot during the Kaua’i Collegiate Cup by a player from Vanderbilt University. No bogeys on the scorecard!

A review of the current rate schedule is being done with a recommendation to the county administration on a new rate schedule following this review process. This move was prompted by the county’s Cost Control Commission’s desire to see the golf course be more fiscally self reliant.

The golf course will start planning a program to speed up the seashore paspalum infestation into the new bermudagrass greens. Getting some of the greens closer to their original size and expansion of the areas outside of some of the greens will also be taking place this summer.

Planning for the September Mayors’ Challenge Cup tournament at Wailua GC is on-going. This is an annual event pitting the C&C of Honolulu team against the County of Kaua’i team. Teams are made up of municipal golfers who qualify in different flights.

Upcoming Turfgrass Events


June 28- Certified Landscape Technician Field Exam. Kona, Hawaii. Contact Jay Deputy, 808-956-2150, deputy@hawaii.edu

July 26- Certified Landscape Technician Field Exam. Kauai, Hawaii. Contact Jay Deputy, 808-956-2150, deputy@hawaii.edu

September 18th – HGCSA Annual Golf Tournament. Waikiki G.C. Contact Clarence Nakatsukasa, 808-220-6054, nakatsukc003@hawaii.rr.com

September 19th – HGCSA Annual Educational Seminar. Hawaii Prince Hotel. Contact Clarence Nakatsukasa, 808-220-6054, nakatsukc003@hawaii.rr.com
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#7 at Kukio - Superintendent, Scott Nair, Asst. Supts. Joe Vittum and Jim Russell

Photo: Aidan Bradley
#10 at Kiahuna - Superintendent, Robert Medeiros, Asst. Supervisor, Harold Mariani

#8 at The Experience at Koele - Superintendent, Les Jeremiah Jr., Asst. Supt., Carmen Amicone
LICH Conference a Success
by: Jim Brosnan, Ph.D.

Turfgrass professionals across Hawaii gathered May 28-29th at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center on Oahu for the 2008 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH) Conference and Trade Show.

The turfgrass program was headlined by Larry Gilhuly (USGA), Dr. Lane Tredway (N.C. State), Dr. Micah Woods (Asian Turfgrass Center), and Dr. Andy McNitt (Penn State).

Larry Gilhuly informed audience members about the role of the USGA Turf Advisory Service in Hawaii and discussed some of the major issues in the USGA right now; his presentation focused extensively on research data about ball mark repair.

Dr. Lane Tredway gave a 1 hour presentation on fairy ring management and a second on the chemical management of warm-season diseases. His talks were standing-room only.

Dr. Micah Woods discussed the theories behind soil testing and some of the nuances of managing turfgrass in Asia.

Dr. Andy McNitt lectured the audience on theories behind turfgrass drainage systems. He also discussed research on the use of organic fertilizers and selecting the correct topdressing sand for USGA greens.

Dr. Jim Brosnan of UH discussed the results of the HGCSA funded survey profiling the economic impact of the Hawaii’s golf course industry, as well as his research on weed control in seashore paspalum and seashore paspalum traffic tolerance.

Thanks to all those who made LICH such a great event this year!!

B. Hayman/UAP Field Day  by: Al Kakazu

Over 300 turf and equipment professionals participated in the annual field day, golf tournament, and seminar events held at Pearl Country Club on May 14 and 15. We were blessed with good weather, allowing the participants inspected the multitude of turf equipment up close and hands on. New Jacobsen products at the event included the Eclipse walking greens mower that features a fully floating cutting unit, as well as independent transport & reel motors powered by a quiet and efficient Honda gas engine. The new Jac AR-3 Triplex Rotary Trim Mower was also featured. It uses the new Trimtek rotary deck, a design similar to the new decks on the AR 522 five gang rotary rough mowers. These decks leave a fine finish while also allowing for large capacity mow downs. A big hit was the swing out center reels of the Jac Gplex III triplex greens mower; the ease of maintenance and accessibility was a very attractive match to the high quality of cut of this unit. This unit also offers both a convenient hand lever and foot pedal to control the one-touch reel lift/lower functions.

The morning seminar on the 14th was filled with participants eager to learn the latest, as well as the basics, of grinding and reels in a presentation titled, the “Reel Deal.” Fidel Baca, of Jacobsen, and Greg Turner, of Neary Technologies, conducted the seminar. The afternoon golf tourney yielded many frustrated golfers looking for their “orange ball” in the rough amongst the fallen African Tulip flowers. There was only one official orange ball survivor out of the entire field (among several attempted counterfeits). The overall winning team this year consisted of Craig Trenholme & Calvin Pooahi of Kaanapali, Larry Renio of Kohou, and Jack Hardy from Monsanto. Every team won a prize and a ton of door prizes were given out. The very last and very valuable B. Hayman copper mug kept reproducing amongst the other prizes which included DVD players, digital cameras, Pro V1 golf balls, golf shirts, gift certificates and more. The $10,000 hole in one prize and $2500 giveaway for a 50’ putt remains yet unclaimed.

The 24 seminars and trade show on the 15th was very well attended. Valuable GCSAA and State of Hawaii RUP educational credits were awarded in addition to a wealth of information. Participants were treated to the latest news on a variety of turf management topics. It seemed that everyone enjoyed the opportunity to also catch up with old friends and network with new acquaintances.

A warm mahalo goes to all those who attended and supported the events. We hope to see you next year!

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Renovating the Big Island’s Most Historic Course
by: Joseph M. Przygodzinski V.

On May 1st 2007 the Mauna Kea Golf course was closed to begin a construction renovation and re-design project. Rees Jones Inc., who is the son of Robert Trent Jones Sr., was hired to re-design and improve the existing golf course.

Rees Jones Inc. selected Cal Golf to do the shaping, and Landscapes Unlimited was hired for irrigation installation, site preparation, and most of the construction work on the course. Some of the existing maintenance crew members are being utilized for planting, tree removal, and other work not covered under the contract.

The entire irrigation system is being replaced and revamped with HDPE pipe; Mauna Kea selected the Toro VP system for their satellites and irrigation computer system. A new Watertronics pump station is also being installed.

The existing turfgrass was killed and the golf course is being re-sprigged. The greens are being reconstructed to USGA recommendations and planted with ‘Tifeagle’. All of the greens have been recontoured to accommodate the speeds expected with ‘Tifeagle’ as well as to provide more areas for pin placements. The tees, fairways, and rough are being planted with ‘Tifway 419’. New tees have also been added to increase the total length of the course.

All of the bunkers have been re-shaped, and additional drainage will be added. Bunker complexes are being sodded. Lane Mountain sand is being used for the bunker sand.

Presently all 18 greens are planted; the practice greens will be planted next week. We are expecting everything to be grassed by the end of August. A soft opening of the golf course is scheduled for the 1st of December.