MARCH/APRIL 1991 main



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Congratulations are in order for two of our members. The first member I would like to mention is Jerry Faubel. He has distinguished himself as President of GCSAA for 1990. Jerry joins an impressive list of Michigan superintendents that have not only served as GCSAA President, but have made an impact on GCSAA as an organization and the Golf Course Superintendency as a Profession.

Ward Cornwell, Norm Kramer, Ted Woehrle, Jim Timmerman and now Jerry Faubel have given the Michigan Golf Course Superintendent more than just leadership from the national organization. Each of these individuals have provided his fellow superintendent with a living blueprint as to the qualities a professional person must possess. Leadership, communication skills, organization, concern for the profession, vision, thoroughness, professional image are some of the skills that these men have exposed to the Michigan golf course superintendent. The national reputations enjoyed by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendent's Association is more than partly due to the direct and indirect influence of these men.

The second member that is to be congratulated is Bill Roberts. Bill was recently elected vice president of GCSAA. Bill is clearly a leader in GCSAA because of how he has handled himself as a leader and as an active participant on the executive committee. On behalf of MBCGCSA we congratulate Bill Roberts on becoming vice president of GCSAA, and we wish him well in carrying out the duties of his office.

Every year in late April we have the pleasure of joining with our friends from Ontario in a joint meeting of associations. This year, for the first time in memory, we will be meeting in Michigan. On April 29 we have the opportunity to meet at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club. Please make your plans and reservations for another fun day of golf and fellowship.

Tom Mason



TOM MASON Vice-President Secre KEN DeBUSSCHER GARY

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THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The February meeting of MBCGCSA was held at the Links of Pinewood in Union Lake on the 25th. The Association would like to thank host superintendent Jeff Ackers, and Ernie Fuller for their hospitality. Pastries, juice, bagels, and coffee were available before the meeting. Members that attended the national conference in Las Vegas had a chance to tell stories of chance and fortune, or not so much fortune.

The educational portion of the meeting was supplied by Rena Pomaville of Envirotherm Inc. Rena talked about the importance of "worker rightto-know laws" and proper use and fit of respirators as well as the requirements for providing hearing protection for employees and protecting clubs and superintendents from liability related to employee hearing loss. She also informed members that as employers we are required to have written programs on file explaining what's been done to comply with these laws and offered examples of such written programs.

The April meeting is a joint meeting with Canadian Superintendents at Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club on Grosse Ile. Summer weed control, turf and ornamental, will be the topic of education as well as a chance to hear what's happening on the other side of the river. Mark your calendar, this will be a good meeting.

Jim Eccleton invites anyone interested to come out to Arbor Hills in Jackson on May 6, and play in the Western Michigan Special Olympics benefit.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

On Friday, February 8th at 1:00 p.m., the Michigan Room at the Riviera in Las Vegas was offically opened. This is the hospitality room that is sponsored by the Michigan Golf Superintendents. I have had the pleasure of working at the Michigan Room the past two years. This has been one of the highlights of each conference. The Michigan Room gives you the opportunity to relax, meet new people, or renew old acquaintances, This year I had the chance to work with Dave and Gayle Picot and Tom Stark. Boy did that make things easy for me. Mike Bay, who was instrumental in the organization of the Michigan Room, also provided valuable instructions on the fine art of cutting the cheese and salami. I thought I had learned it all in turf school.

The people who stopped by were very friendly and usually even friendlier when they left. The smiles on their faces made the evening worthwhile. Another plus of working behind the counter is that all your favorite beverages are at arms length. This convenience was important to me because working and talking make me very thirsty.

I would like to thank all vendors and everyone else who participated and contributed to the Michigan Room. Mike Bay, you did a great job and it was a pleasure working for you. If you have never worked at the Michigan Room, consider a few of the positive things that I have mentioned and do it.

I hope you have the opportunity next year in New Orleans to work in or just enjoy the Michigan Room. I'll see you there behind the counter.

> Ed Hock Superintendent, Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club



L-R, GORDON LaFONTAINE, DR. JOE VARGAS, DON BENHAM, enjoying the Hospitality Room



L-R, MIKE HEACOCK, JON MADDERN, TOM MASON, DORINDA McMULLEN

MICHIGAN HOSPITALITY EXTRAVAGANZA

The Michigan Room opened on Friday, February 8, 1991 at Las Vegas, Nevada's Riviera Hotel. Due to popular demand and the reasonable price of the room, we were able to enjoy the hospitality room for five nights. With the hotel's consent, we purchased all liquor and supplies outside of the facility, namely, from the Lucky Food Chain. A special thanks to Fritz McMullen for providing transportation. Only limited supplies were purchased for Monday and no new supplies were needed for Tuesday.

A special thanks to all vendors and individuals who contributed to make this year's hospitality room so successful. Gene Johanningsmeier's (Turfgrass, Inc.) donation of sausage sticks and trays of cheese and sausage were delicious and made initial setup of the room much easier.

Thanks, too, to the people who donated time to keep the room open:

Western Michigan GCSA: Steve Adamczyk, Jim Eccleton, Bill Fountain, Bill Madigan, Mark Magee, Clint Ovren, Fred Pastook, Paul Schippers and Paul Richter

Northern Michigan T.M.A.: Charlie Menefee, Paul Holmes and Thomas Reed

Mid Michigan Association: David Sloncz and Jim Naugler

Michigan and Border Cities GCSA: Ron Abbott, Red Bell, Tom Bradshaw, Mike Brannigan, Kevin Dushane, Don Fields, Charles Gaige, Mark Hartsough, Ed Hock, Doug Johanningsmeier, Dennis Kimerer, Steve Kolongowski, Jim Koziatek, Jim McGuire, Mark McKinley, Fritz McMullen, Carey Mithelson, John Nowikowski, Dave Picot, Tom Stark, E.J. Stevens and Ted Woehrle.

We celebrated two special events: Clem Wolfrom's birthday and Ward and Judi Swanson's wedding. These celebrations contributed to the camaraderie and a good time seemed to be had by all.

Special thanks to Kathy Mason for making the Michigan Room Banner. This added class to this wonderful event.

Mike Bay Hospitality Room Chairman



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Q & A WITH BILL ROBERTS

Reporter, Doug Boyle, Supt. Blythefield Country Club Grand Rapids, Michigan

The following interview with Bill Roberts, CGCS was done at the Country Club of Jackson on January 15, 1991. As an Officer and Director of GCSAA, Bill has been involved with environmental issues and spoke in Washington last year on behalf of the superintendent's association. At the national convention Bill was elected to the office of Vice-President of GCSAA.

P og G: In the future do you see golf courses being totally regulated as far as pesticide and water use?

Bill: Well, yes. I think a lot of situations are going to be covered and what we have to do is make sure we have input into that process and how it develops and so far I think we've done a good job of it. It's great to talk about going up to Capital Hill and lobbying but, frankly, in my opinion that doesn't mean anything unless you can get to the guys that really write the rules; guys down at EPA, OSHA or, in Michigan, the people up at the Department of Ag or DNR people. P of G: What should Superintendents be doing?

Bill: You know, again, education is going to be the big deal, the big part of it. You (Supt.'s) just have to increasingly participate in this continuing education program. It's the only way you can stay even close to current, because by the time your hear it in a magazine or newsletter, you're a year behind the facts. For example, Hazard Communication Programs were supposed to be in place in May of 1988 and I can go to these chapter meetings and if I could get an honest answer out of everyone, there's maybe fifteen or twenty percent compliance. . . guys have books of Material Safety Data Sheets but that doesn't mean anything if you don't communicate the information to your employees.

P of G: What role do you see for GCSAA in the way of information dissemination?

Bill: We're going to continue to enhance what we've done in the past through this Environmental Management Program that we've started or you could



develop some expertise in any number of different areas. Again to try and document that, not only for our own guys in terms of their educational enhancement, but in order to document for regulators that we do have educated people out there doing this work. Guys are just going to have to participate in these programs and I think clubs are going to have to insist that they do that. We're going to get down the road and a failure to achieve regulatory compliance is going to mean. . . they're going to shut you down.

P of G: Has GCSAA given any thought about notifying non-members about what they should be doing?

Bill: Yes, because frankly those are the guys that need the help the most. . . I don't think we're going to be able to send them all 9,000 pages of Federal regulations that could potentially impact golf course operations. What we are going to do is provide them with some opportunities to develop that awareness and. . . enhance that awareness. And it's going to be up to them to go out and get some of this information themselves, particularly when it gets down to the state and local levels. There are things that go on at those levels that supercede what goes on at the federal level.

P of G: So we need to make them aware of their own ignorance of what's going on?

Bill: I think that's a big part of it. And by the same token my personal opinion is that we need to develop that communication in terms of. . . the guys writing the checks, the club officials, because again this isn't a Superintendent issue this is a golf issue (and) these guys are going to have to accept some of the responsibility. They may make the Superintendent responsible for the management of the situation, but when they (EPA, etc.) come to close the door it's not just the Superintendent's problem.

P of G: How did you get started with your involvement with GCSAA?

Bill: I'm like a lot of other guys in this profession, I got into this kind of second hand. The people that I worked for when I initially got into the business were people who insisted on professional involvement. I go back quite a ways with Jim Bertoni and Andy Bertoni. In fact, Jim's the one who got me into Penn State... and when I got out of school I went back to work for Bob Williams, who was a past president.

P of G: And that motivated you?

Bill: That tilted my perspective. So, involvement with the Board became a long term goal. And I went through the Chairs in Wisconsin.

P of G: What positions?

Bill: Newsletter Editor, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President and President of the local Superintendent's Association.

P of G: How do the Wisconsin and Michigan Superintendent Associations compare?

Bill: I don't know if I would compare. I'd say that the Michigan and Border Cities is as strong as any group I've seen. They're certainly as progressive and I think that's manifested in the kind of conditions the guys (MBCGCSA) are maintaining. People in the Detroit area are getting superior golf conditions.

And I think that speaks to some degree to the strength of that chapter. There's obviously some good work going on there. Otherwise I don't think you'd see these conditions.

P of G: Back to GCSAA. What are some of the other goals you see for them in the future?

Bill: We need to look at just who we're communicating with. Traditionally it's been 18-hole private country clubs that have made up the bulk of the membership and that's still true today. But I think we need to look beyond that. I think maybe there are people out there that don't have access to some of our resources at this point and we need to look at what we do to make that attractive to them. I know we're going to look awfully hard at our own growth in terms of the international arena. I think there are some tremendous opportunities out there for golf course superintendents internationally. We're in a position now where we've got a pretty valuable commodity in terms of our education and provide some opportunities for our members and realize some potentially phenomenal growth. And I think we need to take a look at what our relationship is with our local chapters and what their relationship is with us and what kind of communication vehicles we ahve set up and just what the benefit to each is.

P of G: Could you touch on why GCSAA needs to be big and have a lot of money?

Bill: In order for us to provide a lot of these educational opportunities, there's a lot to be said for strength in numbers and if you provide good educational opportunities, then I think you take care of the argument that goes: Well, what about the quality? Cause I think if you've got a great educational program, then the quantity and the quality will come with it, because that education is going to be available to those guys.

P of G: So you feel the new building in Lawrence is adequate and will serve us well?

Bill: Yes, I think so. From a physical perspective that building is going to serve as a focal point for education. We're going to be able to bring people in there and provide them with pretty enhanced educational opportunities. Division 3 education will take place then and that is a whole new emphasis in developing management expertise for superintendents. Some of this environmental training will go on



JIM SWEENEY NAMED TO USGA REGIONAL AFFAIRS POSITION

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Jim Sweeney has been named manager of the North Central Region of the United States Golf Association's Regional Affairs department.

The appointment of Sweeney, 33, was made effective beginning February 25. He replaces Jim Farrell, who moved to North Kingstown, Rhode Island, to head the Northeast Region.

Sweeney will act as the primary liaison between the USGA and state and regional golf associations in nine states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

Sweeney comes to the USGA after 3¹/₂ years as Executive Director of the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association in New Mexico.

A native of Middlebury, Connecticut, he was a member of the University of New Mexico's golf team for three seasons, and later served two years as an assistant coach.

An accomplished player, he qualified for the 1981 U.S. Amateur Championship and the 1989 U.S. Mid-Amateur.

He and his wife, Mary, have two daughters, Kathleen and Caroline.

The USGA has regional affairs offices in Far Hills, New Jersey, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Utah, Pebble Beach, California, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and a location to be determined in the North Central Region.

WOMEN'S OPEN TO RETURN TO INDIANWOOD; MERION WITHDRAWS

FAR HILLS, N.J. — For the second time within five years, the United States Women's Open will be played at Indianwood Golf Club, in Lake Orion, Michigan. The United States Golf Association has accepted an invitation from Indianwood for the 1994 championship. The club extended the invitation after the withdrawal of Merion Golf Club, of Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

The dates of the 1994 Women's Open are July 21-24. Indianwood had been the site of the 1989 Women's Open, one of the mare successful in the championship's 45-year history. Betsy King won by four strokes over Nancy Lopez. Miss King shot 278, and Miss Lopez 282.

Merion's Board of Governors stated the club withdrew because it cannot guarantee successful compliance with the USGA's membership guidelines for clubs entertaining championships by the time of the 1994 Women's Open.

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WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY ASSOCIATION?

Kevin Dushane, CGCS Bloomfield Hills Country Club

I joined my first Association when I was 8 years old, the Boys Club of America. The Boys Club was an organization whose monetary resources were supplied by outside agencies such as United Way and other charitable groups who had an interest in developing the youth in the area. As a member of the Boys Club we were required to pay a minimal yearly dues and also paid for any extracurricular activity that was above the normal operation of the club. All the kids, ranging from the age of 8 to 18, were involved in a variety of trade skill activities such as metal shop, wood shop and printing. Pool, table tennis, baseball, basketball and other sport activities too numerous to mention were there to grant kids an opportunity to compete with one another while at the same time stressing the importance of sportsmanship and fair play. Social activities were also a big part of the daily routine at the club.

Learning how to interact with all types of individuals was what resulted from these activities. The Boys Club gave me the opportunity as a youth to develop thoughts, skills and ideas in order to progress



as a person in a normal society. Our Association is about developing ideas and skills from a collective group of individuals who have the same interests and goals in mind. And, in my opinion, it goes much further than that. Social involvement outside the sphere of business is the intangible which can bring the skills, thoughts and ideas together and open up a creative part of an individual who otherwise would not have that part of the self exposed. A person can have an abundance of knowledge and be a skillful technician but if that individual lacks the ability to communicate and interact with his peers he or she may not reach the level of success that that individual is capable of attaining.

I do want to stress that education is the most important product of an Association such as ours. But a culmination of all activities, whether they be educational, technical or social will ultimately lead to an improved and respected professional.

I have been a member of the MBCGCSA since 1974. In that time I was on the Board of Directors for 10 years serving as Director for two of those years and holding the four different Officer positions. This does not qualify me as an expert in anything in particular but I do feel I have learned something about our Association. What makes it tick. What the MBCGCSA can offer to the membership. And what I have determined is there is just one small catch for the member. All of the benefits that an individual expects from the dues payment cannot be gained without some sort of effort from yourself, the member.

The definition of MEMBER taken from the dictionary is as follows: (1) A distinct part of a whole, (2) One who belongs to a group or organization.

This is what our Association means to me. A group of individuals willing to commit to a common goal of education and improving the industry in which we work and, at the same time, participate in activities outside of the workplace with people you respect and enjoy. What this does is make my job easier, boosts my status with my employers and increases my opportunity for salary and benefit advancement.

So, in order for our Association to produce a positive result for yourself and for the collective group a small amount of your time has to be given to the group. Remember, a member is a distinct part of a whole. So if one person does not participate it takes away from the whole. Participation from you would aid in promoting not only yourself but everyone in the organization.

At this point I would like to mention that much of what I have to say is obviously directed towards the golf course superintendent. This is not a slight toward our other members, for whom I have a great respect and are a tremendous asset to the MBCGCSA, but this article is just an expression of my thoughts as a golf course superintendent. The superintendent is the heart of the Association. Without him there would not be a Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association.

When speaking of participation there are different degrees from which a person can become involved. Obviously, everyone cannot dedicate as much of their time as others at different times in their lives. Family and employer obligations are our first concerns. Some individuals may have no children or have children who require less parental attention. Some employers are more flexible with their schedules for their employees. Then again, employers should realize that some involvement with a professional organization will result in an improved product. Attendance to educational seminars has to be permitted so an individual can keep up with the fast moving and ever changing industry in which we work. But a member has to show some willingness to participate in order to get something profitable from the organization. Just standing on the sidelines will not get you results.

One way to participate is to attend a monthly meeting. Have you ever attended a meeting? If your answer is no, why not? Attending a meeting and communicating with another superintendent who may have had a problem exactly like yours could be beneficial. It may result in a financial savings as well as improving your golf course. While on the subject of information sharing I would like to point out that most individuals in our group are more than willing to partake in divulging trade practices which can aid a fellow golf course superintendent.

We have a modest amount of members who do not work in the Detroit metro area where the majority of our members are located. It is understandable that they cannot travel great distances to attend meetings. I believe these individuals have an interest in keeping up with the golf course industry in our area. By becoming a member they can acquire this information through the **A Patch of Green** and other mailings sent out to the membership. But this does not mean they cannot contribute. Writing articles for **A Patch of Green** is an excellent way to disseminate information to fellow members.

While on the subject of writing, have any of you considered submitting an article to **A Patch of Green**? The ability to communicate in the written form is an important part of my duties at Bloomfield Hills. I am required to submit a monthly report to my Green Chairman in order to update the Board of Directors of the Club on events concerning the golf course. I would assume that most of us have to submit a written report to our superiors or clients at one time or another. Why not take the time to write a short article for **A Patch of Green**? A wide range of subjects can be discussed. Perhaps you could write about a successful management practice, or a helpful tip in the workshop could prove to be of value to someone. For example, take a picture of a unique tool used to repair a small engine. Write a short description of its use and send it in for publication.

There was an attempt a few years ago to promote the membership's literary involvement with **A Patch** of Green. The John Walter Award was to be given annually to the member who submitted the best article for the year. Unfortunately, participation was almost nil. Perhaps a rejuvenation of the award could spark some interest in the membership. Of course it would take a little effort from the members to make this successful. I find it hard to believe that an individual cannot take a few hours in a one year period to write down on paper something of value to the Association. Think about it — two hours in a year. A small drop in a bucket, figuratively speaking.

There are other ways you can provide your services to the Association. You can volunteer to serve on one of the many committees chaired by members of the Board of Directors. This would give you an opportunity to participate in the direction of the organization. The Education Committee is always in search of a golf course for a meeting site. Volunteer to host a monthly meeting. Offer to speak at one of the many educational meetings. If you cannot write an article perhaps verbally expressing your thoughts would be easier.

In the January/February of A Patch of Green Ted Woehrle provided an excellent article titled, Professionalism Through Participation. One paragraph that stood out in my mind was when Ted wrote, "Your Association is the catalyst. The forum for expression of your ideas. The source of your education. Your growth." How true this is. Without expression of our thoughts and ideas there will be little improvement in our ability to manage.

So in conclusion, I challenge all golf course superintendents to take part in the activities of our Association. Find out what it has to offer. Take the time to share your experiences, whether they are good, or not so good. If you are a golf course superintendent or an assistant it is apparent you have the leadership qualities to manage. Take it one step futher and share those qualities with all of us.

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GCSAA Elects 1991-92 Board of Directors

Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, Metedeconk National Golf Club, Jackson, New Jersey, was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) during the association's recent annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Cadenelli succeeds Gerald Faubel, CGCS, Saginaw (Michigan) Country Club, who as immediate past president will continue to serve for a year as director.

William R. Roberts, CGCS, Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, was elected vice president. Re-elected as a director and appointed secretary/treasurer was Randy Nichols, CGCS, Cherokee Town and Country Club, Dunwoody, Georgia.

Also re-elected as directors were Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, Shadow Glen Golf Club, Overland Park, Kansas, and Charles T. Passios, CGCS, Hyannisport (Massachusetts) Club.

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, Bob O'Link Golf Club, Highland Park, Illinois, was appointed to the board. Williams will serve the remaining one year on Roberts' term as director. Roberts' director position was vacated when he was elected vice president.

Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, Acacia Country Club, Lyndhurst, Ohio, and Randall P. Zidlik, CGCS, Rolling Hills Country CLub, McMurray, Pennsylvania, continue serving terms as director. Officers serve one-year terms, and directors are elected to two-year terms.



GCSAA 1991-92 Board of Directors (sitting, L-R), RANDY NICHOLS, sec/treas; GERALD FAUBEL, imm past pres; STEPHEN CADENELLI, pres; WILLIAM ROBERTS, vice pres; Directors (back)- CHARLES PASSIOS, RANDALL ZIDIK, JOSEPH BAIDY, GARY GRIGG, BRUCE WILLIAMS.



GCSAA 1991-92 Board of Directors, L-R -RANDY NICHOLS, sec/treas; STEPHEN G. CADENELLI, pres; WILLIAM A. ROBERTS, vice pres

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61st ANNUAL MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The 61st Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference was held on January 21, 22, and 23, 1991. The event was again located at the accomodating and convenient Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. 1,167 people attended the educational sessions that varied from the professor's research and update reports to how to protect yourselves against excessive sun exposure. There were also 10 basic schools that focussed on a variety of subjects. One benefit to attending the conference is that many of the sessions and basic schools were given C.E.U.'s and/or credits towards recertification with the GCSAA and with your Michigan Commercial Pesticide license.

The general session on Monday started with Fritz McMullen, President of the MTF, welcoming everybody and concluded with the Annual Michigan Turfgrass Foundation business meeting. Following committee reports, election was held to fill four Board positions. Ten candidates were on the slate. Harry Scheumann, Lon Andersen and Bruce Wolfrom were elected and Jim Bogart was re-elected for another term. Kurt Theummel, Jeff Gorney and Tom Mason completed their term on the Board and their hard work was recognized and appreciated by Fritz McMullen and the rest of the membership.

On Tuesday, the M.S.U. Alumni Club held a benefit breakfast with many ideas being shared by all. The outlook, is positive for continual growth. The morning general session dealt with the ever growing environmental issues of today and the 21st Century. Many excellent topics were discussed, including the results of the Cape Cod study on ground water quality through out turf management practices.

The luncheon was well attended and guest speaker, Dr. Charles Petty brought out smiles and laughs from everyone. Kurt Thuemmel was given the Past President Award and was recognized for his 10 years of service on the Board and the Association's growth



President FRITZ McMULLEN (left), congratulating KURT THUEMMEL for his past service to the MTF





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during his involvement. Tim Doppell, Scholarship Chairman recognized the numerous students that were rewarded for their exceptional classroom work. Over \$23,000 in total scholarships were distributed from various sponsors. The MTF award winners were:

Matt Kawa - Lawn Care Award Steve Southard — Ken Payne Award Darin Lickfield — Robert Hancock Award Mike Fisher - Norm Kramer Award

Scholarship Chairman, Jim Eccleton, and his Committee awarded Mike Fisher with our annual MBCGCSA Award.



DR. JOE VARGAS presenting DEAN ANDERSON with award for all his help and service to the MTF

The MTF Meritorious Service Award was given to Dean Jim Anderson. Dean Anderson is retiring from his post this summer and hopefully this position will be filled with a person who will support the turfgrass industry as well as Dean Anderson did during his tenure.

Vendor Appreciation Hour on Tuesday night gave a chance to reminisce about 1990 and what is on the horizon for the upcoming season. It was also a good time to see old friends and acquaintances.

The conference concluded on Wednesday and many thanks go out to the Conference Planning and Arrangement Committee. Chairman, Jon Maddern and the rest of his Committee is commended for an excellent job. Mike Saffel was recognized during the conference for his excellent work on the registration and involvement in making the Michigan Conference one of the best in the country. Don't forget to send in the post-confernce survey to Mr. Saffel.

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GOLF COURSE CONFERENCE AND SHOW A SUCCESS

More than 16,400 members of the golf course industry attended the 1991 International Golf Course Conference and Show hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Held February 5-12 at the Las Vegas Convention Center and Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, the conference and show presented superintendents and other turfgrass professionals with the very best in continuing education opportunities and golf course management products.

A record 591 exhibitors showcased their products and services during the three-day trade show almost 50 more than exhibited at the 1990 Orlando Show. The exhibition covered nearly 175,000 square feet, up from 169,000 in 1990.

International attendance was strong as well, with almost 1,400 participants representing 46 countries outside the United States. Highlighting the conference and seminar portion of the week were 42 continuing education seminars, including one for Spanish-speaking attendees. Nearly 2,500 GCSAA members participated in seminars and symposiums on environmental and water resource management, budgeting and financial planning, safety and risk management, golf design and more. Other key events included an international roundtable, a session for Japanese-speaking attendees, and underground storage tank symposium and sessions by the United States Golf Association, Golf Course Builders of America and American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Lewis Crampton, associate administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), made two special presentations at the conference. Crampton participated in the International Roundtable and spoke before the American Society of Golf Course Architects session. His presentations focused on wetlands and habitat preservation in golf course design and construction. Crampton is also coordinating the agency's participation in a joint EPA/GCSAA public education campaign designed to educate homeowners about environmentally responsible lawn care.

Mark H. McCormack, CEO and chairman of International Management Group and author of What They Don't Teach You At Harvard Business School, delivered the keynote speech at the opening session February 8. GCSAA's new video, "Links With Nature," which outlines the environmental benefits of golf courses, made its debut during the opening session.

At the gala closing banquet following the meeting, William C. Campbell, former USGA president, was presented with GCSAA's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award.

At the GCSAA Golf Championship held February 4-5, in Scottsdale, Arizona, Roger Null, CGCS, won the tournament for the second year in a row. **TURFGRASS INC.**

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STEP 3: SET ACTION THRESHOLDS



STEP 4: MONITOR ENVIRONMENT AND PEST POPULATIONS



BILL ROBERTS, CONT.

in Lawrence. I think there's some opportunity for video networking with different locations. Beyond that I really believe the commitment to that building was really kind of a symbol of just where we are in terms of our association's growth. I think that building says a lot for our maturity as an association. I'm kind of prejudiced, but I'm pretty proud of that thing for that reason, because of what it says about us as an association.

P of G : Does golf in general have a bad reputation in the public eye and the press or has that been turned around?

Bill: I think it's kind of misunderstood. I think that when we talk about some of the challenges that face us, it gets misconstrued to where people think that we're going to have to answer every broadside that gets fired against us and I don't know if that's necessarily true. There are people out there we're never going to satisfy. The sooner we make up our minds to that the better off we're going to be. But by in large, I would say I think we've got an excellent reputation in terms of our impact on the environment and our willingness to participate in the process that demonstrates that we're not out there just tearing everything up. When we go to Washington or when we go up to Lansing we've been invited to participate in these groups that actually develop regulations. It's been my experience that those people who are involved in writing these regulations are just looking for some answers. I don't think they're any different than anybody else. I've never met a regulator that's got an axe to grind. As long as you give them straight answers, provide them with the information and if you've got a good reason for doing something they're willing to listen to that. I just get the feeling that we've got a lot of credibility in terms of participation.

P of **G**: And what are we doing now to satisfy ourselves that we are being good stewards of the environment?

Bill: Again, I think it's a three prong deal. Obviously we're going into this thing with no real axe to grind, and we're committed to research. I think we're willing to live by the results of the research. What we've said is, if what we're doing, if we can quanitfy if what we're doing is okay, we're going to keep doing it and if it's shown that we're having some adverse impacts, then the second phase of this research is developing and exploring alternative methods. We're willing to employ these.

P of **G**: Going in with that attitude, there's no problem?

Bill: Well, there's really not. And we've found out that when we went to Washington in March that they were extremely receptive to that perception. The guys said to me that you don't really have a dog in the

CONTINUED PAGE 30



STEP 5: TAKE ACTION TO MODIFY HABITAT







STEP 7: EVALUATE RESULTS







STEP 8: KEEP WRITTEN RECORDS





BILL ROBERTS, CONT.

fight, you're just looking for the answers. And that's exactly our approach. Beyond that, again I point to participation in education. We've got over two thousand people registered for preconference seminars in Las Vegas! I mean that's three days before the conference even starts! They're willing to put in the time and the effort. And we've participated in the regulatory process. We haven't come across from a defensive posture. We haven't tried to hide anything. We go up and we talk to these people and I think they respect that.

P of **G**: Could you talk about some of the projects Superintendents may need to look at in their near future?

Bill: Applicator training is going to become more demanding. And the documentation of that training is going to be awfully important.

P of G: And the handling of pesticides?

Bill: Again, we've participated in that process. We've been sitting on an EPA Committee for 21/2 years now looking at alternative methods of pesticide packaging. Their expressed aim was to reduce the amount of waste going into the streams. We saw that as an opportunity to maybe look at some ways to enhance applicator safety, reduce exposure, water soluable packaging, (and use of) mini-bulk containers where there's a completely closed system (so) the applicator doesn't have to mess with it - then when you're done you've got no waste in terms of the container. So, vou're going to see some changes there. Storage facilities - at the federal level again - they're talking in terms of operations that store over 11,000 pounds, but I think there are some lessons to be learned there. In terms of liability, the insurance companies may insist on updating a lot of these structures before the regulators do. Rinse pad regulations are being written at the state level right now and I suspect we'll see something in the next six months. Again we tried to talk in terms of performance standards rather than - this is the way we have to do it — whether it works for your operation or not. Posting is going to happen. A lot of guys do that anyway, and frankly I don't see what the big deal is. I think people have a right to know what's going on out there. It's just another communication tool. Prenotification of those people who can medically qualify for this pesiticide sensitive directory, we're going to have to follow those rules.

P of G: So you feel the future of golf is in good hands?

Bill: I really do, particularly for golf course superintendents. I think we've come into our own in terms of respect and credibility for what our contribution has been all along. People are starting to realize that conditioning counts and conditioning is a function of good management and if I've got a good manager as the Golf Course Superintendent, I'm going to be better off in the long run.



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