Woodward Named GCSAA's New CEO

Mark J. Woodward, golf operations manager for the city of San Diego has been selected chief executive officer for the GCSAA.

His selection by the GCSAA Board of Directors came after conducting a national search to replace Steve Mona, who became the chief executive of the World Golf Foundation March 3. A familiar face to GCSAA, Woodward has been active as a committee participant, a director and 68th president of the association in 2004. He is in his 30th year as a GCSAA member and became a certified golf course superintendent in 1986. He is the first superintendent to serve as GCSAAs permanent chief executive.

“We were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of candidates that were interested in the position. Without a doubt, Mark presented the best fit for the association,” GCSAA President David S. Downing II, CGCS said. “He is a talented individual with myriad skills that will serve him, the membership, the association, the industry and the game well. He has a strong track record of service to GCSAA and success as a golf course superintendent and an administrator. His efforts have earned him rave reviews in bolstering golf operations for the city of San Diego.”

In San Diego, Woodward developed a five-year business plan that generated an additional $3 million in revenue from 2006 to 2007, including the implementation of the Advance Tee Time program that added $500,000 in the first year. His department has hosted many high-profile events, including three junior world golf championships, three city amateur championships, three PGA Tour events and the upcoming U.S. Open – on top of the three golf facilities annually hosting 260 golf outings. His plan resulted in creating 20,000 additional tee times for the public golfer. Woodward implemented a management plan that has produced drastically improved course conditions and enhanced environmental stewardship.

Woodward did not assume the job until July 1 because, Downing said, “It was important that he saw to completion the U.S. Open. It is a wonderful celebration of the game and it was only fitting that he finished his integral role in conducting the event.”

Woodward came to San Diego in January 2005 after serving 31 years in various capacities with the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz. His last position there was parks and recreation administrator, which included the oversight of two golf courses, a tennis facility, the Chicago Cubs spring training home, a minor league baseball training site, a park ranger program and a cemetery. He is a 1974 graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in environmental resources and holds a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

In addition to his past volunteer service to GCSAA, Woodward is active in the National Institute of Golf Management sponsored by the National Golf Foundation. He joined the NIGM board of regents in 1992, serving as its chair in 1999. He was a trustee for the Environmental Institute for Golf, serving as secretary in 2004.

Woodward has a strong golf-course-management background. He began his career as an assistant golf course superintendent at Mesa’s Dobson Ranch Golf Course, helping to construct the layout. Two years later he became superintendent and in 1987 assumed the additional duties of managing Mesa’s Riverview Golf Course. His grandfather Jay is one of only three superintendents to have been inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame and was one of 11 GCSAA members to be recognized for outstanding service at the association’s 50th anniversary celebration. Other family members to have served in the superintendent profession include his son Matt, son-in-law Cody Swirczynski, a cousin, Mike Pock, and Pock’s sons, Ernie and Jay.

Woodward, 55, is a native of Phoenix. He and his wife Amy have six children including Mark’s son Matt and his daughter Erin and Amy’s daughters, Rachel, Christine, Nicole and Jessie. They currently have seven grandchildren.
Dr. Laurie Trenholm, associate professor/Extension turfgrass specialist at the University of Florida was the recipient of the very first Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence presented by Turfgrass Producers International.

“Dr. Trenholm’s efforts to educate such a broad audience is reflected in her involvement as head of the Florida Urban Turfgrass Program,” said TPI Executive Director Kirk Hunter, also noting “her commitment to the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Subcommittee, her ongoing research in stress physiology on landscape grass species and the teaching of Green Industries Best Management Practices to lawn-care professionals throughout Florida.”

“She has been the face of UF/IFAS turf science research at myriad city and county commission meetings bringing science and research data to the attention of local lawmakers and regulators in the discussions of fertilizer and water issues,” said Joel Jackson, executive director of the FGCSA.

In addition to working with county Extension faculty members and educating the state’s Master Gardeners at training conferences, she also participates in a wide variety of industry-related associations and organizations. Her frequent participation at turfgrass and/or lawn care conferences, seminars and community events, many of which are outside the state of Florida, reflect an immeasurable contribution to educating others with fact-based science. Among the many issues she has addressed are lawn care for drought conditions, pest control, water conservation through sound irrigation practices, appropriate fertilization issues and overall environmentally-friendly lawn management practices. As a result of her efforts there has been a heightened awareness on matters that will have a positive impact on our environment for generations to come.

Dr. Trenholm has also been one of a select group of turfgrass Extension specialists from universities around the country who have met annually with representatives of TPI to address a wide variety of topics including advancements in research, environmental concerns and ways in which to enhance communication and build greater awareness of the environmental benefits of turfgrass to the general public, landscape professionals, educators, garden writers and government decision-makers.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Dr. Trenholm received her B.S. in turfgrass science from University of Florida’s Fort Lauderdale REC in 1994, her master’s degree in turfgrass physiology from UF in Gainesville in 1996. She received several scholarships from the Florida Turfgrass Association. She earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia’s Department of Crop and Soil Science, researching turfgrass stress physiology and wear tolerance of seashore paspalum and bermudagrass.

She has been a member of the faculty at the University of Florida since 1999. She is a member of the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America, The Agronomy Society of America, the Crop Science Society of America, the Florida Turfgrass Association, the International Turfgrass Research Society, Turfgrass Producers International, and the Florida State Horticultural Society.

Turfgrass Producers International has more than 1,100 members in more than 40 countries worldwide.
a major concern at all golf courses, except those fortunate enough to have unrestricted irrigation sources. Although with each passing month, there have been incremental increases in the amount of water available for irrigation, which has naturally helped.

As a result of timely winter rainfall, on April 18, the South Florida Water Management District returned to Phase II (30 percent reduction) restriction from the earlier Phase III (45 percent reduction). Yet, Turf Advisory Service visits have been made to several courses where a lack of sufficient water has already caused significant problems and a pronounced deterioration in turf health and quality.

With mild to warm temperatures throughout the winter, there has been no real slowdown in plant parasitic nematode activity. This has exacerbated drought stress problems and caused additional turf loss. With fairways and roughs, recovery from drought stress and nematode damage will be extremely difficult without regular and adequate rainfall. The start of the summer rainy season cannot come soon enough.

Most courses in Central and South Florida are implementing routine summer cultural management such as core aeration and aggressive verticutting of putting greens, tees, fairways, and roughs. These practices will always be unpopular with golfers because of the inconveniences caused, but accomplishing them on a timely basis is critical for promoting the resumption of active turf growth and recovering from the cumulative negative impacts of the winter season.

There are inevitably requests and demands that cultural management programs be delayed because during May, the start of reciprocal play and annual summer membership programs can help increase play and, in turn, revenues. The importance of timely initiation of cultural management programs cannot be over emphasized and the adage, “pay me now or pay me later” certainly applies in this situation. Furthermore, with reduced availability and/or increasing costs of pesticides, fertilizers, and other materials, there is even greater importance and need for agronomically-sound, basic practices and programs to maintain a healthy turf and good quality conditioning the majority of the time.

**Bayer Names Wright Southwest Florida Rep**

Adam Wright joins Bayer Environmental Science as field sales representative for the golf market in southwest Florida.

Prior to joining Bayer, Wright was the director of golf course operations for Laurel Oak Country Club in Sarasota. He also served as a superintendent at Greystone Golf & Country Club in Birmingham, Ala.

A graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Wright holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, agronomy and crop sciences. He is currently enrolled in the University of South Florida to earn his master’s degree in business.