LAS VEGAS — "Green Education" for golf course superintendents will be in the spotlight at the 62nd International Golf Course Conference and Show. Thousands of superintendents and other turfgrass professionals will attend more than 40 educational sessions, many focused on sound environmental practices.

New this year is an in-depth Environmental Management Program (EMP) developed by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

This will provide specialized instruction in six environmental areas: Integrated Plant Management; Underground Storage Tanks (USTs): Employee Safety and Right-To-Know; Water Quality and Application; Golf Course Development; and Storage, Disposal and Recycling.

Superintendents may earn "specialist" certificates in each area. To achieve such status, a superintendent must complete as many as seven courses designed specifically for a particular area.

Three EMP seminars — “Protection of Water Resources,” “Scouting, Sampling and Monitoring Golf Course Pests” and “Underground Tank Selection and Installation” — will premiere.

The one and two-day seminars include:
- Developing Your Hazard Communication Program, Feb. 5
- Safe Pesticide Management, Feb. 5
- Water Quality and Irrigation Scheduling, Feb. 7
- Integrated Pest Management, Feb. 5-6
- Protection of Water Resources, Feb. 7-8
- Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management, Feb. 7-8
- Underground Storage Tank Selection and Installation, Feb. 7
- Scouting, Sampling and Monitoring Golf Course Pests, Feb. 8
- Donald E. Heaps, GCSAA past president, will moderate a special UST symposium at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11. The panel will feature Robert Riltz, superintendent at Inverrary Country Club in Coral Springs, Fla.; Ed Kettenbrink, senior consultant at Advanced Environmental Specialists; Robert Yoos, environmental scientist at Franklin Associates; Lee Daniels, associate president from EPA Region VII; and Richard Shanks, president of Jardine Insurance Brokers in Kansas City.

The panel will discuss UST selection, installation, closure and monitoring. Information will be presented on legal requirements that affect an estimated 85 percent of all golf facilities.

Information about the membership services offered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be available at GCSAA Member Services during the conference and show.

GCSAA headquarters staff members will be on hand to discuss membership matters and answer questions about member services, publications, government relations, public relations, scholarship and research funds, education and professional certification programs.

GCSAA Member Services will be located in Room 17 of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Public relations, scholarship, and membership matters and answer questions about member services, publications, government relations, public relations, scholarship and research funds, education and professional certification programs.

The entire line of GCSAA apparel and specialty items will be available in Room 16.

Both GCSAA Member Services and GCSAA Merchandise will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Distributor Day, Saturday, Feb. 9, as well as during regular GCSAA Trade Show hours—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Feb. 10-11, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. Neither will require a trade show pass for admission.

A specially commissioned line of apparel featuring the "GCSAA Las Vegas" logo will be for sale at the Riviera Hotel, GCSAA's headquarters hotel even before the show opens. The "Las Vegas Logo Store" will be open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, in Room 2 of the Riviera.

After the store closes Saturday, any remaining commemorative merchandise will be moved to GCSAA Merchandise in Room 16 of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Dr. Couch prayer breakfast speaker

Dr. Houston Couch of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will speak at the annual Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

The breakfast is being coordinated by Ben Stagg of Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton, Md.

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