Show provides chance to gather, speak out

By GERALD FAUDEL

Each year at this time, golf course superintendents from throughout the world gather at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show. They learn new techniques to do their job better through seminars, educational sessions and interaction with fellow superintendents. They are able to see all the available products and interact with fellow superintendents. They are able to assist them.

Anonymity will have the opportunity to attend the GSAA annual meeting, where they can express their desires on how the organization should operate for their benefit.

According to GSAA’s Articles of Incorporation, the association is intended: “To provide for and enhance the recognition of the golf course superintendent as a professional. To advance the art and science of turfgrass management; to collect and disseminate knowledge of golf course management with emphasis on efficient, economic and environmentally sound management of golf courses.”

The membership will elect people who will have responsibility to insure this purpose is carried out to the benefit of the membership. Each president, vice president and board member should be acutely aware of the organization’s purpose.

The membership expects many things from its national organization. Many of these expectations have been met due to support from industry through active participation in the show, scholarship, research and Golf Course Management magazine. Cooperation between allied organizations has enabled superintendents to actively participate in directing golf’s future.

Being involved in this great game is a serious responsibility. Our national organization allows us to help develop our industry’s future. Most superintendents depend on GSAA to vigorously pursue any and all means of assisting them in accomplishing their managerial duties.

When you consider what other associations provide members, GSAA has done a remarkable job throughout its history. In recent years, our organization has increased member services in meaningful ways — the conference and show, educational seminars, industrial relations, scholarship and research, government relations, technical resources, membership welfare and many others.

Gerald Faubel, CGCS, is head superintendent at Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club and past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.
Faubel comment: We must pay for more research

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The U.S. Golf Association is pursuing ways to reduce water consumption, fertilizer and pesticide use and develop acceptable plant materials.

The USGATurfgrass Research Committee has done an outstanding job identifying areas which need to be addressed to make golf courses an environmentally acceptable job identifying areas which need to be addressed to make golf courses an environmental asset.

The need for strong local and national associations has never been greater.

The problem is a decline in active participation on relevant subjects by superintendents at the local and national level.

Everyone needs to ask themselves how much they are working for the total benefit of their profession and overcome the internal political aspects.

It always seems easier to let the other person do it.

Well, the other person is probably overloaded also or may be unwilling to do it. Increased job demands and family are important.

But what is going to happen when the other person doesn’t do it.

If we recognize the need for more research and development then we must be willing to pay for the potential benefits.

It is more important than ever to look toward the universities and recognize what they can do for us.

Our associations can make the difference.

It is up to us to make certain the associations know what the industry needs and how to approach them to get what they need.

Only then can a realistic plan of action be drawn and conducted.

Knowledge is the only way we will continue to deliver the quality maintenance we have led the golfer to expect.

Are we or own worst enemy?

Or are we willing to make the sacrifices that must be made by supporting the people who have the skills that allow us to meet society’s demands?

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MAINTENANCE

A grand tradition — scorecard box

By TERRY BUCHEN

One simple pleasure golf course superintendents can profile their players is the scorecard box, a grand tradition never taken for granted.

"The box" usually contains scorecards, pencils, wooden golf tees, ball markers and, sometimes, even matches. They are usually positioned on the 2nd and 11th teeing grounds to help the needy golfer with extra supplies, or the player who simply forgot.

Most boxes are made of pressure-treated wood that is glued and then screwed together for added strength. A water sealer is applied before painting it the club's favorite color, or sometimes staining it. A hinged cover protects the supplies from sprinkler irrigation and the elements. Some are made of metal that can be attained from golf supply catalogues, but most superintendents want the natural look.

Scorecard boxes are cheap, easy to make, and helpful to the golfers.

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