Stossel: Gov't should do less policing, more educating public

*BY MARK LESLIE*

SAN FRANCISCO — Putting the blame squarely on government regulations and a willing accomplice, the media, John Stossel told an International Golf Course Conference and Show audience that the marketplace ought to be allowed to do the regulating in this country.

The ABC-TV consumer reporter joined panelists Dr. Kimberly Erusha of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA), who called on golf course superintendents to get people in their community directly involved in the regulating in this country.

Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual banquet, Clute said his staff was utmost in the success of his firm, Paul Clute & Associates, Inc. in Hartland, Mich. "I think it is second to none," he said.

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 McGinnis elected secretary-treasurer, joining President Grigg, VP Williams

*BY PETER BLAIS*

SAN FRANCISCO — Paul McGinnis was elected secretary/treasurer and Michael Wallace and Tommy Witt won seats on the board of directors in the uncontested elections decided during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual meeting held here in late February.

In the two uncontested elections, Larry Grigg of Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples, Fla., was chosen president and Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club vice president.

McGinnis is head superintendent at Union Hills Country Club (CC) in Sun City, Ariz. Under the reorganized format, he should run uncontested for the GCSAA vice presidency in 1996 and presidency in 1997.

The 43-year-old Arizona State University graduate bested George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., and David Fearis of Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., for secretary/treasurer.

Renault and Fearis will return to the board of directors, where they will be joined by Wallace, Witt, R. Scott Woodhead and Immediate Past President Joe Bailey.

Wallace, 44, is head superintendent at Hop Meadow CC in Simsbury, Conn., and was elected for the first time.

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America's annual banquet, but golf courses. One day on TV, they will landscape. "And he pointed to the rigors of golf course construction, including its hard, dirty labor and time spent away from family.

Duich quoted his Penn State University department head, the late Dr. Howard Erusha, as saying that one should only judge by those who've known him. "I have been in this industry long enough to know I can truly judge the value and contributions of golf course builders. And I salute you and thank you very, very sincerely for this award," he said. "It is very gratifying."

Tribute was paid to Duich by two former students — Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Joseph Baidy and U.S. Golf Association Green Section regional director Stan Zontek.

"I knew Don Rossi. He was a great man, a friend to us all, and quite literally a father and architect of golf," Zontek said. "I know Joe Duich. He, too, is a great man, a major contributor to the turfgrass on which the game is played, and perhaps most importantly of all, a teacher and a friend."

Referring to the many dominant turfgrass developers during Duich's career, Zontek said: "But the grasses are not what Dr. Duich is most proud of. It's the people — the students...

"We might not set on courses containing Penn State grass, nor, do I suspect, does it set on graduates of the Penn State program."

Speaking of Duich's personal side, Baidy said. "He was concerned about our [superintendents'] depression and stress. He was concerned about the divorce rate among the students. And he shared that with us."

"He followed our careers and still follows them. His students are one of his greatest concerns."

Duich taught more than 5,700 students in more than 36 years before retiring in 1991. The humanitarian award is given in memory of the late Mr. Rossi, former executive director of the Tom F. O'Toole National Golf Foundation and GCBAA.

**Bio remediation technologies invented to solve UST leakage problems**

**By MARK LESLIE**

SAN FRANCISCO — Underground storage tank (UST) leaks, a frightening thought not very long ago, are being neutralized by new but simple technologies, according to Dr. Ronald F. Turco of Purdue University.

Speaking on bio remediation at the International Golf Course Conference and Show, Turco said an estimated 25 to 50 percent of all USTs are leaking and most USTs leak within 15 years of installation.

"The real problem occurs when there is an aquifer," he said, adding that the leaking material goes to the bottom of the aquifer and forms tar balls, or, in the case of gasoline, floats on top of the aquifer and moves out of it along the gradient.

Leakage introduces chemicals at extremely high levels, Turco said, and "the subsurface ecosystem has very poor degradation powers." The solution is to create degradation in that subsurface.

"Smaller-scale bio remediation is usually relating to gasoline, and gas is very degradable by bacteria under the right conditions," Turco said. "You must make bacteria in the subsurface do the job. The alternative is to dig it out. And that means huge dollars."

"The challenge is to get the contaminant out of the subsurface and do it in such a way as to minimize more damage and maximize microbial activity."

Bioventing, air sparging and soil vacuum extraction are the 1990s' techniques overcoming the challenges. Turco explained:

Bioventing is pumping air into the well. This forces the contaminated area to generate a microbially favorable environment for the UST to degrade.

The advantage of bioventing, he said, is that "it employs a cheap source of air, treats volatile and non-volatile contamination fairly well, and is low-cost and generally consistent."

"The trick is to avoid pumping too much air onto the zone."

"Air sparging is identical except the forced air is moved through a contaminated saturated zone."

"Soil vacuum extraction (SVE) — a very recent practice — is coming on line. A huge vacuum pump pulls air out of the ground. By sucking air out of the soil, other, fresh air is drawn into that zone, keeping air circulation moving."

**Stossel, Baidy, et al on environment**

"The folks on the front line, discussing [matters] with environmentalists, make the difference," said Pyle, whose 15-year-old organization boasts 30,000 members across the spectrum of people who deal with chemicals.

Since its origins, when it successfully defeated an attempt to outlaw phenoxy herbicides that "caused a lot of destruction," the Oregon group "kicked into an offensive mode," she said, to actively bring "a bigger comfort level to the public..."

"We moved to the legislative arena. If it's not law, it's not the case. We ensured we were at the table when legislation is introduced. We said to environmentalists: 'We agree. But let's have legislation based on fact.'"

Every state, Pyle said, "can have the success Oregon has had." Golf managers have an almost uncontrollable urge to manage every square inch of earth under the golf course with chemicals. The public perception is that "golf is an elitist sport that is disconnected to the vast majority of the American public."

"It employs a cheap source of air, treats volatile and non-volatile contamination fairly well, and is low-cost and generally consistent."