Scotts seeks nominees for excellence award

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Company, sponsor of The Tradition of Excellence Award, has named the selection committee for the 1995 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award, recognizing the outstanding achievements among golf course superintendents in advancing the science of course maintenance.

The Tradition of Excellence Award, presented at The Tradition tourney, one of the four major tournaments on the PGA Senior Tour, scheduled for March 27-31, 1995. This year, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America was so honored.

The selection committee, composed of former GCSAA presidents, includes:

- John Spodnik of Westfield, Ohio, served as president in 1969. Recently retired from Westfield Country Club after 35 years, he now consults for Westfield Co.
- Cliff Wagoose, CGCS, of Modesto, Calif., served as president in 1973. Retired after 35 years with Del Rio Country Club in Modesto, he currently consults on agronomic matters, most recently in Morocco and Tunisia.
- Michael Bavier, CGCS, of Barrington, Ill., served as president in 1981. He has spent the last 25 years with Inverness Golf Course of Palatine, Ill.
- Gene Barton of Augusta, Ga., served as president in 1985.
- Dennis Lyon, CGCS, of Aurora, Colo., served as president in 1989. He has served 21 years with the City of Aurora as manager of golf.

“For too long, the golf course superintendent has worked behind the scenes,” said Dave Heegard, Scotts vice president of ProTurf, who also serves on the selection committee. “This award raises the visibility of the superintendent significantly, and The Tradition gives us a forum to tell the public how important the superintendent’s work is.”

Heegard said nominations for the award may come from anyone. Forms are available by calling Deb Strohmaier at Lord, Sullivan & Yoder, Inc. at 614-846-7777; or by calling the GCSAA’s Burk Beeler at 913-841-2240.

The nominating criteria are:
1. The nominee must be employed as a superintendent.
2. Their course must be well maintained.
3. They will have shown good teaching and mentoring qualities throughout his or her career.
4. They must be a leader, helping to further understanding of and within the profession through communication, such as speeches to organizations or writing for publications.
5. They will demonstrate environmental responsibility.
6. They will have been involved with research and innovation in cultural or management practices.
7. They will be involved professionally at the local level.

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