GCSAA registers as lobbyist

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The GCSAA board of directors agreed with a Government Relations Committee recommendation to register the association and appropriate staff as lobbyists in order to advocate positions on legislative issues in Congress. The committee also supported taking advantage of opportunities to use the grassroots, or member support, as voters, to influence government decisions. A campaign was set in motion to encourage GCSAA members to ask their senators and representatives in Congress to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to address a problem with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The WPS became an issue for GCSAA when an Interpretative Guidance Work Group determined that WPS should cover the portion of golf courses where sod, ornamentals and trees are grown for replacement purposes as these plants would normally have “commercial value.”

Previously, golf courses were exempted from WPS because the rule covered only agricultural workers and did not apply when plants are grown for other than commercial or research purposes. In addition, the 11-member panel recommended that GCSAA expand its influence by participating in coalitions, including the Alliance for Reasonable Regulation; the Coalition of Occupational Safety and Health; and the Grassroots Endangered Species Act Coalition.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the Valent S.A. Corp. have agreed to continue a partnership developed this year to produce a GCSAA Professional Development Catalog.

GCSAA, Valent join forces in project to expand education

The partnership agreement, Valent U.S.A. renewed its commitment to underwrite the catalog for three years, through the 1998-99 education season.

AUSTIN, Texas — The Outdoor Power Equipment (OPE) technicians certification program has released a new registration form and nationwide test locations and dates for January through March.

The certification program has become an independent organization. Virgil Russell is director of certification. As an independent agency, the OPE technicians certification program will expand to include:

- Certification of all engine and equipment technicians in the categories of engines, outdoor power equipment, golf and commercial turf and power generation.
- Development of a training council consisting of service and training professionals from education and industry.
- Development of an educational foundation to provide support to schools and providing instruction for the industry.

People interested in more information on the program may contact the OPE technicians certification program at 512-442-1788, or by fax at 512-442-1789.

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