

## Dual membership passes, officers elected

By PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — GCSAA members voted overwhelmingly in favor of a bylaw amendment requiring new members to belong to both their national and regional associations during the recent International Conference and Show held here.

Voters also approved a new slate of officers, including the election of George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., as secretary/treasurer, meaning Renault will assume the presidency of the national association in early 1998.

The dual-membership question had been hotly debated in recent months as national directors toured the country explaining the advantages of requiring new members to belong to both their regional and

national associations.

Under the proposal, any local chapter wishing to remain affiliated with GCSAA could not accept a new Class A or B member unless he or she also joined the national organization. Some local chapters, particularly the smaller ones, feared potential new members would refuse to join the local chapter if they also had to spend \$210 (GCSAA's current annual dues fee) to join the national.

But the lopsided vote — 6,093 to 598 — seems to indicate the national association did a good job in making its case for dual membership with members.

"By the way the vote came out, you'd have to say the membership looked at this in a positive way and

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## Grigg passes GCSAA gavel to his successor, Williams

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Father-son Bob and Bruce Williams were both center stage at the annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) banquet here — Bob receiving the USGA Green Section Award and Bruce assuming the GCSAA presidency.

The USGA award recognizes persons for distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass. Bob Williams was cited for his "professional commitment and dedication" that have proven "invaluable" to the GCSAA and the Chicagoland and Midwest chapters.

Reminding the audience of 1995, which he termed



Bruce Williams  
GCSAA president

"the most difficult year of all time to grow turf," Williams said: "I feel that every one of my fellow superintendents has earned a piece of this plaque. I want to share this recognition with all my colleagues."

Succeeding Gary Grigg as president, Bruce Williams said, "You've had great success and I look forward to succeeding your legacy of leadership."

Thanking past presidents — which include his father — for their efforts and sacrifices and "all members for your support and faith in supporting me," he added: "The upcoming year should be exciting, busy, challenging, rewarding. I pledge that I

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Environmental Steward Award-winners (from left) Darren Davis, Bruce Wolfrom and Timothy Kelly.

## Environmental Stewards honored

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation presented the fourth annual Environmental Steward Awards at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The 1996 national winners are: Darren Davis of Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla.; Timothy Kelly of Village Links of Glen Ellyn in Glen Ellyn, Ill.; and Bruce Wolfrom of Treetops Sylvan Resort in Gaylord, Mich. They were honored for natural habitat conservation, native vegetation preservation and active participation in The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses and Schools.

Ciba Turf and Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Jacobsen Division of Textron and Lebanon Turf Products sponsored the awards. This year, more than \$22,000 was donated to the Foundation.

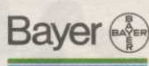
In addition to the national awards, 36 regional and merit winners were recognized at the session for their environmental commitment and stewardship.

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## Dues and disciplinary actions approved by GCSAA voters

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that many chapters are looking forward to implementing it. The smaller chapters did raise more concerns about it and those were discussed before the vote," said national Board of Director member Scott Woodhead, head superintendent at Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont., and also a member of the relatively small Peaks and Prairie GCSA chapter.

"GCSAA has made this a part of its bylaws and now the local

chapters have to approve it [some already have] if they want to remain affiliated with GCSAA. They have roughly two years to do so."

The members also approved amendments reducing dues for Class C members (assistant superintendents) to \$105, one half that of Class A and B members (head superintendents), but also taking away Class C voting rights.

"It shouldn't be viewed as reduced dues in exchange for voting privileges," Renault said.



*'We're trying to get more assistants involved in the organization and expose them to the educational and career advancement services we offer.'*

— George Renault

"We're trying to get more assistants involved in the organization and expose them to the educational and career advancement services we offer. Hopefully the dues reduction will make the or-

ganization more affordable for assistants or the clubs that pay their dues and in turn allow more assistants to join. Since there are more assistant superintendents than head superintendents, we had to

remove the assistants' voting privileges to keep this a head superintendents' association."

The members passed the remaining ballot questions including allowing chapter delegates and proxy voting for dues modifications; requiring all chapters to have an affiliation agreement with GCSAA and establishing a disciplinary action for agreement violations; and allowing the Standards/Bylaws Committee to reject proposed amendments while providing a means for individuals to submit amendment proposals to a membership vote.

Voters also gave a thumbs-up to a wide-ranging amendment allowing chapter delegates and proxy holders to vote on modifications to annual dues; permitting the board to remove or discipline a board member; allowing the board to hold special meetings by phone; allowing a director to waive the right to meeting notice; indemnifying directors for simple negligence in accordance with state laws; and providing for dissolution of the association and distribution of assets in accordance with state and federal laws.

As for the elections, Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club Highland Park, Ill., and Paul McGinnis of Moon Valley in Phoenix, Ariz., ran unopposed for the positions of president and vice president, respectively.

In the contested races, Renault bested David Fearis of Blue Hills CC in Kansas City, Mo., in the race for secretary/treasurer. Also elected to the board from a field of six were newcomer Ken Mangum of Atlanta Athletic Club in Duluth, Ga., and incumbent Scott Woodhead. Williams appointed Michael Wallace of Hop Meadow CC in Simsbury, Conn., to fill Renault's unexpired term as director.

"I'm obviously very happy with the outcome," said incoming secretary/treasurer George Renault. "I plan to help see that the organization continues to grow in the direction we established two years ago [with the appointment of a new administrative staff]."

### Williams president

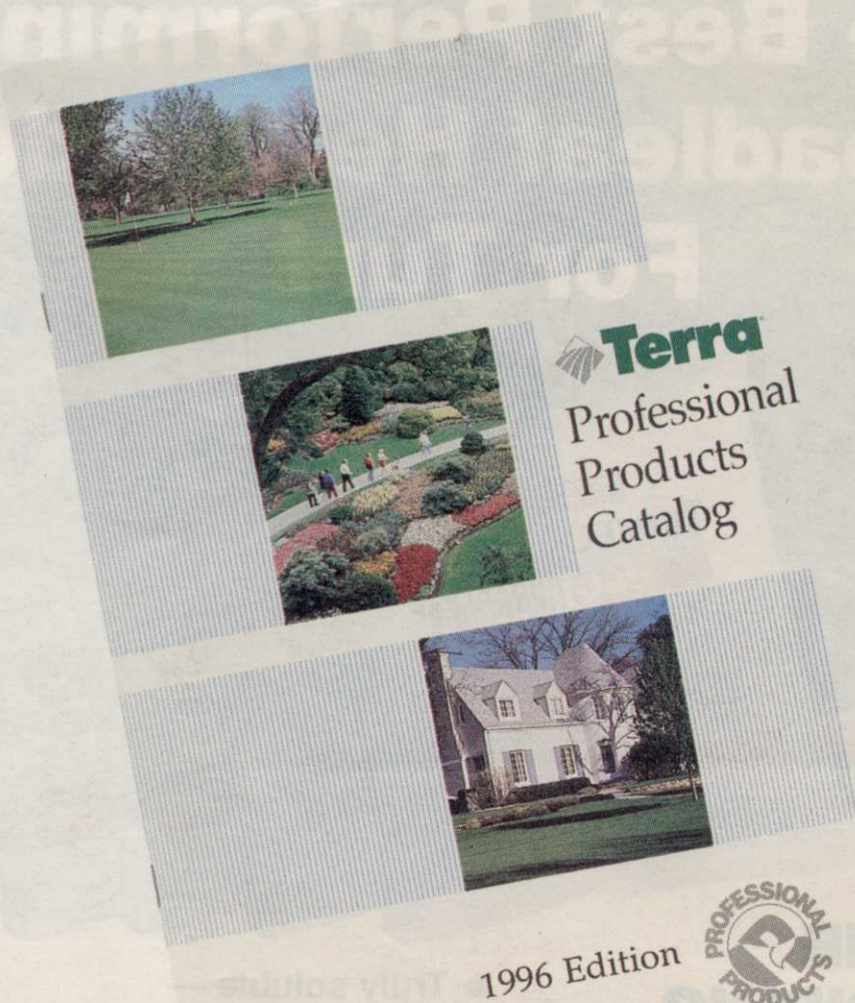
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will up the ante, pick up the pace, elevate the standards, and pay full attention to each and every important detail.

"I will give my best effort each and every day to make the GCSAA a better organization, to work to improve the talents, education, recognition and respect of all golf course superintendents. With your support, understanding and trust, I will keep GCSAA on track and focused in the year ahead."

By working together, "a good board of directors and a talented staff ... can achieve excellence in all we do," he added. "The future is bright. I am extremely proud and honored to be your next president of the GCSAA."

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