Zontek accepts Rossi Award

By Mark Leslie

Las Vegas — Declaring that "agronomists like myself are comfortable working behind the scenes," Stanley Zontek nevertheless came forward here to accept the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA).

Presented by President Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. during the GCBAA's annual banquet at the International Golf Course Conference and Show, the Rossi Award is named for the organization's former executive director. Zontek is the longest-tenured employee of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section and directs its Mid-Atlantic Region.

"The USGA has been the vehicle that brought me here this evening," Zontek said. "My thanks to a great organization and great people." He also thanked his wife, Marty, and son, Christopher, and said of his hosts: "I have always had a special bond with golf course builders."

Zontek said of Dr. Joe Duich, who taught him at Penn State University: "Dr. Duich set a standard of hard work, common sense, practicality and honesty. I have built my life around those characteristics."

Citing Don Rossi as "a nice man," Zontek said, "There are fewer and fewer nice people in this world, and to be recognized as a humanitarian is truly an honor."

Scotts honors Spodnik's achievements

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Sam Sakocius of SAJO Construction, Inc. in Richmond, Texas, and Allan MacCurrach III of MacCurrach Golf Construction, Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla., were presented the Golf Course Builder of the Year and Small Builder of the Year awards at the banquet.

Both men saluted their families and their crews in accepting the Golf Course News-sponsored awards.

Spodnik's achievements

By Mark Leslie

Twenty of his peers nominated Spodnik to receive the Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award from the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association. In his nomination of Spodnik, both of Spodnik's peers praised him and noted his many contributions to the profession.

Spodnik received the McLaren Award in 1981, the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1984, and the Ohio Turf Federation Man of the Year Award in 1983 and 1986.

Throughout his career, Spodnik has championed sound environmental practices on the course. He was an originator of programs now considered "Integrated Pest Management" and also developed inventive recycling regimes for storage areas.

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