Ewoldt wins 1999 Leo Feser Award

ORLANDO, Fla. — Certified golf course superintendent Don Ewoldt of Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Ind., will be presented the 1999 Leo Feser Award Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the Opening Session of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America’s (GCSAA) 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The annual GCSAA award honors the best superintendent-authored article, published in the association’s monthly magazine, Golf Course Management. The winner’s name is engraved on a plaque for display at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas.

GCSAA’s Publications Committee selected Ewoldt’s article, “The Restoration of Sand Creek,” which was published in the February 1998 issue of the magazine. The piece detailed Ewoldt’s experiences as project manager for a one-month restoration effort to stabilize eroding creek banks. He also included nearly a dozen photographs of the process.

“We can relate to those articles and I always turn to the superintendent-written articles first,” he said.

With this, if someone else is doing the same type of project, they can call me and I can pass on what I know.

“Winning the award is very gratifying. But I didn’t write it to win the award.”

A GCSAA member for 12 years and a graduate of Iowa State with a bachelor’s degree in agronomy, Ewoldt has been at Sand Creek since 1993. He also has been named a chapter winner for the 1999 Environmental Steward Awards and is actively involved with community activities including the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools.

The award honors Leo Feser, a pioneer golf course superintendent and a charter member of GCSAA. Feser is credited with keeping the association’s official publication alive during the Great Depression.

Past presidents

Bruce Williams — 1996 — Director of golf operations, Los Angeles CC.

Biggest change: We’ve gone from the Arnie’s Army era to the Tiger Woods phenomenon, during which we’ve seen golf on television and the development of golf for the masses. Coupled with this, we have a population that is very mobile. Back in the 1930s and 1940s, you played your own course and maybe another one here or there. But today, people on business or vacation travel worldwide and they have higher levels of expectations than ever before. Pat the superintendents on the back. The standards and level of golf course maintenance have risen not only for private courses, but for public and resort venues, too. That’s challenged superintendents to provide outstanding course conditions every day their courses are open. The winner is the golfer, who is enjoying playing conditions on public courses that were only available on private courses 20 years ago.

Advice for Dave. “Manage your time effectively. The demands for your time are on you from all different angles and you have to give justice to family, place of

Show schedule

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6:30 p.m. — GCSAA’s Recognition Ceremony and Reception
9-11 p.m. — President’s Dinner Show

Sunday, February 14

6:30-7:30 a.m. — Prayer Breakfast
8:30-11:30 a.m. — United States Golf Association Green Section Educational Program
8 a.m.-1 p.m. — Conference Registration Open
9 a.m.-Noon — International Summit
9 a.m.-Noon — Turf Equipment Technicians Association Session
9 a.m.-1 p.m. — Trade Show
12:30 p.m. — 18-Hole Challenge Prize Drawing