

## GCSAA backpedals on relocation

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ATLANTA — Sensing that its members wanted more information before proceeding with the relocation process, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America removed a vote on the articles of incorporation from the annual meeting's agenda.

The decision not to ask for an amendment to the articles of incorporation means the board of directors must win approval from its membership on the relocation of its headquarters.

"We realized that we didn't have all the facts out there," said new GCSAA president Jon D. Maddern. "This is the primary reason why the articles vote was pulled. There will be a vote [on

relocation] and you [members] will have the information that you need to make a proper vote."

The association has also slowed the relocation process because it has not received any "fantastic deals" from the top three cities that it has focused on (Jacksonville, Fla., Orlando, Fla., and Phoenix). City officials in Lawrence, Kan., are reportedly putting together a package to keep the GCSAA at its current headquarters.

The possible relocation of its headquarters was discussed at an hour-and-a-half long meeting during the show in Atlanta. While the session was originally billed as a "town hall meeting" open to all members, GCSAA officials decided to limit the meeting to

voting members only, due to time and space constraints.

During the meeting, the GCSAA board explained why the association is studying relocation and where they are in the decision making process.

"We had gotten an offer or two on the building from a local person in Lawrence that was interested in buying our building," said past president Tommy Witt. "It's incumbent upon the board of directors from time to time to either research or explore where the best place for us to have our headquarters located so ... [we] can most advantageously serve our members."

According to Maddern, the primary reason behind the move

was to improve the GCSAA's ability to interact with other golf organizations.

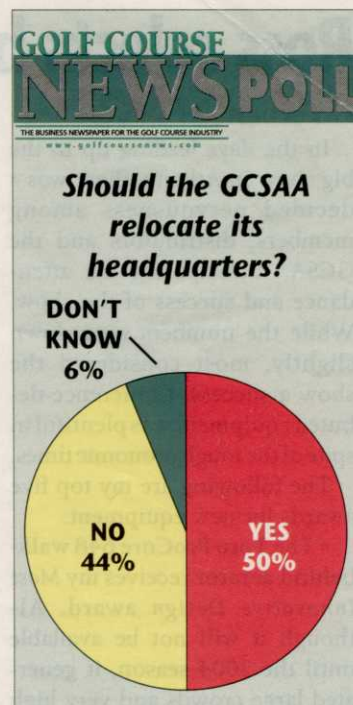
"The leadership of GCSAA believes today that to maximize the visibility of the association in the golf community, to continue to broaden the scope of membership services, and to continue to solidify its leadership role in golf requires a re-examination of the benefits to the membership of moving GCSAA to a high-traffic, golf-intense region," he said.

Many voting members felt statements like this underscored the perception that the GCSAA had already made up its mind to move.

"It kind of sounds to me like you're saying 'We believe we should move, now we're going to let you say yes or no,'" said Roger Hoffman, superintendent at Desert Winds Golf Course in Twenty Nine Palms, Calif.

Both Stephen Cadenelli and Gerald Faubel, who were presidents of the GCSAA during the time of the construction of the Lawrence headquarters, questioned why the association needed to move.

"I do not see us as a golf organization," said Cadenelli, superintendent at Cape Cod National Golf Club in Harwich, Mass. "We are a golf course management organization. I think there's a very significant



cant difference there.

"And a foundation of what we do is educate golf course managers and superintendents," he continued. "And I in no way understand how location is going to enhance the ability to do that or the value in which we ultimately develop and help our members in this association."

Faubel, superintendent at Saginaw Country Club in Saginaw, Mich., agreed.

"The PGA, golf professionals,

Continued on next page

## GCSAA Atlanta: Higher dues, lower attendance

Highlights from the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta:

- The GCSAA's 20 percent dues increase was approved by members during the annual meeting on Feb. 14. Class A and superintendent members will now pay \$300 per year and Class C members will pay \$150 annually.
- Jon D. Maddern, CGCS, of Elk Ridge Golf Course in Atlanta, Mich., was elected president.
- Official Conference and Show attendance

was 18,164, down approximately 2,500 from last year in Orlando.

- A total of 701 exhibitors covered 245,200 square feet of floor space compared to 729 exhibitors encompassing 273,200 square feet last year in Orlando.

- Joseph M. Pantaleo, superintendent at Indian Creek CC in Miami Beach, Fla., took home the 2003 GCSAA Golf Championship with a two-day total of 150 Feb. 10 - 11 in Hilton Head, S.C.

## Quality Grassing grabs Large Builder Award

By DEREK RICE

ATLANTA — Quality Grassing & Services Inc. took home its second *Golf Course News* Best Builder of the Year, but first in the Large Builder category, at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual dinner on Feb. 14.

Since 1989, *Golf Course News* has presented Best Builder of the Year Awards. In 1996, the award was split into small (three or fewer projects) and large (four or more projects). Past Large Builder of the Year winners include Landscapes Unlimited, MacCurrach Golf and Wadsworth Construction.

Quality Grassing, which won the Best Small Builder Award in 1997, scored 108.1 out of a possible 110 points on the seven projects it completed in 2002. Also entered in this year's competition were Landscapes Unlimited, Ryangolf, Niebur Golf, Course Crafters and Weitz Golf.

Among the projects Quality Grassing completed were Coosa Bend Golf Club in

Gadsden, Ala., Harmony Golf Club in St. Cloud, Fla., and Adios Golf Club in Coconut Creek, Fla.



Howard Barnes accepts the Large Builder of the Year Award.

Company president Howard Barnes accepted the award on behalf of his staff. Looking forward, Barnes said 2003 should be just as busy for Quality Grassing as 2002 was.

"A lot of the work we did last year is really bringing us benefits this year," he said. "We get a lot of

word-of-mouth."

Barnes said his company isn't willing to rest on its accomplishments. Winning the Large Builder of the Year Award won't diminish Quality Grassing's drive to repeat in 2003.

"It would be good to win it two years in a row, wouldn't it?" he said.

One of the projects Quality Grassing has lined up for 2003 is a \$1.6 million renovation at Point Mallard Golf Course in Decatur, Ala. The company broke ground on the project in February.

## Glase Golf snags Small Builder title

By DEREK RICE

ATLANTA — The *Golf Course News* Best Small Builder of the Year Award was also a second-time winner. Glase Golf Inc. picked up the award for 2002, two years after taking home its first award.

Glase Golf president James Glase claimed the award at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual dinner here on Feb. 14. Glase Golf earned 108.2 out of a possible 110 points for the three projects the company completed in 2002.

This year's field of entries for the Small Builder Award was larger than in past years. Also entered were Mid-America Golf & Landscape, Golf Course Construction, Barbaron, LandTek Golf, SEMA Golf, Continental Golf, United Golf, Pennickey Sharp, Southeastern Golf, TDI International, Golf Services Group, Intergolf Designs, Hunnicutt Golf and Benson Construction.

Glase started his company in 1997, after many years in the golf construction industry. He worked with Wadsworth Golf Construction in the late 1960s and also spent time with

architect John Bulla and builder Nick Seaman.

He founded his company, which is based in Bonita Springs, Fla., so he could do work locally and stay close to home. In 2002, all three of his projects were in nearby Naples, Fla.



Glase Golf beat out a large field of small builders.

Glase Golf completed work on the Roger Warner-designed Quail Creek Country Club, the Mike Smelek-designed Bay Colony Golf Club and the Jason McCoy-designed Tiburon Golf Club in 2002. Looking to 2003, Glase said he doesn't see a slowdown in sight.

"We're still very busy," he said. "We see no change this year."



## Ross selects best of new GCSAA products

By KEVIN J. ROSS, CGCS

In the days leading up to the big show in Atlanta, there was a decided nervousness among members, distributors and the GCSAA anticipating the attendance and success of the show. While the numbers were down slightly, most considered the show a success. Conference-debuted equipment was plentiful in spite of the tough economic times.

The following are my top five awards for new equipment:

- The Toro ProCore 648 walk-behind aerator receives my *Most Innovative Design* award. Although it will not be available until the 2004 season, it generated large crowds and very high interest. Its features include wheels set under the unit, 48-inch-wide coring width and hydrostatic drive. Because the wheels are set under the machine, Toro said it will not run over plugs, allowing for easier cleanup. While this is a good benefit, Toro may be missing the best benefit of all. With the wheels underneath the machine, the unit does not run over any area that was previously aerified. Therefore, it will not make the wheel marks (indentations) to the green surface as in the past.

- The *Best New Electric Concept* award goes to Jacobsen's two new electric E-Walk greensmowers. These units will be available for the upcoming season. One has a stationary cutting head, while the



There is more interest in electric mowers

other has a floatation cutting head. Although Jacobsen's E-Plex has been around for a while, this is their first production of an electric walk greensmower. Each year there is more interest in electric equipment, and with this year's high fuel costs and increasing noise ordinances, the marketplace may be ripe to embrace this type of unit.

- The Pelzmeter takes the *Adios Stimpmeter* award. Dave Pelz, a former NASA scientist and a guru of golf instruction, has developed a new unit and method for analyzing green speed. The unit corrects past problems associated with the stimpmeter.

It eliminates dimple design, ball jumping and height differential, which were all inherent problems with the Stimpmeter.

Whether golfing members will ask in the future, "What are they Pelzing today?" will remain to be seen. One thing is for sure, this unit was not something developed overnight, and just may be rocket science.

- The *Most Practical Solution* award easily goes to the Dakota



The Pelzmeter takes a roll

Greenwave. This is a portable, high-precision unit made for spot treating with chemicals can also be used for regular hand watering. It comes with an eight-gallon reservoir for chemicals, a proportioner range of 0.2 percent (500:1) to 2.5 percent (40:1), and a flow rate of 0.25gpm minimum to 30gpm maximum. On the surface this unit has great potential, from wetting agents to moss material drenching. It comes as a stand-alone unit that is adjustable to

fit in a utility vehicle or as a trailer mount. As critical as water and chemical use are, this could become a money saver with its accuracy for spot treatment.

- The *Most Improved Design*



The Greenwave is perfect for spot treatments

award goes to White Metal for their cup idea. The two-half cup features a bottom made of zinc, plated with copper, then with chrome for long life. The top piece, which twists into the bottom section, is made of high-impact ABS plastic and is estimated to last three to five months. The idea behind the product is the bottom offers life of two to five



The two-half White Metal cup

years and the preferred sound of the ball hitting metal when dropping into the cup. The top piece is replaceable at a minor cost (\$2.50). So, instead of repainting and sometimes purchasing new cups, you just purchase the top piece. This saves money in purchasing costs and also labor costs of sanding and painting. This is a vastly improved idea over the basic cup liners presently on the market.

## Ross: Five more products to watch

In addition to my top five, there are several other products that deserve a mention.

- The Sand Storm, produced by Zscreen, is a portable trailer unit made for sifting (cleaning) sand in bunkers, and runs off a 12-volt battery.

- Rain Bird's Wireless Eagle Rotor (GCN, Feb. 2002), which uses no control wires, could be the high tech wave of the future.

- Harco's new Swivel Loc lateral connection system and quick

coupling stabilizers generated much irrigation-fitting buzz.

- Toro's new redesigned Greensmaster cutting unit uses sealed reel roller bearing with no more zerk fittings, and very high manufacturing tolerances.

- Last, but not least, Jacobsen's entry to the fairway verticutting/dethatching market with its 3-reel floatation unit, which is sorely needed.

— Kevin J. Ross

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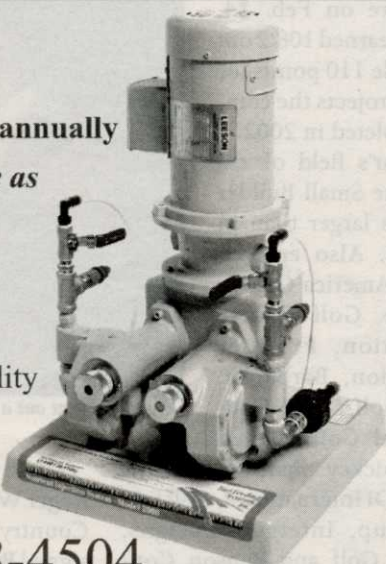
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## GCSAA pauses relocation process

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they teach the game of golf," he said. "And we maintain the playing surfaces that golf is played on. And I still can't understand how we are going to improve our image by moving to Florida with the PGA.

"We could put a billboard up along the highway and say Golf Course Superintendents Association of America," Faubel continued. "And does it have to be anchored by a building?"

While there is obviously still more fact-finding and information-sharing to do, Maddern said the GCSAA's relocation decision making process will forge ahead.

"We're going to move forward and we're going to come out with a proposal," he said. ■