GCSAA CONFERENCE IN REVIEW
A record number of superintendents and exhibitors, and informative educational seminars produced another successful turfgrass conference and show.

by JERRY A. OLSON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The largest gathering of golf course superintendents ever indicated the success of the 43d annual Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America International Turfgrass Conference and Show held in Cincinnati February 13 to 18. Over 1,300 GCSAA members, plus wives, exhibitors and greens chairman brought the total registration to over 4,000.

The conference was centered around the keynote speaker, consumer advocate Ralph Nader. Nader's effective informal speaking style and his charismatic appearance lent credence to his talk on the threat this nation faces from environmental pollution. "It is not a question of can we afford to clean up our pollution," Nader told the 1,600 seated listeners, plus another crowd of 750 standees, "but of can we afford not to. If we would spend one dollar on pollution prevention now, it would save spending $100 for cure later. What will it cost if we don't clean up our pollution?" Nader asked the audience.

Although Nader did not discuss in detail the relationship of the golf course to its environment, either favorably as areas of open space, or unfavorably as contributors to the pollution problem, he did discuss the relationship of property taxes to golf courses. Nader denounced country clubs that discriminate while receiving property tax exemptions. He added that the kind of action needed to meet and solve this issue can be found in some of the approaches suggested by GOLFDOM Magazine on how golf clubs can improve their community relations. ("21 Ways to Build Golf Course/Community Relations." June, 1971, p. 28). The problems are not insurmountable if they can be approached this way. Nader feels that
the solution to the pollution problem lies in two areas: Greater legal rights and representation for individuals to sue companies that pollute; and developing an economic set of sanctions which would make it more costly to pollute than not to pollute.

General comments on Nader's speech centered not on what he said, but on the selection of such a broad general speech on pollution to an audience that was expecting criticism focusing on practices within the golf industry. GCSAA officials expressed disappointment over the breadth of Nader's speech. It had been hoped that controversy could have been generated, so that the industry could examine its practices. Regardless of this criticism of Nader's speech, his topic on the general dimensions of environmental pollution cannot be ignored.

Following the keynote speech, the session continued with the theme directed toward environmental problems. One point overemphasized by several speakers in the opening session was their alarm at the path the nation is taking on certain chemicals. One speech emphasized too much the relative toxicity of aspirin and alcohol versus chemicals used on the golf course. This type of analogy tells us nothing about the toxicity of chemicals used on the golf course. All chemicals, even table salt, are dangerous if used incorrectly, the speaker concluded. Speakers in the opening session frequently characterized or labeled opponents of the use of chemicals as "instant" ecologists or environmentalists. This labeling muddies the issue. The golf course superintendent, by the very nature of his profession and responsibilities, is an ecologist—or he should be. What the speakers should have done, instead of saying we have nothing to fear from these chemicals if used correctly, is to offer sane approaches to the problem: How can the superintendent influence favorable legislation, and the use of alternative chemicals if some of the traditional ones are banned?

Perhaps the highlight of the educational side of the conference was the response to the session on golf cars. This is the first year that a whole morning session has been devoted to this area, and the speeches as well as the reaction of the audience was interesting. The speakers were leading golf car manufacturers and most noticeably restrained from any "plugs." There were very few empty seats in the 1,600-seat auditorium as the session progressed.

Highlights from the session included this statement by a golf car manufacturer that was echoed by other manufacturers, "I am recommending (to clubs) that the service maintenance of golf cars should be under the supervision of the golf course superintendent," the speaker said. "I am also recommending that the superintendent's annual operating budget be increased by a substantial amount to help you cover the cost of providing this service and to be able to afford a better job of maintaining your fairways and greens."

Another fine speech was on the golf car and the legal responsibilities of the club. As the number of golf cars increase, so will the number of accidents and the number of lawsuits. Although many accidents are caused by drivers, the club may be liable for improperly designed car paths or improperly maintained golf cars. One fine solution to solving the accidents passed along the problems we have created to their generation. If we do, they could become psychologically adapted to a poor environment and also take no action. While we may become psychologically adapted, we are not physiologically adapted to a poor environment."

The most significant renovation in the present system must be in adopting national standards Nader believes. Otherwise companies will play states against states. "State pollution laws are ineffective because companies keep states from enforcing these laws," Nader said. "They use a form of environmental blackmail. They threaten to pull out of the state causing unemployment and a loss of revenue, to a state with less stringent pollution laws."
GCSAA from page 83
was this statement: "We strongly recommend that your board of directors, when appointing various committees each year, should appoint a safety chairman and committee to be concerned with safety in the showers, on stairways... as well as how to drive a golf car. It is important to study accidents getting ready to happen."

The sessions on "Men, Machinery and Management," as well as the technical sessions, provided fine suggestions for improving the personal and professional status of the superintendent.

On the show side, the manufacturers and superintendents were in accord that this was one of the finest shows ever. Most exhibitors felt that superintendents were taking more time this year to stop in at individual booths and become acquainted with both the people and the products. The mechanical trap rakes caused by far the greatest interest in any single equipment line. Their performance on steeply-banked, deep traps will be closely watched by superintendents. Big sales in this area may not be realized until an evaluation can be made of their versatility to the trap terrain of individual courses.

One manufacturer offered "short" courses and films on its training center for mechanics. This was received very favorably by superintendents and may be picked up next year by other manufacturers. Automatic irrigation manufacturers were pleased with the response and enthusiasm generated by superintendents.

The site for 1973 is Boston and the date is January 7 to 12. There was some criticism among superintendents about placing the show at a site which will undoubtedly be having cold, bad weather and timing it just after the holiday season. As long as the principle of having different sections host the show continues, the problem will always develop, such as two or three years in a cold spot in a row, followed by two or three years in a warm climate in a row. A solution would be to alternate the show sites annually between warm and cold climates. This would allow the golf

continued on page 82

SEWER-LESS FLUSHING TOILETS
Used by National Park Service, AEC, NASA, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, FAA, Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers

Jet-O-Matics are completely self-contained.
Completely non-polluting.
Jet-O-Matics save money. They eliminate costly sewer and pressure-water connections. They reduce the expense of frequent servicing of holding tanks. They save excessive water expenditures by 99%.
And Jet-O-Matics save the environment by totally eliminating underground leaching.
FREE! 16-page color brochure on Jet-O-Matics for existing facilities or outdoor applications.

MONOGRAM INDUSTRIES, INC.
6357 Arizona Circle, Los Angeles 90045
For more information circle number 220 on card

COMPLETE GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
Also rebuild, move tees and greens, install watering systems.

IBERIA
EARTHEMOVING SERVICE, INC.
IBERIA, OHIO • Ph. Galion, O. 419 468-5454
For more information circle number 151 on card

SAFARI
SPECIALISTS IN COLD WATER
... where you want it! ... when you want it!
GAS-FIRED Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers
Safari Electric Drinking Fountains Unconditionally Guaranteed never to burn out due to drop in line voltage.

SAFARI (DEPT. G)
591 N.E. 5th Street, Pompano Beach Florida 33060
Phone (305) 942-8076
For more information circle number 160 on card

INCREASE EARNINGS, SERVICE & SPACE
Remodel your present storage space, update with...

NEW Stafford VERTICAL BAG RACKS
• Wear and tear of golf bags is completely eliminated
• Damp bags dry faster — no mildew
• Faster, easier storage
• Provides a neat appearance
• Easy to install and add more as needed

Your members will like the extra convenience and care. Your pro shop profits from 40% more space these racks make available. Double unit shown holds 16 bags, size 2" x 4" x 6'-5" high, gives 12" x 12" space for bags. Single unit holds 8, size 1' x 4' x 6'-5" high. Sturdy steel. Bags set solid on tapered shelves. Send us your floor measurements, we will plan a layout and quote you — no obligation. U.S. and Canadian patents. Send for folder.

The A.G. STAFFORD Co.
2000 Allen Ave., S. E.
Box 8877, Canton, O. 44711
Phone 216/453-8431
For more information circle number 167 on card
tournament to be played at the convention site at least every other year.

Another comment on the Boston show was the fact that exhibits would be held on two floors, instead of in one big hall. Although this might create a second-class image such as the Professional Golfers' Assn. is trying to overcome with their two tent system, I don't think this argument is valid in view of the attitude and attention that superintendents gave manufacturers this year. They are spending more time seeing everyone, and not just concentrating on some of the "giants" booths.

The smoothness and success of the show can be credited to the hard work done by the GCSAA executive committee. The educational sessions started and ended on time. Although several competitors were placed side by side and some manufacturers had to hide in the shadows of bigger exhibitors or in remote corners, the intense attention exhibitions are receiving from superintendents should eliminate these problems almost entirely in future shows.

VANDALISM  
cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in particular. Ice skating on the club lake or pond, under controlled access conditions, might also be considered. Sledding also, as mentioned previously, can be destructive and costly. It need not be, however. When the ground freezes solid and a heavy layer of snow puts the fairways to sleep for the season, advantage could be taken to involve the young people in the life of a golf course. Any layout with a decent hill can become a winter paradise for the family sledding crowds.
Vandalism, possibly today's most difficult problem for superintendents will always be a source of frustration and destruction.

The percentage of dollar impact on maintenance cost will always include a share for vandalism.

Meeting the vandalism problem head on with specific preventive measures is a necessity. It might also be wise to look into long-range planning as a way of cutting down the overwhelming percentages.

JOBS OPEN

REPS WANTED. Manufacturer of fast-selling repeating golf accessory used on all golf courses. Sells itself when displayed. Write Box 401, c/o GOLFDOM.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT—East Tennessee Country Club—18 holes—New—Complete facilities—Resume—Salary requirements. Write Box 402, c/o GOLFDOM.

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT needed to run jobs: Good pay—fringe benefits—vacations and opportunity to buy in. Write to Bob Jordan, 821 Oakwood Rd., East Peoria, III. 61611.

SUPERINTENDENT OR GOOD ASSISTANT. Seasonal or Full Time, 18 Hole Public Golf Course Modern Workshop. All Up-to-date Equipment. Owner wants to turn over full responsibility to the right man. Living quarters on premises. Send resume to Box 404, c/o GOLFDOM.

JOBS WANTED

CLUB MANAGER AND WIFE TEAM. 25 years experience in all club operations. Best references. Write Box 405, c/o GOLFDOM.

USED GOLF CARS FOR SALE

USED CUSHMAN, HARLEY, WESTINGHOUSE GOLF CARS FOR SALE. Reconditioned or as is—gas and electric. Complete line of Cushman parts available. RESORT GOLF CAR RENTALS, Box 338, Woodridge, N.Y. 12789. (914) 434-4011.

GOLF COURSES: Want to sell a golf course? Want to sell a golf course? Write to us—we specialize in Golf Course transactions. Ask for Golf Consultant. McKay Realty Co., 15553 N. East St., Lansing, Michigan 48906.

REAL ESTATE

EASTERN—SO. EASTERN GOLF COURSES WANTED. EXPERT APPRAISALS. LIST WITH US FOR FAST RESULTS. PALMETTO REALTY, NEW ELLERTON, S.C. SPECIALIZING IN GOLF COURSES. PHONES: (803) 652-7212; (803) 652-2855.

MISCELLANEOUS

ANY IDEAS, INVENTIONS, INNOVATIONS that pertain to golf, write us . . . we sell, manufacture and distribute. Write Box 403, c/o GOLFDOM.

MITCO PAYS THE FREIGHT: NEW NYLON, FIRST LINE, FOUR PLY TUBELESS GOLF CART TIRES: 18x9: 50x8—$12.50; 18x8: 50x8—$11.50; 800 x 6 TUBE TYPE—$11.50. SHIPPED PREPAID ANYWHERE IN THE USA—CASH WITH ORDER. OR 25% DEPOSIT. BALANCE C.O.D. CREDIT EXTENDED TO RATED ACCOUNTS. MITCO, BOX 1856, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37407. PHONE (615) 624-9955—WRITE FOR WHOLESALE DEAL.

USED GOLF CAR CLEARING HOUSE. We have every make and model golf car in stock. If we don't have the golf car you want we will get it. Write or call collect for the golf cars of your choice. As is or reconditioned. Any quantity at the lowest possible prices and we handle the freight. NEDA Northeast Dealers Association, 420 Penn Street, Spring City, Pa. 19475. (215) 935-1111.


Stack tires Golfcart—Armstrong First Quality 18x850x8 - $10.70—18x950x8 - $10.95—800x6—$10.70—600x6 Specials - $7.00. Quantity discount for 12 or more. Other sizes available. Net. FOB. PUBLIC SERVICE TIRE, 175-D Hempstead Avenue, West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552.