

GCSAA CONFERENCE

It was a week for records in Boston, as a record of exhibitors and superintendents. Keen interest and conference and show

The 44th Annual Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America International Turfgrass Conference and Show, held in Boston January 7 to 12, produced another record showing.

More than 4,300 superintendents, exhibitors, green chairmen and wives braved the sub-zero Boston weather to attend the proceedings.

The conference had an international flavor, with over 70 superintendents, club owners and manufacturers attending from all over the world. Represented were Japan, Germany, France, Guam, Canada, Switzerland and Spain.

Although programmed for golf course superintendents, the conference this year was open to non-association members, students and persons in allied industries.

The educational seminars held throughout the week attracted more attention this year than last; some 50 speakers, including outstanding golf course superintendents, research scientists, agronomists and officials of other golf agencies highlighted a five-day educational program, which provided several special clinics.



AND SHOW IN REVIEW:

freeze failed to daunt a record attendance
 good selling climate punctuated another successful
 by STEPHEN W. BYERS



Record seminar attendance proved Robert V. Mitchell, past GCSAA president, correct in his prediction that this year's conference would be the most significant yet in view of the many drastic changes taking place in golf course maintenance.

Attendants had an opportunity to compare notes on such topics



as the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA); pesticides; putting green construction; changes in automatic irrigation concepts, and superintendent responsibility before, during and after tournaments.

It appeared that the keynote speaker, Dr. Harvey L. Hahn, pastor emeritus, Otterbein United Methodist Church of Dayton, Ohio, aroused less enthusiasm than last year's choice, consumer advocate, Ralph Nadar. Dr. Hahn's desultory address was inspirational, but lacked relevance to the golf industry and general mood of the conference. His best effort at bending his speech to the purpose of the occasion was his statement, that "The golf courses of America have been valuable in maintaining the mental stability of the American public."

The seminars on Changes in Automatic Irrigation Concepts engendered the most superintendent interest. James M. Latham Jr. discussed the many factors bearing on water requirements of turf, and Ed Shoemaker, national sales manager of Rain Bird Mfg. Corp., presented the hazards to successful installation of automatic irrigation systems and posed methods of avoiding them.



Dr. James Watson, vice president of The Toro Company, Minneapolis, presented a discussion of what constitutes soil pollution; the minimal contribution of golf courses to this pollution was heartening to attendants in light of the recent flurry of criticism in this connection. "In the main," he said, "golf courses do more good, ecologically, than virtually any aspect of group activity or recreation one can call to mind."

Another well received presentation was that of Dr. Leonard Goldwater on the affect of the Environmental Protection Act on golf



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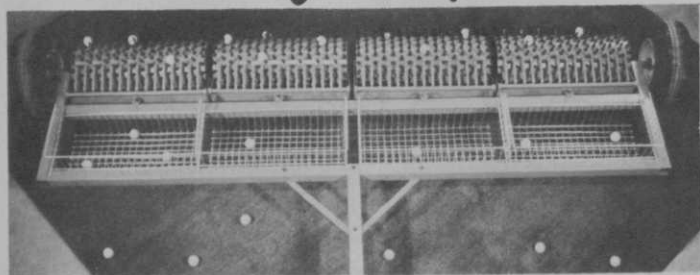
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course use of mercury compounds in fungicides and pesticides.

John Jackman, superintendent of Medinah (Ill.) CC, was encouraging in his speech on how to bear up under the restrictions of anti-burning laws.

Dr. Coleman Y. Ward strongly recommended that future research in putting green construction should be devoted to techniques in constructing greens with emphasis on developing less costly construction methods that will yield more predictable results.

The show portion, held in John B. Hynes Civic Auditorium, featured the latest in turf care machinery and services and produced a record 150 exhibitors in 42,000-square feet of space on two floors. A good selling market lasted throughout.

Attendants seemed to take more time viewing exhibits this year than at Cincinnati, and many exhibits lacked sufficient booth personnel to handle the crowds of interested lookers.

Superintendents were particularly enthused about new aeration equipment on exhibit, which promised deeper penetration, and the new blanket type fungicide that spreads on in the form of thick foam, which manufacturers claim is superior to conventional spray application because it loses less potency to the atmosphere and covers more uniformly.

Several exhibits had daily giveaway drawings, which attracted large crowds at four o'clock when the winners were announced.

A complete social program planned by the GCSA of New England, for the more than 600 wives attending the show, partly assuaged the women's mute indignation at being separated from their husbands on the first day of the show. The GCSAA staff stood firm in its belief that a men-only policy for the first day of the show was more conducive to getting initial business out of the way.

A few members and exhibitors were justifiably unhappy that the show was spread over two floors. A certain feeling of disunity and isolation was evident, and many complained about the time required to

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get from one floor to the other and of the strict GCSAA policy of demanding member badges to be shown when passing between floors. However, attendants quickly adjusted to these conditions and there was little mention of them by mid-week.

Some members were disturbed by the GCSAA's announcement of its intended move from Des Plaines, Ill., to Lawrence, Kan. They were not as concerned with the change in location as with the lack of communication regarding the move. Some members were already aware of the proposed relocation, but to others the announcement came as a surprise.

The results of the election of officers at the Annual Membership Meeting on January 10 posed no surprises. Clifford Wagoner, superintendent at Del Rio G & CC, Modesto, Calif., succeeded Robert V. Mitchell as president. Charles G. Baskin of Waterbury, Conn., was elected vice president and Palmer Maples Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., was elected secretary-treasurer. Newly-elected directors included George W. Cleaver, Lutherville, Md. and Gordon C. Witteveen of Toronto, Can.; Theodore W. Woehle of Birmingham, Mich., and Carlton Gipson of Conroe, Tex., continue on the executive committee as directors.

"The Conference this year has been the best ever both in terms of our educational program and the broad and extensive display of equipment and products," stated newly-elected GCSAA president, Clifford Wagoner. "Record crowds and exhibitors attended this conference and we expect to exceed these records in 1974."

Anaheim, Calif., has been selected as the site for the 45th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, to be held February 12 to 17, 1974, at Anaheim Convention Center.

The GCSAA executive committee is to be congratulated for a successful, smooth running conference. And if the progressive interest and attendance demonstrated by the last several years is any indication, 1974 will produce even better results. □

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At a meeting of the Board of Governors of Woodway Country Club, Inc. held on January Seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy One, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

W e your associates on the Board of Governors acting for the membership at large, wish to express appreciation to you,

HARRY M. DAY

by electing you to Honorary Membership in Woodway Country Club, such recognition to become effective at such juncture. This high and unusual honor is conferred for your enjoyment.

F or your skillful and devoted service as a Member of the Board, Chairman of Green and Grounds and President of the Corporation over a period of fifteen years. Your efforts have inspired and encouraged your associates.

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