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 confer-
ence 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 in-
dustry and general mood of the
conference. His best effort at bend-
ing 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 en-
gendered the most superintendent
interest. James M. Latham Jr. dis-
cussed 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 installa-
tion of automatic irrigation systems
and posed methods of avoiding them.

Dr. James Watson, vice president
of The Toro Company, Minneapo-
lis, presented a discussion of what
constitutes soil pollution; the mini-
mal contribution of golf courses to
this pollution was heartening to at-
tendants in light of the recent flurry
of criticism in this connection. “In
the main,” he said, “golf courses do
more good, ecologically, than vir-
tually any aspect of group activity
or recreation one can call to mind.”

Another well received presenta-
tion was that of Dr. Leonard
Goldwater on the affect of the En-
vironmental Protection Act on golf
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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 exhibits 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 give-away 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 Plains, 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 Wagener, 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. Woe-hole 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 Wagener. “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.