Pistol Pete
The show’s last day may have included its best seminar, “Current Issues in Golf: Preparation for Major Golf Events,” which featured architect Pete Dye; golf instructor Dave Pelz; superintendent Paul Latshaw Jr. of Oak Hill CC in Rochester, N.Y., site of this year’s PGA Championship; and superintendent Dave Ward of Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, site of this year’s U.S. Open.

Dye, who received the GCSAA’s Old Tom Morris Award, showed no signs that he was recovering from recent colon cancer surgery. The 77-year-old was as spunky as ever, especially when talking about new golf balls. Take it away, Pete:

“The ball is going further for the good player, but it’s not going an inch further for Maple Smith, who tees off on Tuesday morning and hits the ball 135 yards. Martha Burk ought to yell at the golf course manufacturers who are discriminating against all those women who play your golf courses. She should quit worrying about getting someone in Augusta. Hootie’s made a mess of that anyhow.”

Girls Talk
How can women turf professionals effectively contribute to their own career success and to the success of other women in the field? And what kinds of
"Somehow there’s this feeling that we’ve forgotten where we’ve come from, and we don’t think about the little guys, which is totally false. Every decision we make is based on how it will affect little guys."

— Jon Maddern, new GCSAA president and certified superintendent of Elk Ridge GC in Atlanta, Mich.

“It’s therapy for me. That’s why I still talk about it.”

— Capt. Al Haynes, keynote speaker at GCSAA’s Golf General Session, on why he continues to recount the events of July 19, 1989, when the United Airlines flight he piloted crash-landed.

“Will you sell us some USGA letterhead?”

— A superintendent to a USGA agronomist during a seminar emphasizing that green committees seem to trust USGA Green Section members more than they trust their own superintendents.

“When, at 16, I informed my bewildered parents that I had decided to go to college to become a superintendent, they looked at me as if they had suddenly realized their daughter was developmentally challenged.”

— Ann Weaver, certified superintendent of Capital City Golf in Sacramento, Calif, on joining the business.

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initiatives might the GCSAA undertake to facilitate that? These were the challenges laid down by moderator Andrea Bakalyar at the start of the “Women-Led Success” panel discussion.

The four women superintendents on the panel were:

- Bakalyar, superintendent of The Wee Course at Williams Creek in Knoxville, Tenn.;
- Debbie Amirault, superintendent of Mayfair Golf & CC in Edmonton, Alberta;
- Kathy Antaya, certified superintendent, formerly with the USGA Green Section’s Northeast Region; and
- Ann Weaver, certified superintendent of Capital City Golf in Sacramento, Calif.

Bakalyar emphasized the importance of active networking, relating how, in an effort to feel less isolated among a nearly all-male class, she founded the student GCSAA chapter at the University of Maryland’s turf program and became active in the GCSAA’s national-level student committees. These activities put

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A New Look

Karl Danneberger, Ohio State University turfgrass specialist and Golfdom’s chief science editor, told superintendents to avoid “mechanistic” approaches to turfgrass management. “If you understand the underlying principles of turfgrass ecosystems, designing a management program is pretty simple,” he said.

Danneberger’s basic thrust was to avoid looking for cookbook solutions and to become more familiar with what makes the turfgrass tick. High on his list of priorities is to understand how integrated pest management works. “If you understand the underlying principles, you don’t need to worry about mechanistic management,” Danneberger said.

This means realizing that different solutions will (or will not) work for different varieties of grass, in shady or sunny areas of a green, at different times of the season or with different pests.
Bakalyar in touch with many experienced professionals, including The Honors Course's David Stone, who recognized her potential and became an active mentor early in her career. Stone hired Bakalyar as an assistant superintendent and served as the image of the kind of superintendent and the kind of person Bakalyar wanted to become.

"Image goes way beyond what you wear," Bakalyar said. "Image has to do with who you are and what attitudes you've decided to adopt toward challenges."

Things have changed, but many things have remained the same with the Green Section, Snow said. Back in the 1950s, superintendents subscribed to the Green Section's service for many of the same reasons they do today — to establish long-range plans and preventive maintenance programs; to use as a sounding board for ideas; and to provide a communication link between superintendents and course officials.

Snow also threw out some amazing statistics at the conclusion of his speech. For instance, USGA agronomists have logged more than 75,000 visits to golf courses and driven more than 16 million miles to get to courses in the past 50 years. Here's to more visits and miles in the next 50.
Ambitious Audubon
Audubon International launched two new programs at its Environmental Leadership Summit held during the show, designed to grow the organization and expand its influence beyond the golf industry.

The first program is designed to get 50 percent of golf courses to sign up for Audubon International’s Cooperative Sanctuary program in the next five years. The second plan even more ambitiously hopes to create Cooperative Sanctuary communities throughout the United States.

“The golf industry has an opportunity to be the leader in transforming the United States into a country that values sustainable development,” said Ron Dodson, president of Audubon International. “We hope to be at the forefront of that movement.”

Resisting Dollar Spot
Michigan State University turfgrass researcher Joe Vargas says it’s time the industry turns its attention to developing bentgrasses that are resistant to dollar spot. Vargas spoke at Seed Research of Oregon’s annual distributor’s luncheon during the show.

“Resistant bentgrasses are necessary, and we need to stop looking at just immunity,” Vargas said. “We’re in a critical time, and we need to get some bentgrasses that are resistant to dollar spot.”

Vargas showed slides of bentgrass ridden with dollar spot. He pointed to patches of turf that seemed free of the disease while it flourished around them. He said turf experts need to study those patches that seem resistant to dollar spot.

Rock ‘n Roll and Briggs & Stratton
The press room at the Georgia World Congress Center pulsed with a driving rock beat as journalists gathered before a Briggs & Stratton press conference.

“Is that Lynryd Skynyrd I hear?” one editor asked. “Actually, it’s Briggs & Stratton music,” Schmaderer said.

Schmaderer went on to explain that Briggs & Stratton wanted to create its own music to get the editors hopping before its press conference. Kent Lammert, another Swanson Russell associate, wrote

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the song, called *Trust the Power*, which highlighted Briggs & Stratton's marketing slogan for the new Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power Group.

Then the company hired a Lincoln, Neb.-based band called The V Twins to record the song, hoping the rock anthem would energize the editors before they listened to the company's pitch.

Judging by the large number of heads bobbing up and down to the beat, they were successful.

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Golfdom's Larry Aylward, Frank H. Andorka Jr., Lynne Brakeman and

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Face Off: Superintendent Challenges Gold Medal Grappler

By Frank H. Andorka Jr, Managing Editor

It was billed as a smackdown match between Syngenta Professional Products and 2000 Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling gold medalist Rulon Gardner. It almost ended up as a victory for certified superintendent John Fulling Jr. from Kalamazoo (Mich.) CC.

Gardner spoke at the invitation-only Syngenta get-together during the GCSAA show in Atlanta. His motivational speech emphasized the importance of perseverance and hard work. As he recounted his gold-medal-winning match with the Russian wrestler (who hadn't been defeated in 13 years before Gardner beat him), he called for a volunteer from the audience so he could demonstrate his winning move.

Fulling was easily the audience's choice. Fulling, tall, muscular and bigger than Gardner, looked like he might be an Olympic wrestler himself. After engaging the superintendent in a clench and demonstrating his medal-winning move, Gardner asked the crowd if it wanted to see them wrestle for real. The crowd shouted for more.

So Fulling and Gardner faced off and clenched. As they grappled and their ties flew up in the air, Fulling got the upper hand. He clenched Gardner's white shirt so tightly he tore a hole in it, eliciting a gasp from the crowd.

Could there be more in the making?

Actually, no. Fulling, in his excitement, overextended himself. Gardner, quick as a cat, extricated himself with the deft moves that made him an Olympic champion. Both men breathed heavily as they recovered from the impromptu match. A wag from the audience asked Fulling what he had done to almost get the victory.

His chest heaving, Fulling said, "When I start breathing again, I'll let you know."

The crowd erupted in laughter.

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