

## THREE TO RECEIVE GCSAA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Three Distinguished Service Awards, one of them posthumous, will be presented during the opening session of the 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America January 25-30 in Anaheim, Calif. The Distinguished Service Award which recognizes outstanding service to the golf course superintendent's profession is the highest honor GCSAA bestows upon an individual.

The posthumous award will go to the late Hans C. Schmeisser, superintendent of Forest Hill Golf Club, West Palm Beach, Fla., until his death Oct. 26 at the age of 88. Golf course architect Geoffrey S. Cornish and Dr. Ralph E. Engel, research professor in turfgrass management at Rutgers University, will receive the other two awards. Cornish, a Canadian golf course architect who was trained under Stanley Thompson, is responsible for the design of many of New England's best known golf courses. A former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Cornish holds degrees from the University of British Columbia and the University of Massachusetts. From 1947 to 1952 he taught at the University of Massachusetts and since 1966 has been a special lecturer there. Cornish who also is an honorary member of the British golf course architects' association has planned more than 170 courses in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Engel, research professor of turf management at Rutgers for more than 33 years also will receive a Distinguished Service Award. Engel's research interests have been varied, including moisture stress, cultivation practices, turf-type ryegrasses, pre-emergent crabgrass and goosegrass herbicides, goosegrass germination temperatures and seeding habits, zoysia tolerance to triazine herbicides, annual bluegrass encroachment into bentgrass and dormant fertilization. Engel, a member of GCSAA's Educational Advisory Council, has conducted a number of GCSAA educational programs and seminars including presentations at 12 GCSAA International Turfgrass Conferences. He also has served as administrative advisor and instructor of turf management courses in the Rutgers Winter Turf Program. He served on the Silvēx Assessment Team for the U.S. Dept. Agriculture and has been a leading influence in the trend to low rates of nitrogen for reducing bentgrass failure. He also is a proponent of cultivation and topdressing as a means of reducing thatch and has recommended low phosphorus for annual bluegrass suppression in bentgrass turf. More than 100 superintendents in the New York-New Jersey area and nine university turf specialists have studied under Engel. A fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, he has written extensively on turf-related problems and research.

Schmeisser, born and educated in Germany, came to the U.S. in the 1920's to develop the landscaping at Everglades City, Fla. He designed and built his first course which was one of the first golfing facilities in Florida. He was instrumental in establishing the first association of golf course superintendents in Florida, was one of the nation's leading golf course superintendents and designers and was involved in the design and building or reconstruction of more than 30 golf courses, most of them in Florida. He was the first to plant Australian Pines and Malalucca trees on the Florida west coast and was one of the first to experiment with the pesticide 2, 4-D, six years before the chemical was commercially available. He was the father of Otto Schmeisser, superintendent of the Everglades Club, Palm Beach and John Schmeisser, an associate of golf course architect Robert Trent Jones. Schmeisser was active in GCSAA affairs, served as president of both the Florida Turf Grass Association and the South Florida GCSAA and taught turfgrass management at Palm Beach Junior College. He also was a member of the Palm Beach Country Horticulture Board and the Palm Beach GCSA.