An in-depth look at the environmental and regulatory aspects of designing and operating golf courses brought senior golf industry officials and government representatives face to face in a forum sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Leaders from golf's professional associations heard presentations from regulatory and congressional officials on subjects ranging from pesticide use to wetlands management. The day-long forum, "Golf Course Management, Government Regulations and the Future," was held in Arlington, Va., in late June.

Representatives from the United States Golf Association, PGA of America, PGA Tour, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association, National Golf Course Owners Association, National Golf Foundation, Club Managers Association of America and the National Club Association were among those in attendance.

In opening remarks, GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, explained why the association felt it was important to take the lead in addressing environmental concerns.

"The superintendent, after all, is the bottom-line, hands-on manager," Cadenelli said. "We make the decisions on how the golf course is managed and what products are used in that management. It is GCSAA’s role to serve as a source for the latest information through its publications, educational opportunities and forums like we are having today."

Eight key regulatory officials briefed forum attendees on current proposed rules affecting golf. Lewis Crampton, associate administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), urged the golf industry to continue its environmental efforts and to be environmentally conscious.

"Golf courses have to be environmentally friendly places if the industry wants to continue to grow," he said. "Golf, however, is doing a number of positive things in the environmental area," Crampton continued. "Those include pesticide reduction, better environmentally designed courses and underground storage tank replacement. We would like to make this a win-win situation, but the golf industry must continue to respond."

Crampton lauded GCSAA and the EPA for the cooperative public service announcement entitled "Think Before You Apply," which was produced to educate homeowners on the proper use of home lawn-care chemicals.

Also addressing the forum was Congressman Jimmy Hayes (D-La.). Hayes is the sponsor of House Resolution 1330, a wetlands bill that would allow use, value and function criteria to determine the classification of wetland sites. The present wetlands policy, according to Hayes, is confusing and may not let homeowners know for years whether they are in violation of a wetlands law.

Following the formal presentations, representatives of the allied associations of golf participated in a round-table discussion of the government regulations and the challenges that are facing the game of golf.

Pesticide Application—
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Rinse pads likely will be required in areas where concentrated pesticides are routinely transferred. This regulation would affect golf courses that do most of their mixing in the same location.

"Even though the storage requirements may not affect golf course superintendents, they should provide good standards to those courses who are building or remodeling their pesticide storage facilities," Zidik said.

November Conference Trade Show Is Rapidly Taking Shape

The 1991 Annual Conference and Trade Show sponsored by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association is rapidly taking shape.

Several outstanding speakers have been lined up for the session to be held November 20-21-22 at the Northland Inn, which proved to be a tremendous site for the conference a year ago.

"Heavy hitters" already on tap for the three-day gathering, according to Chairman Shane Andrews, Hudson Country Club, are:

• Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan State University;
• Dr. James Watson, The Toro Company;
• Bobbie Gee, highly-respected motivational speaker;
• Ward Stienstra, expert on the use of mercury.

Other speakers and presenters will be announced in the October issue of Hole Notes, along with the complete program.

Registration forms for the November conference and trade show will be mailed in October.

Dr. Watson will be the keynote speaker following registration on Wednesday (November 20). Bobbie Gee is scheduled to address attendees before the business meeting that afternoon.

Dr. Rieke will speak on both Thursday and Friday, the day when Ward Stienstra will provide updates on the use of mercury.

The Trade Show will be held on Thursday, and times and subjects were in the process of being confirmed when this issue of Hole Notes went to press.

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