Dan Dinelli, CGCS, of the North Shore Country Club, in Glenview, IL, north of Chicago, had a well-deserved star turn on television recently during the Senior Tour. Dan was on camera, accepting the 2000 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award from Scott Todd of the Scotts Co., Marysville, OH.

The award was presented officially at GCSAA’s 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans in February.

Dan, of course, is one of the field advisors to TurfGrass TRENDS. The Tradition of Excellence Award recognizes outstanding achievements among golf course superintendents who are dedicated to advancing the science of course maintenance and making golf the best it can be. Dinelli is the seventh recipient of the annual peer-nominated award.

IPM (integrated pest management) and biological pest management are Dinelli’s strong points. As a result of his efforts, the North Shore Country Club was certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program in 1998.

Dinelli also mentors and teaches techniques. In 1997, a putting green was built at North Shore to evaluate bentgrass varieties for sponsors GCSAA, USGA and NTEP. The green is still used today. Dinelli has worked with the University of Illinois on use of various composts on turfgrasses. He also serves on the state Turfgrass Research Review Committee. He teaches a seminar on golf course management at Harper College and has served on the college’s Park Management and Horticulture Advisory Committee for 15 years.

Selection for the Tradition of Excellence Award is based on several criteria: teaching and mentoring, leadership, environmental responsibility, research and innovation in cultural or management practices, and professional involvement.