

# 51st INTERNATIONAL Turfgrass Conference And Show



"CONSERVATION.... OUR KEY TO THE FUTURE"

**FEBRUARY 17-22, 1980  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

## GCSAA Conference, Show Set For St. Louis

A record number of golf course superintendents, educators, manufacturers and visitors from all facets of the green industry are expected to meet in St. Louis Feb. 17-22, 1980, during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 51st International Turfgrass Conference and Show, the world's largest forum for the golf turf industry.

The conference and show will take place in St. Louis' new Alphonso J. Cervantes Convention and Exhibition Center, the centerpiece of a recent reconstruction effort which has made St. Louis one of the nation's most attractive convention cities.

A total of 66 speakers, including keynote speaker David T. McLaughlin, president of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute and chairman of the board of The Toro Company, will take part in the conference education program. The four-day education program will include nine sessions relating to the conference theme, "Conservation...Our Key to the Future."

Running concurrently with the education sessions will be GCSAA's 51st International Turfgrass Show, the world's largest exhibition of golf turf products, equipment and accessories. More than 200 firms have already contracted for exhibit space, and individual attendance is expected to break the previous record of 6,500 set last year in Atlanta, Ga.

Last year, 225 exhibitors used 4.5 acres of exhibit space to display \$2.5 million worth of equipment, accessories and turf products, and an even larger show is expected this year.

GCSAA's membership meeting, which sets the course of the association for the next year, is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20. New officers will be elected and members will have a chance to discuss policies which will guide the association through 1980.

The social highlight of the conference week will be GCSAA's annual banquet and show in the grand ballroom of Stouffer's Riverfront Thursday, Feb. 21. The Purdue Glee Club and a comedian will be featured, and a dance band will play until after midnight.

Spouses will find plenty to do in St. Louis during the conference week. Three tours of the city have been arranged, and a hospitality suite in GCSAA's headquarters hotel, Stouffer's Riverfront Towers, will be in operation all week. Tours will include a shopping spree in the Plaza Frontenac Mall, a tour of the riverfront and downtown area and a visit to the site of the 1904 World's Fair, now the home of the St. Louis Art Museum, the St. Louis Zoo, the McDonnell Planetarium and the Muny Opera. Seminars, lectures, demonstrations and other activities will take place in the hospitality suite throughout the week.

Immediately after the close of conference activities Friday, Feb. 22, participants in GCSAA's annual post-conference tour and golf tournament will leave St. Louis for Guadalajara, Mexico. The tournament is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25 and 26, and optional tours of the area around Guadalajara will offer those not taking part in the tournament an ample opportunity to see one of the most picturesque parts of Mexico.

**GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT SURVEY** - A summary of the Golf Course Superintendent survey is published in this newsletter. A total of 45 superintendents responded which is approximately one-quarter of those eligible. Salaries on an average are about 10% of the overall budget. The country clubs and municipals are very similar, but the privately owned fee courses had lower budgets and lower salaries. Fringe benefits vary so no conclusion can be reached on them. The average time as a superintendent is the same for country clubs and municipals, but drops appreciably for the privately owned clubs. Whether the crew was union did not influence superintendent salaries, but it contributed in most cases to better fringe benefits. Neither the number of holes, number of rounds of golf, the length of time a superintendent was at a course, and or his responsibilities were a key to superintendent salaries.

One conclusion which can be reached from this survey is that each superintendent must be capable of not only doing a good job of maintenance, but also be capable of promoting himself as well. The supply and demand for qualified superintendents also contributes to higher salaries and better benefits. It is our opinion that even though the response from superintendents was not as great as we had hoped for the survey is representative of the area.