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Kansas City Here I Come!

Chapter Delegates Gather for 11th Annual Meeting

By Vince Keats

All aboard for Kansas City! Kansas City MO, that is, location of the 11th annual Chapter Delegates Meeting. One hundred and three chapter delegates from all over the country met on September 6th and 7th for a day and a half meeting to discuss GCSAA business and to meet with candidates running for the Board of Directors. Gary Carls, CGCS, past president of the CSANC and CGCSA, delivered an eloquent speech as he made his bid for GCSAA Director. Topics discussed at the Chapter Delegates Meeting include:

Organizational Audit

The GCSAA Board of Directors, as representatives of the membership, conducted an independent organizational audit that included a number of findings and recommendations. The audit gave the association high marks for establishing four strong goals and a clear vision held by the board and staff.

Delegates engaged in discussions and small group exercises to provide feedback on how to measure progress in achieving the association's four goals and 34 strategic indicators that have been identified. This is important to help ensure that GCSAA continues to build an association that best meets member needs, clearly defines the direction members want the association to go and clearly defines the roles of the board, chief executive officer and staff and their accountability for results.

• **Chapter/GCSAA affiliation issues**

Delegates supported a one-year extension of the current affiliation agreement, which is set to expire December 31, 2004. This will allow time to address several issues related to how GCSAA can most effectively partner with affiliated chapters in the future. A task force consisting of representatives from the Chapter Relations Committee and the Membership Committee will be appointed this fall to review these issues and bring forward a recommendation at next year's Chapter Delegates Meeting. Issues for discussion include:

Update on the financial status of the GCSAA and discussion of long-term dues pricing structure. The organization remains financially strong, despite the economic times. Delegates discussed a long-term dues pricing strategy that would include communications to the membership about the reasons for a dues increase as they are planned. This feedback will be forwarded to the Membership Committee for further discussion.

Update on the Professional Development Initiative (PDI)

The PDI was launched July 1, 2003. Delegates participated in a demonstration of Member Central. Members who do not have online access can document their points and request their transcript through GCSAA's fax on demand service at (888) 838-4419, or they can contact the service center and request information through the mail.

Certification program and exam update work is continuing on a restructure of the certification exam to a competency-based program that ties in with the 48 competencies identified through the PDI.

Articles of Incorporation and bylaws amendments for the 2004 annual meeting and election

A number of proposed amendments that will bring the association's bylaws up-to-date with the way that business is currently being conducted were presented to the delegates for their input.

Headquarters resource group location process

Pat Finlen, CGCS, he adquarters resource group chair, and Tom Mason, vice chair, presented to the delegates the location study process. Phase I of this process is to identify the stakeholders impacted, engage them in the process, and identify the strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities associated with the GCSAA's location and potential new locations. At the end of this process, if the

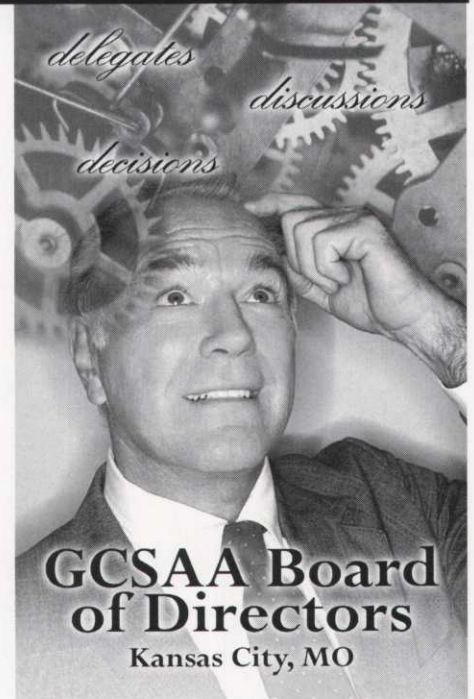


PHOTO MONTAGE BY TRICIA HILL, HILL DESIGN

conclusion is to move forward with the study, then Phase II will be implemented. Phase II is to evaluate locations, costs, positive and negative impacts on operations, and specific risks and rewards. A report will be written and submitted to the board around July 1, 2004. The report will include responses to the questions:

- Where are we now?**
- Where do we want to be?**
- What is the best plan to get from where we are, to where we want to be?**

Questions or feedback for the headquarters resource location group should be sent to location@gcsaa.org. Delegates were encouraged to gather feedback from their members and relay it to the resource group.

GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference & Show

Changes in the programming and schedule for the 2004 conference and show in San Diego were discussed with the delegates. Ideas for making this a must-attend event were shared. Delegates were reminded that a new GCSAA member receives complimentary registration to the first conference and show he/she attends. Chapters may wish to provide financial assistance to a member to help offset their travel expenses to conference and show, or ask vendors to sponsor this.

Please visit the web site at www.gcsaa.org to view the full set of outcomes from this meeting, as well as the slide presentations, notes and list of chapter delegates.

Bentgrasses for Golf Course Greens

“Final Comparative Evaluation Report”

By Ali Harivandi, William Hagan and Roy Yokote University of California Cooperative Extension

Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis Palustris* Huds.), a native of Eurasia, is the primary grass used on golf, as well as bowling, croquet and lawn tennis courts in the northern half of the United States. In California, with the exception of the southernmost and desert areas, it is the only grass used for fine putting greens at golf courses. In the past 10 years, many new and improved bentgrasses have entered the market. Increased national demand by golf course superintendents for information related to comparative performance in varying climates and under intensively managed putting conditions, led in 1997 to a joint research project on 13 golf courses across the United States. A set of evaluation trials were sponsored by: the United States Golf Association (USGA), the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Trial sites were all located on golf courses near Land Grant Universities with turfgrass research programs, or in major metropolitan areas readily accessible to a University turfgrass scientist. At each site eighteen (18) creeping bentgrass cultivars were planted on a new putting green, built according to the USGA specifications. This project differed from evaluations traditionally conducted at University Research Stations because each green is maintained in the same manner as other greens at its golf course and is used by golfers for practice putting and/or chipping.

The site chosen for the Northern California evaluation was at the Crystal Springs Golf Course (CSGC) in Burlingame on the San Mateo peninsula. In addition to CoursCo Inc., the CSGC operating group, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California, the Northern California Turf and Landscape Council and the University of California Cooperative Extension joined as the co-sponsors of this local project.

The 18 creeping bentgrasses were seeded in September 1997 on a newly built practice green at CSGC. The USGA green, and its surround, were designed and donated to the project by the Robert Trent Jones Jr. Group of Palo Alto, California. All varieties, supplied by NTEP, were planted at the rate of 1.1lb/1000 ft² in a randomized complete block design, on 10 ft x 5 ft plots with 3 replications. Seeds were planted carefully by hand to prevent contamination of adjacent plots, and then were lightly raked in. A complete fertilizer, providing 2 lbs phosphorus, 2 lbs potassium and 1 lb nitrogen per 1000 ft² was also applied at this time.

The area of the green outside the research plots was seeded with “Cobra” creeping bentgrass, and then irrigation was turned on. The green was maintained for 6 months until the grasses were well established, and in spring 1998 it was opened to use by golfers. Since then the green has been open all year for putting. The use of soft-spike shoes has been encouraged. The maintenance regime for the green since it’s opening in 1998 is as follows:

Mowing: Three times weekly at 5/32 inch, with a walk-behind mower. No rollers or groomers were used.

Cultivation/Topdressing: Spiking and ¼” Hollow-Tine aeration was done several times during the year. No verticutting was practiced, but the green was occasionally topdressed with sand.

Fertilization: Both inorganic and organic fertilizers (Milogamite) provided an average of 6 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 ft²/year.

Pesticide use: Fungicides were occasionally used as curative applications. Broadleaf herbicides was also occasionally used. No insecticides or other pesticides were ever applied.

Data collection began in January 1998. Each plot was rated monthly for overall quality on a scale of 1-9 (9=best). Color was rated on a scale of 1-9 (9=darkest green) once a year in October, when environmental stress on lowest and the full genetic color of any cultivars should be expressed. Two to three times per year, stimpmeter readings were recorded for each plot using a stimpmeter modified for use on small research plots (*This stimpmeter has its ball release notch located 15 inches, rather than 30 inches, from the beveled end.*)

The accompanying Table summarizes the combined data collected for 4 years, 1998-2001. As the final, combined multi-year data, the information provided in this table could be consulted to select the most appropriate bentgrass cultivars.

In reviewing the Table, please note values for LSD (*Least Significant Difference*). This term is used to determine statistically significant differences among cultivars for each evaluated parameter. To determine statistical differences among cultivars, subtract one cultivar’s mean rating from another cultivar’s mean rating. Statistically significant differences occur when the resulting value is larger than the corresponding LSD value. If the difference between the mean values for two cultivars within the same column is not greater than the corresponding LSD, then the two cultivars are statistically the same for that specific quality component.

For example, considering the LSD value of 0.4 given for mean turf quality ratings, there is no significant difference among the 8 top performing cultivars (“L-93” down to “SR1119”), since their mean differences are all smaller than 0.4.

Author’s Note: No part of this article, or accompanying Table, may be reprinted without the written permission of the author.

Acknowledgements: The authors wish to thank Mr. Ray Davies and all other Crystal Springs Golf Course Superintendents during the course of this study, all of CoursCo Inc., for the maintenance of the experimental green and assistance in collecting data.

Turfgrass Quality And Other Ratings Of Bentgrass Cultivators At Burlingame, CA (Crystal Springs GC) 1998-2001 Data

Turfgrass quality and other ratings 1-9, 9=BEST

Turfgrass stimpmeter readings measures in inches.

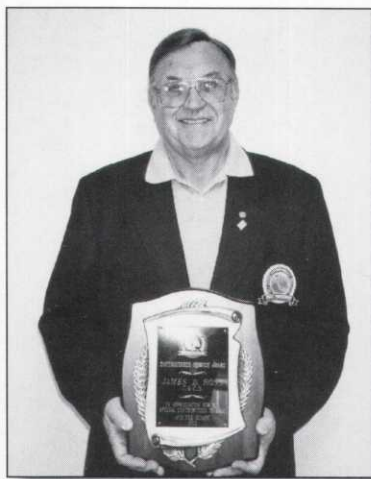
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**** If the difference between the mean for two cultivars within the same column is not greater than the corresponding LSD, then the two cultivars are statistically the same for the specific quality component.*

CULTIVAR	QUALITY	COLOR	LEAF TEXTURE	%POA 2001	STIMP METER MAY	STIMP METER OCT.
L-93	7.6	7.8	7.8	3.5	92.3	105.3
PENN A-4	7.5	6.9	7.8	3.5	100.9	112.8
PENN G-6	7.4	7.2	7.8	3.8	95.8	113.4
PENN A-1	7.3	6.8	7.6	3.8	94.7	112.7
GRAND PRIX	7.2	6.9	7.9	3.3	96.2	114.0
IMPERIAL	7.2	7.2	7.8	5.8	89.3	110.1
PENN G-1	7.2	7.2	7.5	4.4	91.7	108.8
SR 1119	7.2	7.2	7.7	5.8	90.2	114.0
BACKSPIN	7.1	6.9	8.0	4.7	93.7	109.2
CRENSHAW	7.0	7.1	7.5	3.8	95.1	116.3
CENTURY	6.9	6.6	8.0	3.8	94.4	110.5
SR 1020	6.9	6.7	7.5	6.2	95.8	111.3
VIPER	6.9	6.7	7.4	4.8	92.7	114.2
PROVIDENCE	6.8	7.2	7.5	5.0	96.7	114.6
PUTTER	6.7	6.5	7.3	5.8	94.2	113.3
TRUELINE	6.7	6.8	7.8	6.7	95.9	114.3
CATO	6.5	6.8	7.5	7.3	96.9	113.3
PENNCROSS	6.0	5.8	6.3	5.8	101.9	116.2
LSD VALUE**	0.4	1.4	0.6	11.2	33.5	27.0

James D. Ross

San Jose Superintendent bids Farewell after nearly 50 years



James D. Ross accepts the coveted GCSANC Distinguished Service Award in appreciation for his special contribution to Golf and the GCSANC.

James "Jim" D. Ross, GCSAA golf course superintendent at Santa Teresa Golf Club, San Jose, CA., has announced his retirement after 47 years in the golf-course management industry. He has been a member with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) since 1963.

Ross, who has also been a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) since 1965, began his industry career at Fort Washington Golf and Country Club in Fresno, CA., in 1956. He spent two years working for Roy King on the course and one year in the shop working for pro Art Melville.

He moved to Salinas, CA, in 1959 to help build Corral de Tierra Country Club, working closely with Buck and Obie Noonkester.

Ross landed his first position as superintendent in 1963 at La Rinconada Country Club, Los Gatos, CA., and in 1967 he supervised the construction of The Villages Golf and Country Club, San Jose, CA., where he remained for 14 years. Ross was hired at Santa Teresa Golf Club in 1981 serving as head golf course superintendent and was later promoted to design & construction superintendent. During his tenure at Santa Teresa Golf Club he designed and constructed 18 new greens and also supervised the construction of a new par-3 course at the facility.

"Jim has been instrumental in the mentoring and training of others within the turfgrass industry, many of whom have also chose to serve in the profession as golf course superintendents,"

...said Robert A. Lopic, GCSANC president. "Through his love and true passion for the game of golf, his hard work and dedication serve as a fine example to others in the industry."

Ross has been involved with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association, serving on its Board of Directors and holding office as Treasurer from 1984-86.

Throughout the years, he has been a voting delegate to the national association and has generously given of his time as a speaker at several GCSAA education seminars. He has served on the national nominating, tournaments, research and communication committees.

Ross served as president of the GCSANC in 1973 and 1981. Because of his love for the game, he helped found the GCSANC Superintendent-Professional Golf Tournament, an event where he and his team partner twice-claimed first place honors. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2002 George Santana Distinguished Service Award, the 1985 Excellence in Turfgrass Management Award and the 1982 Superintendent of the Year Award.

Because of his twelve years of dedicated service on the Landscape Advisory Committee for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Ross was recently bestowed a plaque of appreciation for his efforts in aiding the district in effective decision-making with regards to landscape and water use.

Jim and his wife Barbara are currently enjoying their retirement in a community called Yosemite Lakes Park in Coarsegold, CA., where they have a couple of acres and plenty of time to play golf. When recently asked about his long career in the turfgrass industry, Ross responded, "Golf has been my life, and I have loved every minute of it."

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