Golf greats Hurdzan, Crenshaw at GCSAA

Also on the bill at the annual show: 700 exhibitors, 78 seminars, the annual tournament, and astronaut Jim Lovell. No problem here, Houston!

The 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show, presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, features awards given to noted industry trailblazers and a talk by a pioneer who once was out of this world:

► Acclaimed golf course architect Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D., receives the GCSAA's President's Award for Environmental Leadership during the golf course industry's premier event, held Feb. 6-12 in Las Vegas. The award is presented in recognition of an individual's contribution to stewardship of natural resources.

► Ben Crenshaw receives the Association's “Old Tom Morris Award,” for his contributions to the game of golf—as both a player and agronomist—during the GCSAA Gala ‘97, on Feb. 11.

► Capt. James A. Lovell, spacecraft commander of the Apollo 13 space flight, will speak at the Saturday, Feb. 8 opening session—sponsored by United Horticultural Supply—with a presentation that includes anecdotes from the never-completed 1970 moon mission.

Many suppliers, many seminars

International exhibitors will display their products and services at the Las Vegas Convention Center Feb. 10-12. More than 450,000 square feet of convention space features equipment, architecture and turfgrass seed.

The educational sessions at this year’s show will address every management concern. In partnership with Ransomes/Cushman/Ryan, a total of 78 GCSAA seminars will be offered Thursday through Monday, Feb. 6-10, including six new seminars and eight seminar titles which will be offered twice. Conference education sessions and forums are scheduled Sunday through Wednesday, Feb. 9-12. An extra day of session and forum programming is offered at this year’s show.

The politics of golf

On Feb. 10, a panel of five golf industry experts explores how to manage the politics of the golf course in a session titled, “Politics is to Golf Courses like Drought Stress is to Turfgrass.” Each panelist will give a short presentation to provide a framework for discussion, and moderator Tommy Witt of Wynstone Golf Club, North Barrington, Ill., leads the discussion. Panelists include Dennis Lyon, CGCS, City of Aurora Golf Division; and Bob Brame, CGCS, director of the USGA Green Section North-Central Region.

A new seminar features three panelists who will relate their experiences with government regulation in the workplace. Panelists include political consultant Michael E. Dunn, with advice on how to deal effectively with government; James Hustling, CGCS, Woodbridge Golf & Country Club, Woodbridge, Calif.; and Darren Davis, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, Fla. Hustling and Davis will explain how they tackled state legislative and regulatory issues. The seminar will be held on Feb. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Journalists debate

The Government & Environmental Session, sponsored by Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products, the Jacobsen Division of Textron, Rain Bird and Pursell Industries, features a version of The McGlaughlin Group, the Washington, D.C.-based talk show. Scheduled participants are program regulars Fred Barnes and Eleanor Clift, and golf course developer Kim Richards. □