

“Robert W. Graunke, CGCS, Receives 1993 ITF Distinguished Service Award”

The 1993 Distinguished Service Award, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's highest honor, was presented during this year's 10th Annual North Central Turfgrass Exposition held November 29-December 1 at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL to Mr. Robert W. Graunke, CGCS.

Phillip H. Hall, CGCS, ITF Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the award to Mr. Graunke during the ITF Annual Meeting at NCTE on Tuesday, November 30.



Mr. Graunke, known and admired throughout the turf profession, has been involved in the golf industry for 28 years. He has worked at Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort, Galena since 1973 where he currently is Director of Golf & Grounds. In addition to his many years of work in the industry, he has been active in the Northwestern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, serving as President this year. A long-time member of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, he served on the Board of Directors for 9 years including terms as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President; he has President of ITF in 1986. A Certified Golf Course Superintendent, throughout his career, he has remained active and involved in promoting education and research in the field.

The ITF Distinguished Service Award, which has been presented since 1979, is awarded to an individual who has been or currently is an active member of ITF or the turfgrass academic community and one who has held office in a state or local turfgrass organization. The winner shall have been a dedicated promoter of the turfgrass industry, an innovator of new ideas and cultural practices in the industry, who has exhibited honesty, self discipline and a high degree of knowledge of turfgrass and the turfgrass industry.

Mr. Graunke joins the ranks of past recipients who have included, Peter Vandercook, Illinois Lawn Equipment; Carl Hopphan, Evanston Golf Club; Albie Staudt, Geneva Golf Club; Frank Stynchula, University of Illinois; ITF's first "Service Award" was presented in 1979 to Mr. Ben Warren.

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, founded in 1959, is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for turf research and education. Its membership of over 500 turfgrass professionals represent all avenues of the industry. Since its inception, ITF has awarded nearly \$500,000 for university level research in the state of Illinois. For additional information on ITF membership or activities, contact ITF headquarters at (312) 616-0800.

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