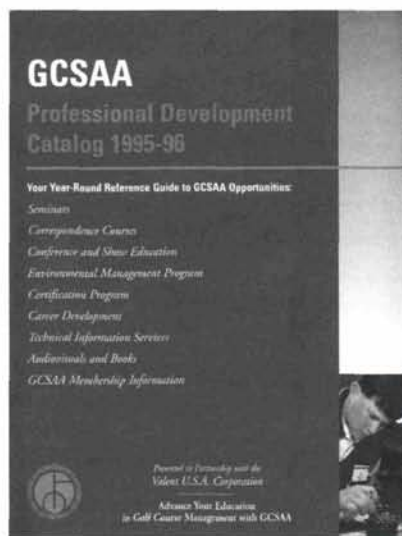


# Professional Development Catalog is key to year-round planning

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) recently distributed a new, comprehensive Professional Development Catalog that provides more information on educational opportunities and association services than any previous publication. Presented in partnership with the Valent U.S.A. Corporation, the catalog provides members a more integrated approach to GCSAA services. The Career Development section of the catalog outlines services and materials that can help individuals define a career path and achieve related career goals. For example, the Employment Referral Service, available only to GCSAA members, is a weekly list of employment opportunities. The Employment Resources Kit offers tips on topics such as how to network and prepare for interviews.

More than 160 GCSAA seminars in 80 locations across the United States and Canada are outlined in the catalog. Seven seminars, including "Lake and Aquatic Plant



Management," "Spanish and Golf Course Management," and "The Superintendent as Grow-in Manager" are offered for the first time in 1995-96. Seminars being held at GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show are described in detail as well.

Two new correspondence courses: "Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know," and "Personal Protective Equipment for

Pesticide Applicators," have been added. Eight GCSAA correspondence classes, each designed to be completed in seven to 14 hours, are now available.

Also included is information on two important GCSAA education programs: the Environmental Management Program and the Certification Program.

GCSAA Technical Information Services (TIS) listings form another large section of the catalog. TIS offers a wide selection of prepackaged materials that provide answers to some of the most common issues facing superintendents. Textbooks, GCSAA research reports, training videos and copies of GCSAA's television show, "Par for the Course," also are included in the TIS bookstore listing.

Free copies to GCSAA's Professional Development Catalog may be obtained by calling 800-472-7878.

## The Turfgrass Program in Illinois

By Bruce Branham, Associate Professor,  
University of Illinois

It is a pleasure to write my first column for "On Course" but you didn't have to change the name on my account. As a new member of the turfgrass faculty at the University of Illinois, I'm excited with the opportunities and potential for growth here in Illinois.

I just returned from my first NCTE and was pleased with the quality of the conference. I would like to hear from the Midwest Superintendents on how they would like to see the conference made more

valuable to them. I did notice that the conference appears to be more of a commuter conference than one where people stay overnight and participate in other activities. I would like to see the conference develop into a format that makes people want to stay and continue to benefit from the unique value a conference such as NCTE offers. Education and the trade show are the main missions of the NCTE although one could argue that for many golf course superintendents the GCSAA trade show suits their needs. However, the turf conference offers something that even the GCSAA national show can't offer - educational programs geared

directly to problems you face. Climate plays a huge role in how grasses grow and develop and techniques developed in other climates for other grasses may not apply in Illinois. Beyond education, however, is the chance to relax, socialize, and learn from other members of the Illinois turfgrass industry.

### Future Opportunities

My main goals at the University of Illinois are to develop a strong teaching and research program. To accomplish these goals I will need your support, and I'm glad to see that your organization has

*(continued on page 24)*

**The Turfgrass Program in Illinois**  
(continued from page 22)

already stepped forward with a \$2000 research grant. Money is very important but equally important is to have your support in other ways. For instance, the undergraduate turfgrass teaching program at the University of Illinois is relatively small and needs to grow. Most students become interested in golf turf management as a career by working on a golf course. Who do they ask for advice on how to get into the field? You, the golf course superintendent. I have a hunch that many of you have hesitated in the past to direct students towards the U of I. Let me assure you that we offer a strong educational program and are adding new courses that specialize in turf. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our teaching program.

I want to develop a strong research program at the University. In turf, we must have a broad research program that covers very applied topics such as how to improve putting green speed, to more basic research on the physiology and genetics of grass growth. The applied research is of immediate value to golf course superintendents and can be readily used in your management programs. The more basic research is necessary to understand more complex problems such as heat stress, winter injury, or other problems that relate to the physiology of the grasses.

I have one graduate student at Illinois and hope to recruit one to two more in the next 6 months. We will begin studying golf turf related topics such as annual bluegrass control, evaluation of bentgrass varieties under putting green conditions, and the evaluation of perennial ryegrass

varieties under fairway culture to get things started. These are issues that interest me and seem important to Illinois turf managers.

However, I need to know what problems Illinois superintendents face. How important is heat tolerance for turfgrasses used? Will we see a summer like 1995 soon again? Should compost be used in a top-dressing program? Your feedback is important if we are to develop research topics that are relevant to Illinois. Please let me know what you think. My phone/fax number is, (217) 333-7848, my email address is bbranham@uiuc.edu.

The key to developing a strong program is communication. I will keep you informed of the progress we are making at the University of Illinois. I hope you will keep us informed of your needs. Enjoy your winter season, March is not far away!



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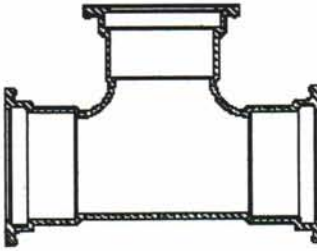
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