



Bob Williams, retired superintendent of Bob'O'Link Golf Club, was the 1997 recipient of ITF's Distinguished Service Award. When he reached the speaker's podium following an introduction that included a lengthy, but by no means complete, recitation of his many accomplishments, he looked directly at his audience and said, "I guess the older we get, the better we were."

GCSAA is growing in size and influence. Its reach spans the globe, and its mission is to represent the profession of the golf course superintendent. The MAGCS's mission is to represent and assist you, and is your voice to the GCSAA.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to have worked for Bob can remember a man who was never satisfied with the way things were. He made us think about how we could do the job better. You learned the meaning of words like "innovative," "meticulous" and "productive" when you worked on Bob'O'Link's maintenance staff. But mostly you had a wonderful model of how to conduct yourself as a professional in the person of Mr. Williams. Knowing the man as I do, I'm pretty sure that Bob would agree that when he said, "The older we get, the better we were" he actually meant, "The older we get, the better we should be."

I have been a golf course superintendent for almost 15 years, and in that 'brief' span of time I've seen our industry grow and evolve at the same breakneck pace that drives the economy in general as we race past the year 2000. Our 'royal and ancient' game of golf is deeply rooted in tradition, but on our end there is no future in saying, "But we've always done it that way." Research and development in biological control tactics, techniques in environmental enhancement and technological innovations like high-speed Internet access, global positioning systems and digital imaging have positioned themselves firmly in our workplace. Our employers rightfully rely on us to evaluate these new techniques and ideas on a continual basis with the objective being to find a better, faster, more efficient, more professional way of doing our job.

The GCSAA is in the process of formulating the Professional Development Initiative (PDI), a program using a self-assessment of proficiency in several professional categories to design a personal curriculum of continuing education. The methodology is still being worked out, but this program will have wide-ranging effects on your status regarding membership classification, educational opportunities and career development. The PDI is probably GCSAA's most ambitious venture since the Certification Program was introduced a generation ago.

You owe your employer your best effort in keeping up with the times; don't you owe yourself the same effort? Educate yourself

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about the PDI so you can make an informed decision when it comes to a vote at next year's annual meeting of the GCSAA. To that end, this year's Education Committee of the MAGCS is in the process of putting together a "PDI-heavy" education program for 2000. The program is still evolving, so much of our effort will go to keeping you abreast of things as they develop via monthly meetings, articles in *On Course* and the Midwest Turf Clinic the fall.

GCSAA is growing in size and influence. Its reach spans the globe, and its mission is to represent the profession of the golf course superintendent. The MAGCS's mission is to represent and assist you, and is your voice to the GCSAA. You may have received the MAGCS survey by now. We do this every five years or so, and it's the best way for your

Board of Directors to assess how well we are meeting your needs. If you haven't received it yet, keep your eye out for it and fill it out when it comes. It's in your own best interests.


The following members have agreed to participate in formulating this year's education program. It's a big group and I thank them for their commitment to the MAGCS. Special thanks to Kevin DeRoo for two years of hard work as Education Committee chair; I'm learning that it's not as easy as he made it look.

- Rich Daly, Water Management and Design
- Kevin DeRoo, Bartlett Hills
- David Gelino, Seven Bridges
- Nick Hongisto, Schaumburg
- Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing
- Randy Kane, Ph.D., CDGA
- Erwin McKone, River Forest
- John Meyer, Turf Partners Inc.
- Dan Murray, Settler's Hill
- Joel Purpur, River Forest
- Mark Thibault, Ruffled Feathers
- Larry Tomaszewski, Equitable Financial



Education Committee—2000

- Fred Behnke, chair
- Dan Albaugh, Ruffled Feathers
- Brad Anderson, Midlane
- Chuck Anfield, Heritage Bluffs
- Mike Bavier, Inverness
- Brian Bossert, Bryn Mawr

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