



# An Orlando Recap

*Another GCSAA annual meeting has come and gone. As promised, here are some thoughts about the 2002 Orlando conference.*

This year's show was noticeably smaller than in years past. I do not know if that is necessarily a bad thing. It was a little easier on the feet. Given the recent mergers of companies and the economic downturn, there just weren't as many companies looking for booth space. Fewer gimmick gifts were in the offing as handouts, as well. Even show pros like Ed Braunsky, who can fill up four to five bags with pens, foam balls and hats, came home with less. The show, however, is still the best place to see some of the new and old products we use. It is also the ideal place to exchange information with your peers while walking the show floor.

For the last 16 years, I have been taking GCSAA seminars. I have attended some really bad ones in my time; this year, though, I was lucky enough to attend two of the best. For those of you who have never taken "The Magic of Greenkeeping," presented by our own Mike Bavier and Gordon Witteveen, you are missing out on an entertaining and educational day. The collective that is Mike and Gordon has probably witnessed all there is to see about greenkeeping, and their insight into the little details is outstanding. The textbook is an excellent reference with many great ideas. (Mike, you can pay me later for the plug.)

*My hat goes off to the GCSAA for continually offering the best educational opportunities for superintendents.*

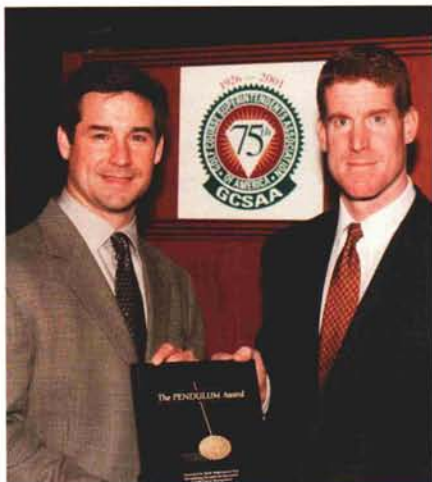
The other seminar I took was "Salt-Affected Turfgrass Sites." Well . . . it was not the most stimulating experience, but extremely educational in my eyes. I, along with many others in the area, am faced with using poor-quality irrigation water. After two days of the seminar, I realized that my water wasn't all that bad compared to that of others around the country. I took home ample information to deal more effectively with my problem of poor irrigation-water quality. My hat goes off to the GCSAA for continually offering the best educational opportunities for superintendents. I really don't think that anyone missed the soft drinks at the afternoon break.

Congratulations go out to our own Chuck Anfield for meriting the Environmental Leader in Golf Award and to past president Bruce Williams for receiving the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. More congrats to Bob Lively for his first-place finish in the 4th Flight in the golf tournament, and to Don Cross and Bob Maibusch for first place in the four-ball Net IV division. Even Steve Van Acker, who has grown tired of cleaning up at our MAGCS golf events, came in second in the 5th Flight. Good job to all who represented the MAGCS.

While I am on the subject of the conference, I would be remiss if I did not extend a big thank you and congratulations to Paul Yerkes, Kevin DeRoo, Fred Behnke, Gary Hearn and all the sponsors for making the hospitality room another tremendous success. This year's room was very well-attended and

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# Jon Jennings Receives Pendulum Award for Innovative Golf Course Superintendent



*Jon Jennings, CGCS (right) accepts the Pendulum Award, which is cosponsored by GCSAA and BASF Corporation.*

*Jonathan Jennings, CGCS, superintendent at Chicago Golf Club, was selected recently as the winner of the third annual Pendulum Award, presented at the 2002 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Golf Course Conference and Show.*

The award, cosponsored by GCSAA and BASF Corporation, recognizes golf course superintendents nationwide who have demonstrated outstanding ingenuity in golf course management.

Jennings was selected based on his work involving sand topdressing for fairways and how it can improve turf. (Editor's note: See our March 2002 issue for an excellent article Jon authored on this very topic!)

BASF presented Jennings with an engraved plaque bearing the image of a forward-swinging pendulum symbolizing his forward-thinking concept. William Strickland, marketing manager for BASF's Turf and Ornamental group, said: "We believe

that sharing new and proven ideas among superintendents is key to the growth of the golf industry. It gives us a real pleasure to recognize Mr. Jennings for the unique and innovative contribution he has made to this professional community."

"I'm extremely pleased to be selected for this recognition," said Jennings. "Like all golf course superintendents, my main interest is creating the best environment for our players and to promote the interests of the community. I hope that my peers can find equal value in the approaches I've taken at Chicago Golf Club."



## On Course With the President (continued from page 3)

on-budget. The shrimp even lasted for close to an hour (the absence of the Czerkies children being a contributing factor to the longevity of the shrimp). These were two wonderful evenings for MAGCS members to enjoy some good food and drink. If you're curious, this year's room's cost over the two nights amounted to just over \$34,000. I know many of you want to know the tab on the beverage service. Totals for Wednesday night

are as follows: 406 cocktails, 65 glasses of wine, 600 bottles domestic beer, 202 bottles import beer, 26 mineral waters and 128 soft drinks. With tax and gratuity, the total was \$7,237.36. This does not include food for the night. As you can see, hosting a hospitality room is not cheap, and if not for the generosity of the sponsors, the room would not be a success. I can only hope that we would have had our suite in a city

where there are not two Omnis so my wife could have found the room easier, although she did make a lot of new friends at the Club Car room. That's enough about the conference. The season is upon us and it's time to get going.

Hope to see you all at Tamarack later this month!

