

# Williams Fund Created Through the GCSAA Foundation

*Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, has established the Williams Leadership Endowment through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation to support continuing education for golf course superintendents who are interested in pursuing a leadership role in golf course management at the local or national level. The fund honors Robert M. Williams, Bruce Williams' father, for his dedication to the golf course management profession.*

The endowment was established by an initial lump sum contribution to the GCSAA Foundation by Bruce Williams. Additionally, he has pledged an annual contribution for the next 10 years. Further contributions are also welcomed and accepted from other individuals, chapters and organizations that support leadership growth for individuals in the golf course management profession. The GCSAA Foundation will provide all ongoing administrative support for the endowment.

"We have been involved with GCSAA in many ways for more than 80 years collectively," said Bruce Williams. "We are especially proud to be involved in an exciting program to help promote continuing education for the next generation of golf course superintendents."

"Few people are more dedicated to the superintendent profession than Bob and Bruce Williams," said GCSAA president Tommy D. Witt, CGCS. "The Foundation welcomes this gift not only because it recognizes their accomplishments, but it also provides monies to support continued education for superintendents who aspire to leadership roles."

Bruce Williams, CGCS at The Los Angeles Country Club, started his career in the golf course industry as a teenager while working for his father. The younger Williams, a member of GCSAA since 1976, has demonstrated an untiring devotion to the profession through committee involvement and outstanding leader-

ship as a member of the GCSAA Board of Directors from 1991 to 1997 and as president in 1996. Williams was awarded the association's 2002 Distinguished Service Award, recognizing individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession. Additionally, he served as chairman of the GCSAA Membership Standards Resource Group. This committee was instrumental in implementing the Professional Development Initiative (PDI), which was undertaken to advance the knowledge, skills and abilities of the professional superintendent in order to contribute toward improved playing conditions and the enjoyment of the game of golf.

Robert M. (Bob) Williams' professional career began in 1926 at just 12 years of age, as a student trainee at Bellaire Country Club in Wauconda, IL. During his career, Williams assumed leadership positions in local, state and national industry associations. His service peaked with his election as president of GCSAA in 1958. He implemented many programs during his GCSAA tenure, including several promotional activities that led to wider recognition of the organization. In 1979, Williams retired as superintendent of Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, IL, a position he held from 1958. He was succeeded by his son Bruce. In 1996, the elder Williams was honored by the USGA as the Green Section Award Recipient for his distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass.

The GCSAA Foundation enhances the game of golf through funding applied research and advanced education in golf course management. Since its inception in 1955, the GCSAA Foundation has provided more than \$2 million in support of numerous research studies and more than 1,200 student scholarships.

## Syngenta Donates GreenPartners™ Points to the GCSAA Foundation

As part of its commitment to the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" endowment campaign, Syngenta Professional Products has donated 500,000 GreenPartners points to the GCSAA Foundation.

GreenPartners is a program created to thank customers for purchasing Syngenta Turf & Ornamental products. The program features a catalog/point system where points are accumulated for purchasing products and redeemed for merchandise and travel packages, as well as donations to professional associations.

As in 2001, Syngenta will continue to offer programs where the company matches point donations made by superintendents to the GCSAA Foundation.

To learn more about the GreenPartners Program, visit [www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com](http://www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com) or [www.greenpartnersonline.com](http://www.greenpartnersonline.com).

