

Golf Industry Focuses On New Orleans During GCSAA Conference, Show

A near-record number of golf course superintendents, club officials, educators, industry representatives and other turfgrass professionals participated in the 53rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America here Jan. 30-Feb. 5.

Registrations for the week-long conference totaled 7,467, just slightly less than last year's record-setting conference in Anaheim, Calif. More than 19,000 visitors passed through the turnstiles of the turfgrass trade show, the world's largest display of golf course maintenance equipment, products and services, during its three-day run in New Orleans' Rivergate Exhibition Center. The 1982 Show featured more than 3-1/2 acres of displays by 212 golf - and turf-related firms.

The large turnout was especially gratifying to GCSAA officials, who noted that in a recessionary year when most national conventions and trade shows are averaging a 12 percent decline in attendance, GCSAA's activities continue to be well-attended.

The conference keynote address by golf commentator Jim McKay attracted a near-capacity audience of more than 2,000, and two innovative water educational sessions drew as many as 1,000 listeners at a time. The United States Golf Association's annual Green Section educational conference Feb. 3 also attracted more than 700 registrants.

GCSAA members elected James A. Wyllie, CGCS, superintendent of Bayview Country Club, Thornhill, Ont., to serve as 1982 GCSAA President. Robert W. Osterman, CGCS, The Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, was elected Vice President; Paul Boizelle, CGCS, The Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill., was reelected to a two-year term on the Association's Board of Directors, and John P. Hayden, CGCS, San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville, Fla., was elected to a three-year term as a Director.

Wyllie named James W. Timmerman, CGCS, Orchard Lake (Mich.) Country Club, to serve as 1982 Secretary-Treasurer, and Richard V. Slivinski, CGCS, superintendent of golf courses for the city of Phoenix, Ariz. to fill the remaining year of Osterman's term on the board.

Among the Conference highlights was the Thursday night banquet and Show. At the time, the President's gavel was formally passed to Wyllie from outgoing President Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, Ill. Also honored at the banquet were outgoing Director Edward Dembnicki, CGCS, Arcadian Shores Golf Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Past President Melvin B. Lucas, CGCS, Piping Rock Club, Long Island, N.Y., whose term on the board has ended.

Alexander M. Radko, who recently retired as national director after almost 30 years with the USGA Green Section, was honored during the banquet for his service to superintendents and the game of golf. Radko was presented with an engraved platter and a tam-like cap traditionally worn by Scottish greenkeepers.

Conference and Show activities concluded Friday morning with a management tour of the 95,500-seat Louisiana Superdome. The Superdome, which has housed two Superbowls, the Sugar Bowl and the Duran-Leonard World Boxing Championship under its 9.7 acre roof, was toured by more than 200 conference participants.

As GCSAA's 1982 Conference and Show passes into history, the golf and turf industries begin to focus on Atlanta, site of the 1983 Conference. The Georgia World Congress Center there will house the 1983 Show and education sessions. The Association's annual preconference golf championships will be played at Arcadian Shores Golf Club and Myrtle Beach National Golf Club, both in Myrtle Beach, S.C. ■



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