

# Greenward

## *A compendium of news and opinions about government, golf and the environment*

*The following items have been excerpted from GCSAA Government Relations Briefing, January, 1992, for Greenward section of Florida Green*

### **GCSAA board approves four position papers**

BY DON BRETTHAUER

The GCSAA board of directors recently approved four position papers that will further solidify GCSAA's environmental stance. The papers, which contain definitions, information and positions of four critical environmental issues, were drafted by Board Government Relations Liaisons Randall P. Zidik, CGCS, and Charles T. Passios, CGCS, and the government relations staff at GCSAA headquarters.

"I think these papers will help educate others on our attitude toward these issues and will help strengthen the association's entire environmental image," said Zidik.

paper the strong language that summarizes what we've been talking about for several years. Now the next task is to make sure these papers are put into the right hands."

#### **Applicator certification**

The applicator certification paper stresses the importance of training for pesticide applicators. The statement of position specifically states, "In the interests of safety and en-

vironmental protection, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America strongly supports the precept that only properly trained and educated personnel should be allowed to purchase and apply restricted-use or general-use chemicals. Furthermore, there should be appropriate controls placed on the consumer use of pesticides by untrained persons."

#### **Endangered Species**

The federal endangered species program is designed to protect threatened animal and plant species. In some cases, golf courses may be asked to restrict the use of certain pesticides in areas where endangered species are known to exist. The position paper reads, "The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America fully supports efforts to implement a successful endangered species program and encourages cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency in order to protect and preserve endangered animal and plant life."

#### **Wetlands and Other Aquatic Habitats**

Wetlands protection has become an extremely controversial subject in recent legislative and regulatory debates. Efforts are under way to redefine what constitutes a protected wetland area. GCSAA's position on wetlands and other aquatic habitats is as

follows: "The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America recognizes the need to protect wetlands and other aquatic habitat. GCSAA strongly encourages protective measures in order to ensure an ecological balance of our natural resources."

Wetland definitions, how golf courses can enhance and protect urban wetlands, and major causes of wetland loss are also covered in the paper.

#### **Posting and Notification**

Posting and notification requirements have become law in more than 20 states. In many areas, superintendents already post on a voluntary basis. The official position reads, "The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America supports reasonable efforts to notify the public about pesticide applications. GCSAA is committed to all reasonable methods to ensure the health and safety of workers, golfers and the neighboring community."

These position papers will be distributed upon request. They are currently being distributed to media outlets and other interested parties. The GCSAA government relations staff would like members to think of the position statements as tools to help educate interested parties about these issues and to inform the golfing and non-golfing public about GCSAA's stance on these subjects. Copies of the papers will be available at the Membership Services Booth (820) at the New Orleans Conference and Show.

Additional position papers are planned on subjects such as storage and handling of pesticides, disposal of pesticide containers, child labor

laws and local ordinances concerning pesticide use.

*Don Bretthauer is the Government Relations Director for GCSAA*

### **EPA sets record for environment protection cases**

The Environmental Protection Agency referred a record number of civil and criminal enforcement actions stemming from environmental crimes last year. For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, EPA referred 474 cases to the Justice Department—almost four times the number referred 10 years ago. Aggregate penalties also increased considerably from previous years. Courts ordered individuals and corporations to pay \$14.1 million in fines and ordered polluters to serve a combined total of 550 months in prison.

Commenting on the increases, EPA Administrator William K. Reilly said, "Without the expectation of sure, consistent and strict enforcement, the laws will be flouted, their health benefits lost, and law-abiding firms will be victimized by outlaw competitors."

However, some say the determination of who serves jail time for pollution convictions is unfairly distributed. Those from small companies who are indicted and convicted seem more likely to serve jail time than those from large companies, according to a report in the Dec. 9 *Wall Street Journal*. The *Journal* article reported that Earl Devaney, EPA's director of criminal enforcement, said many judges "don't feel as comfortable" sending a Fortune 500 executive to jail.