

This was just what Ned had been waiting on as he charged straight ahead with his new ideas on the tournament format.

The heart of his proposal is to run competitions around the country in chapter or local events. The next step was to take local winners — both teams and individuals — to regional events for qualifying to the nationals. The regionals would send (x) number of teams as well as (x) number of individual players based on a percentage of the number of total participants.

“The beauty of this format also,” says Ned, “is that it does not present a major financial burden to individual members as does the tournament we play now. The people who do not move up to the next level of competition will have participated in their GCSAA-sponsored tournament without having incurred a huge expense.

“This would stimulate more involvement by the members: too many people are shut out of the process the way it presently stands.”

I thought to myself a minute.

“Hmmm, ole Ned might be on to something here. What he says sure makes a lot sense.”

I can remember wanting to participate every year myself, but due to time and financial constraints, I have been able to do so only twice. The format and schedule Ned is talking about would definitely allow people like myself to be a part of this event.

The complement of courses available for the tournament, from the first round to the championship, would be tenfold the number now used... or more. The format and qualifying rounds would bring out the best in our member golfers. By the time of the championship, we would have participants who exemplify the best golfers our profession has available: the cream will have been allowed to rise to the top.

The local and regional tournaments could also double as excellent public relations events by generating funds for local charities, addressing local needs and helping the communities. The possibility of success for this type of tournament is tremendous.

From speaking with Ned and other members of the GCSAA — both local and in other states — I know support is out there for this type of event... an event that can spank some life and excitement into an otherwise dismal affair.

Too many of the rank and file feel shut out of this the premier golfing event of their organization. Many of the participants in this event are looking for something different, something progressive and innovative.

Many say it is time for new blood on the tournament committee with fresh ideas. Many say it is time for a “can-do” attitude from the board, tournament committee and, most of all, staff to find a way to do the things the membership wants.

The time has come for a change.

Let's hope the GCSAA officers and directors can understand the need, the desires of their members and the potential for success on several fronts. For it is only through this type of foresight that the association can progress on all fronts.

Until next “May God Bless one and all”.

Paul Harvey report draws strong response

Reporter Paul Harvey:

Two years ago you and I talked about the pesticides which were poisoning so many birds that our golf courses faced a silent spring.

I received some indignant responses from greenskeepers and their association and from pesticide manufacturers. They were adamant in their insistence that the stuff they were spraying on fairways and greens were not toxic.

It was and it still is!

Today the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America is holding its annual meeting in Dallas. And a study commissioned by that organization of superintendents is reporting that not only are golf course pesticides killing the birds, but they're killing golf course superintendents also.

Golf course superintendents have a higher incidence of cancer.

The association has to know that this is going to open the door to lawsuits by

golf course workers against their employers for exposing themselves to cancer causing chemicals. A statistical mortality study found among golf course superintendents: more lung cancer, more brain cancer, more cancers of the large intestine and the prostate, especially however, lung cancer.

Doctor Burton Kross, University of Iowa, one of the researchers on this project, recommends further studies and recommends, meanwhile, that golf course workers minimize, however possible, their exposure to pesticides.

There's a moral here which demands to be underscored, “We and the beautiful wild things live in harmony together or we perish together.”

*Lord, Sullivan & Yoder
Radio News Transcript
Columbus, Ohio
WTVN 610 AM
2/9/94 11:30 a.m.*

February 10, 1994

Mr. Paul Harvey
333 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Last evening I received a telephone call from my brother-in-law, a farmer in western Iowa. He heard your radio report this week describing our mortality study of golf course superintendents. He asked me how did our study determine that pesticides were killing birds and humans on golf courses. I knew something was wrong, so I obtained a transcript of your commentary.

Your commentary is inaccurate and misleading with respect to our study. Our study did not collect any data about pesticides and birds. Moreover, as clearly stated in our press release (copy

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our statistical mortality study was not capable of supporting or refuting a cause-and-effect relationship between pesticides and cancer. Indeed, my recommendations about smoking cessation and minimizing pesticide exposures are prudent public health strategies for golf superintendents and the general public.

Mr. Harvey, I am very concerned about your misrepresentation of our study. The public does need to be informed about important environmental and occupational health issues. The media are important partners in disseminating accurate results of research studies. I request that you broadcast a corrected version of your commentary about our study. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Burton C. Kross, PhD, PE
Principal Investigator
and Associate Professor

cc: Dr. Leon Burmeister, Co-Investigator

FTGA appreciates FGCSA's support

Paul Crawford
President, FGCSA
Palm Beach CC

Dear Paul:

I just received a copy of the *Green Sheet* from Carol Thomas and, much to my surprise, I was on the cover.

I appreciate and thank you for positioning me there and also wish to take a moment to thank you and all your members for their support of FTGA in the past. The hard work of FGCSA members does not go without notice and garners great respect from the green industry throughout the country.

The extra effort is like working a second job, and if one has never done it, it can be hard to understand. I have, and I appreciate the effort of your group and the membership.

I know I speak for everyone when I say thank you for your past and continued support and for placing me on the cover.

Sincerely,

Nick Dennis
FTGA President

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