

GCSAA courses earn accreditation

The Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training has accredited the continuing education programming offered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. ACCET is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the official accrediting agency for non-collegiate continuing education.

"Receiving accreditation confirms our belief that GCSAA offers topflight educational benefits to our members," said John M. Schilling, GCSAA executive director.

ASPA accepts 90s' challenge

The new president of the American Sod Producers Association suggests the ASPA can lead the way during the "decade of environmentalism" by speaking out about the benefits of sod.

Cecil Collings of Green Valley Turf Farms, Inc., in Canfield, Ohio, speaking at the ASPA's annual business meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, noted that he would fully support the group's ongoing programs in marketing, the environment and research.

Mentioning the many advances in the turfgrass sod industry since the ASPA's founding in 1967, Collings said ASPA members face new problems and opportunities.

ASPA members and guests attended the 1990 Summer Convention and Field Days, July 23-25. Members elected a slate of officers along with Collings.

Elected to the 1990-91 board of trustees were Vice President and President-elect Darwin McKay of Turfco in Meridian, Ind.; Secretary-Treasurer Mike Holmes of Warren's Turf Nursery, Inc., in Crystal Lake, Ill.; Dr. Tim Bowyer of Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc., in Norcross, Ga., and Doug Barberry of Aldino Sod Farms in Churchville, Md., to three-year

GCSAA tops Canadians

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America board of directors "eked out" a victory over its Canadian counterparts in a special golf tournament in Montreal in September.

GCSAA President Garald Faubel credited the victory to "a couple of good sticks"—Randy Nichols, Randy Zidik and Joe Baidy—who all "played great while and the rest of us played to our handicaps."

Faubel expects the Canadian board will travel to the United States next year for a rematch in what will become an annual event. The GCSAA donated the trophy, which will be held year to year by the winning team.

"We had a marvelous time in Montreal at the Quebec Fall Field Day," Faubel said. "Once again, they displayed their wonderful Canadian hospitality... We had a lobster and mussel dinner at (Hillsdale Golf and Country Club) superintendent Randy Scott's home, with lobster provided by Canadian President Blake Palmer (of Rockwood Park Golf Course in St. John, New Brunswick).

The teams played a practice round at Beacons Field Golf and Country Club, hosted by superintendent Mark Dufresne.

"What a tremendous way to have relations increased—and on the golf course," Faubel said.

Colleen Smalter Pederson, GCSAA senior director of education and marketing, said: "We chose to pursue accreditation to get public verification of the scope and quality of GCSAA's educational programs. It is important to us to have our programs measured against established standards."

The ACCET Accrediting Commission voted for approval Aug. 18, culminating a two-year preparation, application and evaluation process. Full accreditation recognizes the association's curriculum of more than

50 one- and two-day seminars designed to provide information on up-to-date golf course maintenance practices and to sharpen the management skills of superintendents.

GCSAA's correspondence course work is also included under the accreditation. The association introduced its first correspondence course, covering media relations, last year. Correspondence training courses for underground storage tank management and hazard communication are planned for 1991.

Nearly 3,500 participants attended GCSAA's 38 conference seminars and 30 regional seminars during the 1989-90 academic year. Another 81 seminars are planned for 1990-91.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Education crucial element for ASPA mid-winter conclave

The American Sod Producers Association's Annual Mid-winter Conference and Exposition will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency in San Antonio, Texas.

ASPA officials feel the conference theme, "Growing for the Future," indicates the forward-looking educational program, with topics ranging from biostimulants to global warming, and with a focus on human resource management.

Exhibitors from around the world will display their latest products and services.

For further information on the conference and exposition, the pre-conference seminar, and a post-conference farm tour, people may contact ASPA Meetings Administrator Thomas G. Ford at 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008; 708-705-9898.

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