

NEWS

GCSAA plans major topics for int'l show

Topics ranging from turfgrass disease control to environmental regulations will be covered in 41 one- and two-day seminars at the 62nd International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show in Las Vegas, Nev., in February.

The seminars, held Feb. 5-8, are a prelude to the main portion of the Feb. 9-12 event. Six concurrent educational sessions are slated for Saturday, Feb. 9.

Attendance is expected to top 17,000 at the conference and show, hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. After the educational sessions and seminars, a 2-1/2-day trade show, banquet, the association's annual meeting and election of officers, and GCSAA Golf Championship will be held.

Conference week opens with the annual GCSAA Golf Championship, Feb. 4-5 at five Scottsdale, Ariz., golf courses. A field of about 600 will compete for individual and chapter team honors.

Sports marketing entrepreneur Mark H. McCormack will be the keynote speaker at the opening session Friday, Feb. 8, at The Riviera, the Conference and Show headquarters hotel. McCormack is chief executive officer and chairman of International Management Group, a 14-company, multinational conglomerate, and the author of "What They Don't Teach You at Harvard Business School."

More than 500 manufacturers and distributors of golf/turf industry products, supplies and services are expected to exhibit at the trade show, which runs Feb. 10-12 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Singer/songwriter Neil Sedaka will perform at the formal closing banquet on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award, GCSAA's highest honor, to William C. Campbell. Campbell is the only American ever to have served both as president of the U.S. Golf Association and as captain of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Golf Course News and the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation will host a golf outing on Feb. 13 for exhibitors, distributors and their guests.

To be held at the Legacy Golf Club in Henderson, Nev., the tournament will benefit the foundation. Those interested should contact Golf Course News at 813-576-7077.

Last year's conference and show, held in Orlando, Fla., drew more than 17,300 people. Nearly 1,600 were international visitors and guests, representing 39 countries outside the United States. Attendance for the Orlando show broke GCSAA's attendance record, set in 1989 at the conference and show in Anaheim, Calif.

Univ. Arizona to set up turf lab

Karsten firm the benefactor

A new turfgrass laboratory "destined to become a leading facility particularly in those issues that relate to the desert climate," will be established at the University of Arizona College of Agriculture.

The state-of-the-art laboratory will be named the Karsten Laboratory for Turfgrass Research in honor of the Karsten Solheim family of Phoenix.

Solheim is the president and chief executive officer of the Karsten Manufacturing Corp., which gave \$500,000 to establish the facility.

Scheduled for completion next June, the building will be the centerpiece of the UA Desert Turfgrass Research Center, said Merle Jensen, the assistant agriculture dean for sponsored research.

"The impetus for this major gift is the strong relationship that has developed between the UA College of Agriculture, and the Arizona Golf Association, which represents the golf industry and dedicated members of the industry," Jensen said.

"Through this alliance, we're making a united effort to promote responsible turf research programs.

Our primary objectives are water conservation and developing sound environmental applications at golf facilities," he said.

UA Agriculture Dean Eugene G. Sander said, "With this new facility and its diverse support base, the UA Desert Turfgrass Research Center is destined to become a leading facility particularly in those issues that relate to our desert climate."

The Public Awareness and Research (PAR) Committee of the Arizona Golf Association of Phoenix is raising funds, supported by golfers and golf business interests throughout Arizona.

AGC buys Casta Del Sol

American Golf Corp. has acquired the par 60, 18-hole Casta Del Sol Golf Course in Mission Viejo, Calif., through a long-term lease with Haseko (California) Inc. which bought the course from the Mission Viejo Co. The public course is a Ted Robinson-designed executive course.

Facilities include a clubhouse, golf shop, snack bar, dining and banquet facilities.

American Golf Corp., of Santa Monica, Calif., owns or leases and manages 125 public, private and resort courses nationwide.

