

## GCSAA initiates financial aid emergency fund

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A new fund created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Scholarship & Research (S&R) Foundation will offer emergency financial assistance to association members who are suffering personal losses resulting from natural disasters like the recent Midwest flooding.

"This is a significant new benefit for our members," said GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS. "Superintendents have always banded together to help when disaster strikes. This fund will allow us to offer immediate help to our colleagues."

The GCSAA Emergency Assistance Fund is designed to provide an immediate grant of up to \$250 to GCSAA members who need short-term financial help to compensate for personal losses resulting from a disaster.

The GCSAA board of directors voted unanimously to establish the fund with a \$5,000 "seed" gift, and a number of chapters are planning gifts to supplement the fund. The GCSAA S&R Foundation is urging individuals and companies to make "one-time" gifts to build the fund. "Our goal is to raise about \$20,000 for this to make it a permanent fund that carries over from year-to-year," said Nichols.

Lakeshore Equipment Supply Company, better known as Lesco, Inc., has donated \$5,000 to match the "seed" gift made by the GCSAA board of directors when the association established the fund.

To apply for emergency funds, members should contact their chapter presidents or call GCSAA Scholarship & Research at 700-472-7878.

Donations may be sent to GCSAA Development Department, P.O. Box 927, Lawrence, KS 66049-0927.

## Maintenance budgets, trends unveiled

The 40-page National Golf Foundation report, "Understanding and Comparing Maintenance Budgets," presented many findings from its study of golf courses around the United States. Some are:

### SOUTHEAST

- Many golf course owners are improving the operation of their facilities by rebuilding greens and installing modern computer-controlled irrigation systems.
- The need to keep up with the demands of higher traffic, long playing seasons, and better quality turf have resulted in the golf course reconstruction boom.
- Labor and maintenance budgets tend to be higher than most other regions of the country because mild temperatures demand year-round maintenance of turfgrasses.
- Consumptive water-use permits for the use of wells or canal water are becoming very restricted.
- The trend to use cool-season turfgrasses in Florida and other coastal areas has steadily increased since 1980.
- The popularity of winter overseeding has brought cool-season grasses to the South.
- Overall budgets range between \$309,000 and \$940,000.

### MIDWEST-NORTHEAST

- Course upgrades generally include tee leveling or new tees; sand bunker refurbishing or new bunker placements; green reconstruction; and irrigation system modernization.
- Golf course budget continue to increase. Course operators and owners are aware the demand for better conditions costs more money. The main cause of increased budgets is the size of the maintenance crew. The average size of a year-round crew is eight to 11 laborers plus the superintendent, assistant superintendent and mechanic. In the past, the total year-round staff was usually seven to 10.
- Overall budgets range between

\$201,500 and \$625,000.

- Most facilities reported capital improvement and equipment replacement budgets of at least \$35,000.
- Superintendents have adopted practices to maintain poa annua rather than remove it from the course.

### NORTHWEST

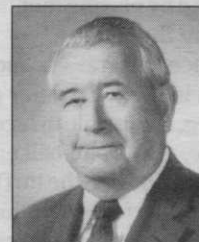
- Sand-based putting greens are now widely accepted and most of the new construction is based on the U.S. Golf Association recommendations.
- Many Western courses are now involved with overseeding programs with improved perennial ryegrasses on fairways, tees and roughs in combination with cultural practices to combat poa annua invasion. Some courses are overseeding with bentgrass.
- The improvement in perennial ryegrasses over the past 10 years has had a dramatic effect on courses in the Pacific Northwest.
- Some courses started using green aerifiers on fairways in combination with overseeding programs. Others are now emulating the success of these programs.
- Increased use of walking greens mowers, triplex or lightweight mowing of fairways, and other factors have increased labor costs at the upper end of the market.
- Overall budgets range between \$210,000 and \$998,000. Variable water costs, especially in California, impact overall budgets greatly.

### SOUTHWEST

- The use of USGA-recommended sand-based greens is critical in this region due to heavy play and the use of more saline and effluent water sources.
- A facility can range in maintenance costs from \$400,000 to \$1.2 million, depending on location, season length, water cost, employees, clients' demands, and cost of power and materials.
- Labor costs range from 38 to 67 percent of the total maintenance budget.
- Budgets range from \$488,000 to \$1 million.

## New fellowship will honor James Watson

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Outstanding scientists and educators of tomorrow will receive encouragement and recognition through a new fellowship program named for leading green industry member, James R. Watson.



James Watson

The Toro Co. has agreed to fully underwrite the Watson Fellowships, a new Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Scholarship & Research (S&R) program designed to identify "the best and brightest young researchers and instructors in fields related to golf course management."

The equipment manufacturer has agreed to a minimum of \$100,000 in support over the next four years, and senior company officials say they hope to make the commitment ongoing.

Ken B. Melrose, chairman and chief executive officer of The Toro Co., said: "We are delighted to be a part of a program that will help build a stronger future for the golf course industry and be able to pay tribute to the contributions Jim Watson has made to this company. It's a great way for us to reinvest in something that is important to our professional customers and recognize a man who is very important to us."

Watson a longtime Toro executive, is semi-retired after 40 years with the company. He will serve as chairman of the fellowship selection committee.

The agreement allows GCSAA's S&R foundation to expand and upgrade the GCSAA Graduate Student Grants program announced earlier this year. With Toro's sponsorship, the number of \$5,000 fellowship grants available has been doubled to four.

## GCSAA members will vote on amendments to membership bylaw

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bers who feared last year's proposal to expand membership to others in the golf industry was taking the focus away from the superintendent.

This year's proposal is to "maintain the current requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to alter the qualifications and levels of privilege for Classes AA, A, B and C, while authorizing the board of directors to develop Standing Rules regarding the qualifications and levels of privilege for other membership classifications."

Explained GCSAA President Randy Nichols of Cherokee Golf & Country Club in Dunwoody, Ga.: "It's more of an accounting thing than anything else. We're not going to go out and solicit non-superintendents for our association. But we want to be able to recognize and distinguish the non-superintendents. We want to be able to say 'This guy is a mechanic, so we can begin to offer him some services.'"

Other membership amendments call for:

- Simplifying the determination of Class

B and C qualifications by making all superintendents with less than three years experience Class B members and all assistant superintendents, regardless of experience, Class C.

• Adding six new membership categories for other golf course maintenance and management personnel, club officials, golf association staff members, educators and extension officers. All are currently assigned to Affiliate or Associate classifications. The board would establish Standing Rules regarding qualifications and levels of privilege for such classifications.

Last year's bylaw proposals to change from a two-thirds to simple majority vote on bylaw changes and eliminating delegate voting in favor of a one-member, one-vote format have been dropped.

But to make delegates more accountable to the membership, the board is proposing an amendment "requiring the printing, in a GCSAA membership publication, of an official, post-election report of voting records by chapter name, and by totals of individual votes and totals of proxy votes. If

approved, the amendment would not take effect until the 1995 annual meeting.

Other amendments addressing accountability call for a two-thirds majority of the board to approve mortgages or loans that would obligate future boards, and making the submission of false information on membership applications or dues statements grounds for discipline or expulsion from GCSAA.

One other major proposal would change the secretary/treasurer position from a presidential appointment to an elected office. The secretary/treasurer has traditionally been a springboard to the presidency two years later.

A major criticism prior to last year's bylaw vote was the proposed changes had not been adequately explained to the membership, even though board members personally addressed many, if not all, the state chapters.

To improve communications this time around, the board invited chapter representatives to a late-September summit meeting at GCSAA headquarters here. The

proposed bylaw amendments were discussed, along with the many upper-level staff changes that have occurred in recent months.

"A milestone in GCSAA's history," was how GCSAA Vice President Joseph G. Baidy of Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio, described that meeting. Baidy served as chairman of both the delegates meeting and the Planning Resource Committee, which first met in May to begin deliberations of possible amendments.

"I was very pleased with the excellent response and discussion from the delegates and chapter representatives," he said.

"The consensus of the delegates was that these proposals go to the Bylaws Committee so they can be brought to the floor at the annual meeting. [The delegates and chapter representatives] are going to take the information back to their chapters and request their input."

Sample ballots, with exact text for each proposal, will be mailed in December to all voting members as part of the official Notice of Annual Meeting.