

Show provides chance to gather, speak out

By GERALD FAUBEL

Each year at this time, golf course superintendents from throughout the world gather at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show.

They learn new techniques to do their job better through seminars, educational sessions and interaction with fellow superintendents. They are able to see all the available products to assist them.

And they will have the opportunity to attend the GCSAA annual meeting, where they can express their desires on how the organization should operate for their benefit.

According to GCSAA's Articles of Incorporation, the association is intended: "To provide for and enhance the recognition of the golf course superintendent as a professional. To advance the art and science of turfgrass management; to collect and disseminate knowledge of golf course management with emphasis on efficient, economic and environmentally sound management of golf courses."

The membership will elect people who will have responsibility to insure this purpose is carried out to the benefit of the membership. Each president, vice president and board member should be acutely aware of the organization's purpose.

The membership expects many things from its national organization. Many of these expectations have been met due to support from industry through active participation in the show, scholarship, research and *Golf Course Management* magazine. Cooperation between allied organizations has enabled superintendents to actively participate in directing golf's future.

Being involved in this great game is a serious responsibility. Our national organization allows us to help develop our industry's future. Most superintendents depend on GCSAA to vigorously pursue any and all means of assisting them in accomplishing their managerial duties.

When you consider what other associations provide members, GCSAA has done a remarkable job throughout its history. In recent years, our organization has increased member services in meaningful ways — the conference and show, educational seminars, industrial relations, scholarship and research, government relations, technical resources, membership welfare and many others.

Gerald Faubel, CGCS, is head superintendent at Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club and past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

It is also our responsibility to make certain the individuals we elect as president, vice president and directors are qualified to provide the progressive leadership that is both in the best interest of the profession and meets the requirements of the Articles of Incorporation.

Members must put aside their own personal agendas to make certain the board acts in the



Gerald Faubel

best interest of the game of golf.

Events that transpired in the past are history now. It is vitally important to look forward to the many opportunities that are available to all of us and dwell upon the future; not what

might have been, but what could be.

The challenges which we as managers must face are serious and can only be addressed

through cooperation and commitment.

All the improvements have been made through the support and resources of everyone involved in the game. The superintendent is recognized as beneficial to the game. Golfers recognize the importance of maintaining a course in an efficient, economical and responsible manner. Superintendents must earn respect as responsible managers.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner told us in last month's *Golf Course News* to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and

find ways to utilize appropriate plant material. She perceives as fact that golf courses use four to seven times the amount of pesticide per treated acre as do farms. She calls that "unacceptable." Society demands a safer and cleaner environment. Yet the golfer demands even higher quality conditions, which seldom have a positive environmental effect.

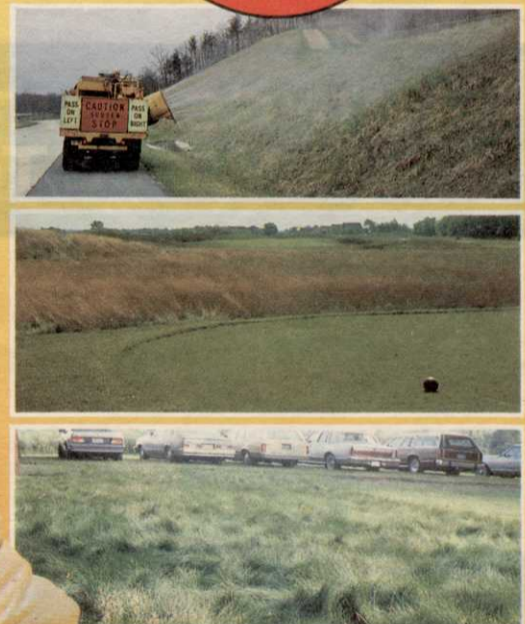
What is the superintendent to do?

The answer is research and education — as it always has been. The need for specific research on turfgrass is vital.

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Over \$100,000 in scholarships already presented to Rutgers University turfgrass students

A grand tradition — scorecard box

By TERRY BUCHEN

One simple pleasure golf course superintendents can provide their players is the scorecard box, a grand tradition never taken for granted.

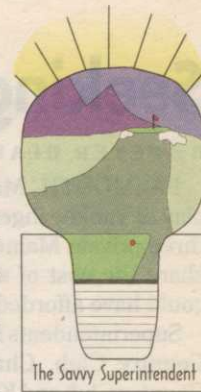
"The box" usually contains scorecards, pencils, wooden golf tees, ball markers and, sometimes, even matches. They are usually positioned on the 2nd and 11th teeing grounds to help the needy golfer with extra supplies, or the player who simply

forgot.

Most boxes are made of pressure-treated wood that is glued and then screwed together for added strength. A water sealer is applied before painting it the club's favorite color, or sometimes staining it. A hinged cover protects the supplies from sprinkler irrigation and the elements. Some are made of metal that can be attained from golf supply catalogues, but most superintendents want the natural look.

Superintendents

usually mount them on 4-by-4-inch posts, trees, ball washers, fence posts, etc., in the normal traffic flow of golfers. If superintendents at newer courses carry on the tradition of installing this simple amenity, it will never become extinct.



Scorecard boxes are cheap, easy to make, and helpful to the golfers.

Faubel comment: We must pay for more research

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The U.S. Golf Association is pursuing ways to reduce water consumption, fertilizer and pesticide use and develop acceptable plant materials.

The USGA Turfgrass Research Committee has done an outstanding job identifying areas which need to be addressed to make golf courses an environmental asset.

The need for strong local and national associations has never been greater.

The problem is a decline in active participation on relevant subjects by superintendents at the local and national level.

Everyone needs to ask themselves how much they are working for the total benefit of their profession and overcome the internal political aspects.

It always seems easier to let the other person do it.

Well, the other person is probably overloaded also or may be unwilling to do it. Increased job demands and family are important.

But what is going to happen when the other person doesn't do it.

If we recognize the need for more research and development then we must be willing to pay for the potential benefits.

It is more important than ever to look toward the universities and recognize what they can do for us.

Our associations can make the difference.

It is up to us to make certain the associations know what the industry needs are.

Only then can a realistic plan of action be drawn and conducted.

Knowledge is the only way we will continue to deliver the quality maintenance we have led the golfer to expect.

Are we or own worst enemy?

Or are we willing to make the sacrifices that must be made by supporting the people who have the skills that allow us to meet society's demands?



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