

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Steve Mona

## Mona era begins in Lawrence

By HAL PHILLIPS

ATLANTA — The idea was born over an informal lunch here last August, when Steve Mona — then executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association — shared a bite with Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President Randy Nichols, who has known Mona since 1983.

Five months later, the August luncheon has taken on historic significance: Mona is the new executive director at GCSAA, replacing the departed John Schilling.

Mona's tenure officially began Jan. 5, but his coming out party will take place in Dallas later this month, when GCSAA holds the 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show (see special section, page xx). Mona firmly believes his new job is all about creating positive relationships, and he plans to start right away.

"I'm coming into this with a mandate to work on building relationships: With our local chapters, our allied associations and the media," said Mona. "The day before the Dallas conference, Joe Baidy [who as-

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## Little conflict awaits supers in Big D

By PETER BLAIS

DALLAS — It may not be all peace and harmony on the eve of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) annual meeting. But it's a darn sight quieter than during the NAFTA-like squabbles that preceded last year's vote on the proposed bylaw amendments.

Everyone may not agree with this year's proposals. But most believe the pro-

### Special Show Section, pages 15-23

cess of communicating with and seeking input from members has gone much smoother than a year ago when even board member George Renault noted, "Many people feel like these [proposed changes] are being rammed down their throats."

September's meeting of chapter delegates in Lawrence, Kan., to discuss the proposals left many feeling this year's board was sincerely interested in explaining the need for the changes and seeking input from the chapter level.

Patty Knaggs, head superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. and formerly of Westchester Coun-

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## Reservoir eases water pressure in California

By PETER BLAIS

HEMET, Calif. — The \$2 billion Domenigoni Valley Reservoir under construction in Southern California should help ensure water supplies for future golf course maintenance and development through the 21st century in this water-starved region.

"Knowing the reservoir is there should mean homeowners and environmentalists will put less pressure on politicians to pass bad legislation affecting irrigation water for golf courses," said

Raymond Davies, head superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Huntington Beach, Calif.

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) project is massive. First authorized in late 1991, the 250-foot deep reservoir won't be completed until 1999. Created by three dams in the Diamond and Domenigoni valleys south of Hemet, it will be Southern California's largest lake.

The 4.5-mile-long body of water will cover nearly 4,500 acres and hold

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#### BEST OF THE BEST

The Virginian, a new Tom Fazio design in Bristol, Va., is one reason the architect and his firm are among the 1994 Golf Course News "Best of the Best" award winners. For Best Maintained LPGA course, Builder of the Year and more, see pages 53-57.

## Chemical firms join forces in search of profit

By HAL PHILLIPS

Hoechst-Roussel and NOR-AM Chemical Co. have combined their respective agrochemical activities to create a joint venture. The Scotts Company has acquired Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Co. from W.R. Grace & Co. DowElanco has already off-loaded a portion of its specialty chemical division to LESCO, as did Zoecon Corp. following the merger of its specialty pesticide unit with Sandoz Agro Inc.

The chemical industry is reacting to the increasingly adverse economic and political environment by streamlining product lines and, ultimately, entire agrochemical divisions. With each passing day, the 1997 deadline for federal reregistration draws closer and chemical companies make more hard choices

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It's Showtime!

## Bylaw vote offers little controversy this year

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try Club in Rye, N.Y., has heard from chapter delegates in both regions — Timothy O'Neill of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association and James Nicol of the Minnesota GCSA.

"Both were really comfortable with the procedure this year," she said. "The board sat back and listened to the delegates. They liked the way they were given information. There wasn't the feeling that this was all being decided behind closed doors."

Incumbent and would-be board members agreed.

"This board made two-way communication a top priority. All the proposals should improve the association," said R. Scott Woodhead of Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont. Woodhead was appointed to the board a year ago and is up for re-election.

Added Tommy Witt, a first-time candidate from Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas: "Three or four of the proposals that were soundly defeated last year were thrown out. The remaining issues were very well presented."

Members made it clear last January they did not want to get rid of the delegate voting system or change the vote needed to change bylaws from two-thirds to a simple majority. Those issues won't appear on this year's ballot.

"The board was smart enough to read the vote and see that members liked the chapter delegate voting system," said board member Paul McGinnis of Union Hills Country Club in Sun City, Ariz. McGinnis is up for re-election.

"We need to use the delegates more to communicate with members at the chapter level. The chapters are the strength of the association."

Some proposals have been modified from a year ago. For example, the members resoundingly defeated last year's measure that would have given the board authority to set *all* membership dues.

This year's proposed amendment preserves membership's authority to set dues for Classes AA, A, B and C — basically all superintendents and assistant superintendents — while giving the board power for establishing other membership classifications' dues.

"The board listened to the members on that one," said incumbent board member Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill. Williams is running for vice president.

"They said they had no problem with the board setting dues for non-voting delegates. But they wanted to be able to set *their* dues themselves. The board responded."

Knaggs said she was surprised at the uproar the dues issue caused a year ago. Many associations give their boards such au-

thority. And in many cases, the club pays for all or part of a superintendent's GCSAA dues. If it does not, the goal of most superintendents is to work for a club that sees the value of paying its superintendents dues, she added.

"That vote, and a few others last year, was more symbolic than substance," she said. "There was a perception that we [members] were being run instead of doing the running. The vote showed that."

Several amendments that appear virtually unchanged from a year ago involve the creation of new membership classifications

for golf course maintenance and management personnel, educators and extension officers, as well as separate classifications for club officials and golf association staff members. Many of these people are already classified as Affiliate or Associate members and make up about half of GCSAA's 13,000 total members.

The main goal of reclassification is not to attract new members, although that may be a side effect, said Secretary/Treasurer Gary Grigg, who is also running for vice president. The idea is to better identify the make-up of the membership so that services can

be developed that meet their needs and appropriate dues be assessed.

"For example, someone who recently graduated from Lake City (Fla.) Community College and got a golf course job as a spray technician should be able to join at a reduced rather than the full dues rate," Grigg said.

"And we should know what he does so we can provide appropriate services. The amendments would allow us to do that."

Only superintendents and assistant superintendents would have voting privileges, Grigg as-

Continued on next page

*'Someone who recently graduated from Lake City Community College and got a golf course job as a spray technician should be able to join at a reduced rather than the full dues rate. And we should know what he does so we can provide appropriate services. The amendments would allow us to do that.'*

— Gary Grigg



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YOUR 3 CHOICES

# Ballot question summary: Dues authority to membership

It's Showtime!

Voting on the proposed GCSAA bylaw amendments will take place at the organization's annual meeting Feb. 7 at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas.

Each issue will appear on a separate ballot, allowing voters to make their wishes known on individual issues, without unrelated riders.

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

Following is a brief summary of the 15 proposed amendments:

## DUES AUTHORITY

- Preserving the membership's authority to set dues for Classes AA, A, B and C, but through regular ballot procedures instead of the current voice vote. The board would set dues for other classifications.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

- Maintaining the current requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to alter qualifications and levels of privilege for membership classes AA, A, B, and C, while authorizing the board of directors to develop rules regarding qualifications and privileges for

other classes.

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

- Adding six new membership categories for other golf course maintenance and management personnel currently assigned to Affiliate or Associate classifications. The board would establish rules for privileges.

- Establishing a separate membership classification for club officials and golf association staff

members currently classified as Affiliate or Associate members. The board would establish rules for privileges.

- Creating a new membership class for educators and extension officers currently included in the Affiliate or Associate classifications; allowing the board to lower dues for Retired members; making Honorary membership permanent; and requiring the board to set rules regarding Affiliate member privileges.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

- Requiring a two-thirds majority of the board to approve any

mortgage or loan that incurs financial obligations for future boards.

- Requiring an official post-election report of voting records by chapter name, total of individual votes and total of proxy votes. The report must be printed in a GCSAA membership publication. Because of current balloting requirements, this amendment would not take effect until the 1995 annual meeting.

- Making submission of false information on any membership application or dues statement an offense punishable by discipline or expulsion. Eliminating the reinstatement provision requiring payment of all past-due amounts.

## OTHER ISSUES

- Updating the organization's mission to reflect the importance of environmental awareness in golf course management.

- Changing the secretary/treasurer position from a presidential appointment to an elected office.

- Clarifying the secretary/treasurer's official duties.

- Naming the president, vice president and secretary/treasurer as trustees of the Benevolence Fund.

- Retitling the association's chief executive employee *CEO* instead of *executive director*.

## Bylaw voting

Continued from previous page

sured. Superintendent members expressed concern last year that allowing too many non-superintendents into the association could eventually dilute the superintendents' authority.

Accountability is a major issue this year. The board has sponsored an amendment requiring a two-thirds rather than simple majority of a current board to approve any mortgage that would incur a financial obligation for future boards.

The vote for a new wing on the headquarters building in Lawrence, which split the board down the middle a few years ago, was the major catalyst behind the board seeking this amendment Grigg said. Although the wing may be needed someday, it is largely unoccupied today. The two-thirds requirement would also be consistent with the two-thirds vote of members needed on major issues, he added.

Two other important amendments are on the ballot.

One would make delegates more accountable to their chapter members by requiring a printed post-election report of voting records by chapter name, total individual votes and total proxy votes.

The other would make the secretary/treasurer an elected rather than presidentially appointed position. The secretary/treasurer has traditionally been the stepping stone to the presidency two years later.



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