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Show Me!

McGinnis elected secretary-treasurer, joining President Grigg, VP Williams

By PETER BLAIS

SAN FRANCISCO — Paul McGinnis was elected secretary/treasurer and Michael Wallace and Tommy Witt won seats on the board of directors in the contested races decided during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual meeting held here in late February.

In the two uncontested elections, Gary Grigg of Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples, Fla., was chosen president and Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club vice president.

McGinnis is head superintendent at Union Hills Country Club (CC) in Sun City, Ariz. Under the reorganized format, he should run uncontested for the GCSAA vice presidency in 1996 and presidency in 1997.

The 43-year-old Arizona State University graduate bested George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., and David Fearis of Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., for secretary/treasurer.

Renault and Fearis will return to the board of directors, where they will be joined by Wallace, Witt, R. Scott Woodhead and Immediate Past President Joe Baidy.

Wallace, 44, is head superintendent at Hop Meadow CC in Simsbury, Conn., and was elected for the first time.

Witt, 41, head man at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, Ill., was re-elected to the board.

Woodhead, of Valley View Golf Course in Belgrade, Mont., has another year to run on his board position and Baidy of Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio, remains on the board for one more year as immediate past president.

Wallace and Witt edged Canadians Paul Dermott of Oakdale Golf & CC in Downsview, Ontario, and David Gourlay of Club Summerlea Inc. in Dorion, Quebec, for the two available director positions.

"It's quite an honor, but very humbling to go to that first board meeting and realize the scope of what's going on in our profession," said Wallace, who attended his first meeting the day after the election.

Wallace has been named chairman of the Conference and Show Committee as well as the Membership Committee. He plans to attend an orientation meeting at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., on April 10.

"Our focus will be on the superintendent's professional image, the environment and membership services in the coming year," he predicted.



Paul Clute, left, accepts the Builder of the Year Award from Golf Course News publisher Charles von Brecht.

Clute 'helping part of the game'

SAN FRANCISCO — Accepting the Golf Course Builder of the Year Award here, Paul Clute spoke of "the opportunity each one of us has to help some portion of the game," and thanked material suppliers, subcontractors and course architects

Presented the Golf Course News award during the Golf Course Builders Association of America's annual banquet, Clute said his staff was utmost in the success of his firm, Paul Clute & Associates, Inc. in Hartland, Mich. "I think it is second to none," he said.

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Paul McGinnis



Michael Wallace



Tommy Witt

Stossel: Gov't should do less policing, more educating public

By MARK LESLIE

SAN FRANCISCO — Putting the blame squarely on government regulations and a willing accomplice, the media, John Stossel told an International Golf Course Conference and Show audience that the marketplace ought to be allowed to do the regulating in this country.

The ABC-TV consumer reporter joined panelists Dr. Kimberly Erusha of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA), who called on golf course superintendents to get people in their community directly involved with golf course environmental efforts; Ron Dodson of the Audubon Society of New York State, who urged superintendents to "reach out positively and not negatively" to the environmental community; Paulette Pyle of Oregonians for Food and Shelter, who recommended being present in the halls of state capitols "when legislation is introduced," not afterward; and Anne Leslie of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, who said "exciting" strides are being made to speed up bureaucracy.

Stossel declared the market operates in mysterious and surprising ways, and all concerned should step back and let it do its work.

For instance, Stossel said, "The FDA doesn't have to be a police agency — one that just says, 'Yes, you may,' or 'No, you may not'; but rather an information agency. Those companies that want to submit their drugs for approval could get the FDA yellow label. And those of us who are nervous could only take those drugs with the yellow label."

"The market," he said, "polices itself. Information gets out and information solves problems. Better Business Bureau get involved. We saw [in cases of

freedom from regulation] that often the market was almost magical in solving problems."

The antithesis, he said, is that "by messing with the market, you create nasty side effects."

People die from obesity while the FDA drags out approval of a drug that could help them, he said. Huge amounts of time and money are spent researching and regulating things that have minimal effect on the general public.

Stossel pointed the finger at his fellow consumer reporters who, he said, work on the belief that "consumers are basically victims played upon by businesses [and that] we need government agencies, lawyers, an elite of intellectual people watching over us."

He said he agreed until he saw "what was really going on," and added, they consume vast amounts of money, cost businesses to comply and absorb a lot of human energy.

"Businesses, instead of inventing better golf clubs, better products and ways to clean the environment, are spending money going to Washington, forming associations, and lobbying to manipulate the leviathan that Washington has become. All this red tape suffocates the economy and kills freedoms," Stossel said.

Meanwhile, the regulators have little effect on "the obvious crooks, the true sleazoids, the people selling the breast enlargers, or the lose-fat-while-you-sleep diet pills," he said. "They [crooks] kept getting away with it, just hiring lawyers to help them get around the rules, change the name of the company or move to another state. The regulations didn't hurt them, but it hurt people ... who were

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By PETER BLAIS

SAN FRANCISCO — "You couldn't have made a better selection," Toro Chief Executive Officer Ken Melrose said of Dr. James Watson, who received the Old Tom Morris Award during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual banquet held here in late February.

During his 40 years at The Toro Co., Watson served as director of agronomy, company agronomist and vice president of customer relations. Semi-retired and living in Colorado, Watson still serves on the plan-

ning council for the Irrigation Association and was agronomic coordinator for the seven 1994 World Cup soccer sites.

"Jim has received many awards," said Melrose in reference to, among others, last year's Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects. "But I think this is the most appropriate."

Outgoing GCSAA President Joe Baidy called Watson "a giant in the turfgrass industry. You can see his influence every-

where."

In thanking the association for its highest award, Watson hailed the superintendent as the "driving force in the partnership being forged between the GCSAA and allied associations."

Also honored during the banquet were Baidy, Immediate Past President Randy Nichols and David Stone, superintendent at The Honors Course in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Baidy received a watercolor of the 2nd hole at his home course,

Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

"I want to thank you," Baidy told the crowd. "The GCSAA launched my career when it awarded me a scholarship back in 1964."

Baidy applauded Nichols for leading GCSAA through a "challenging" 1993 that saw the association replace its upper management staff with the new Steve Mona-led regime and refocus its efforts on the local chapters.

"I received a lot of the credit

for the positive changes that have taken place," said Nichols, head superintendent at Cherokee Town & Country Club in Dunwoody, Ga. "But we couldn't have done it without the efforts of the entire board and the superintendents across the country."

Thomas Chisholm, chairman of the United States Golf Association Green Section, presented the Green Section Award to Stone.

"The playing conditions at David's course have exceeded everyone's expectations," Chisholm said. "His experiments with zoysia and bentgrass have become legendary across the South."

Watson perfect choice for Old Tom Award

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CIRCLE #168

Clute: When the glitz gets brighter, bunkers get deeper

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While remarking on the growth and increased popularity of golf and the "good reason to believe the game will continue to grow," Clute added that those in the industry should not lose sight of the golfing public on whom that growth hinges.

"It seems the glitz and glitter involved in the game gets a little brighter. It seems bunkers get deeper and waterfalls get taller. Greens get faster, the ball flies straighter and the grass gets greener. All those things I have found exciting, stimulating and good for the game of golf," he said.

"But there's another big section of the industry and the game that is far more modest than that. That's where the lion's share of the players participate, and that is really the backbone of our industry and of the game."

Many composting methods emerging

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- Mulching and composting woody plant debris has good potential. Run the debris through a chipper.

While the concern has been that the chips are not uniformly colored, a product called Mulch Magic is sold in three colors to produce uniformity.

- Research information will be available soon on using composted material as a top-dressing amendment.

- A consortium of golf courses may consider buying a \$160,000 machine that physically mixes compost in a windrow.

- The in-vessel compost technology has the most potential for most golf courses with limited land available. An example is a 250-gallon container with a motor that turns it.