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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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# Rossi-winner Duich spreads out admiration to others in golf

By MARK LESLIE

SAN FRANCISCO — Dr. Joseph Duich was the man of the evening at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's (GCBA) annual banquet, but he turned the table on his hosts, citing their work in golf.

Receiving the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the GCBA, Duich said: "We know who gets all the press about golf courses. One day on TV, they ... will mention who actually built some of these magnificent golf courses."

Saying he admires the "shapers" who operate bulldozers and fine-tune architects' designs, he added that "99.999 percent of the population would devastate a landscape." And he pointed to the rigors

of golf course construction, including its hard, dirty labor and time spent away from family.

Duich quoted his Penn State University department head, the late Dr. Howard Sprague, as saying that one should only be judged by those who've known him. "I have been in this industry long enough to know I can truly judge the value and contributions of golf course builders. And I salute you and thank you very, very sincerely for this award," he said. "It is very gratifying."

Tribute was paid to Duich by two former students — Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Joseph Baidy and U.S. Golf Association Green Section regional di-

rector Stanley Zontek.

"I knew Don Rossi. He was a great man, a friend to us all, and quite literally a friend to the game of golf," Zontek said. "I know Joe Duich. He, too, is a great man, a major contributor to the turfgrass on which the game is played, and perhaps most importantly of all, a teacher and a friend."

Referring to the many dominant turfgrasses developed under Duich during his years guiding the Golf Turf Management program at Penn State, Zontek said: "But the grasses are not what Dr. Duich is most proud of. It's the people — the students..."

"The sun doesn't set on courses containing Penn State grass, nor, do I sus-

pect, does it set on graduates of the Penn State program."

Speaking of Duich's personal side, Baidy said: "He was concerned about our [superintendents'] depression and stress. He was concerned about the divorce rate among the students. And he shared that with us."

"He followed our careers and still follows them. His students are one of his greatest concerns."

Duich taught more than 5,700 students in more than 36 years before retiring in 1991.

The humanitarian award is given in memory of the late Mr. Rossi, former executive director of the National Golf Foundation and GCBA.

# Bioremediation technologies invented to solve UST leakage problems

By MARK LESLIE

SAN FRANCISCO — Underground storage tank (UST) leaks, a frightening thought not very long ago, are being neutralized by new but simple technologies, according to Dr. Ronald F. Turco of Purdue University.

Speaking on bioremediation at the International Golf Course Conference and Show, Turco said an estimated 25 to 50 percent of all USTs are leaking and most USTs leak within 15 years of installation.

"The real problem occurs when there is an aquifer," he said, adding that the leaking material goes to the bottom of the aquifer and forms tar balls, or, in the case of gasoline, floats on top of the aquifer and moves out of it along the gradient.

Leakage introduces chemicals at extremely high levels, Turco said, and "the subsurface ecosystem has very poor degradation powers." The solution is to create degradation in that subsurface.

"Smaller-scale bioremediation is usually relating to gasoline, and gas is very degradable by bacteria under the right conditions," Turco said. "You must make bacteria in the subsurface do the job. The alternative is to dig it out. And that means huge dollars."

"The challenge is to get the contaminant out of the subsurface and do it in such a way as to minimize more damage and maximize microbial activity."

Bioventing, air sparging and soil vacuum extraction are the 1990s' techniques overcoming the challenges. Turco explained:

- Bioventing is pumping air into the well. This forces the contaminated area to generate a microbially favorable environment

to allow degradation.

The advantage of bioventing, he said, is that "it employs a cheap source of air, treats volatile and non-volatile contamination fairly well, and is low-cost and generally consistent."

"The trick is to avoid pumping too much air onto the zone."

- Air sparging is identical except the forced air is moved through a contaminated saturated zone.

- Soil vacuum extraction (SVE) — "a very recent practice" — is coming on line. A huge vacuum pump pulls air out of the ground. By sucking air out of the soil, other, fresh air is drawn into that zone, keeping air circulation moving.

# Stossel, Baidy, et al on environment

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going to be around for 20 years."

When the country spends "a ton of money trying to squeeze the last pesticide off a golf course, or the last amount of formaldehyde out of the manufacturing process, we are making America a little poorer," Stossel said. "The factory doesn't open. The fruit costs more. Fruits are supposed to make you live longer, so if you make more pesticides more expensive that kills them by denying them fruits and vegetables... Wealthier is healthier."

"We do not, in the press, ever put these things in perspective. We are excessive about the trivial stuff, and we may be killing people by making the bottom line worse. Maybe the new headline should be: 'New EPA rule saves six, kills 60.'"

"The superintendent is a very important starting point to the educational process," said Erusha, director of education for the USGA Green Section. "The owner, builder and architect must be involved as well. We have a technical language all our own. We must use a language people can relate to. Assess their perspective and interest and formulate your answer accordingly."

"We know if fertilizers and insects are properly chosen and applied, they don't harm the environment," she added.

"Golf is an easy target" for environmental activists wanting publicity, said Dodson, president of the New York Audubon. "The public perception is that 'golf is an elitist sport that is unconnected to the vast majority of the American pub-

lic. Golf managers have an almost uncontrollable urge to manage every square inch of earth under the golf course with wall-to-wall, closely cut turfgrass which uses huge quantities of water and chemicals, making an elite, attractive chemical waste site."

"Most golf courses embrace the idea of environmental sustainability," and on that concept all environmental groups agree, he said. He urged superintendents to "document — with hard numbers and scientific evidence — the value well-sited, designed and managed golf courses can have on the environment."

"Look for every opportunity to speak with and befriend members of your course, organizations, schools, etc. and encourage them to follow your examples of environmental stewardship."

"The folks on the front line, discussing [matters] with environmentalists, make the difference," said Pyle, whose 15-year-old organization boasts 30,000 members across the spectrum of people who deal with chemicals.


Since its origins, when it successfully defeated an attempt to outlaw phenoxy herbicides, the Oregon group "kicked into an offensive mode," she said, to actively bring "a bigger comfort level to the public..."

"The we moved to the legislative arena. If it's not law, it's not the case. We ensured we were at the table when legislation is introduced. We said to environmentalists: 'We agree. But let's have legislation based on fact.'"

Every state, Pyle said, "can have the success Oregon has had."

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