

## Scotts seeks nominees for excellence award

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Company, sponsor of The Tradition Golf Tournament, has named the selection committee for the 1995 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award, recognizing the outstanding achievements among golf course superintendents in advancing the science of course maintenance.

The Tradition of Excellence Award will be presented at The Tradition tourney, one of the four major tournaments on the PGA Senior Tour, scheduled for March 27-31, 1995. This year, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America was so honored.

The selection committee, composed of former GCSAA presidents, includes:

- John Spodnik of Westfield, Ohio, served as president in 1969. Recently retired from Westfield Country Club after 35 years, he

now consults for Westfield Co.

- Cliff Wagoner, CGCS, of Modesto, Calif., served as president in 1973. Retired after 35 years with Del Rio Country Club in Modesto, he currently consults on agronomic matters, most recently in Morocco and Tunisia.

- Michael Bavier, CGCS, of Barrington, Ill., served as president in 1981. He has spent the last 25 years with Inverness Golf Course of Palatine, Ill.

- Gene Baston of Augusta, Ga., served as president in 1985.

He has spent the last seven years with West Lake Country Club.

- Donald Hearn, CGCS, of Chelmsford, Mass., served as president in 1987. He's spent the last 22 years at Weston Golf Club.

- Dennis Lyon, CGCS, of Aurora, Colo., served as president in 1989. He has served 21 years with the City of Aurora as manager of golf.

"For too long, the golf course superintendent has worked behind the scenes," said Dave Heegard, Scotts vice president

of ProTurf, who also serves on the selection committee. "This award raises the visibility of the superintendent significantly, and The Tradition gives us a forum to tell the public how important the superintendent's work is."

Heegard said nominations for the award may come from anyone. Forms are available by calling Deb Strohmaier at Lord, Sullivan & Yoder, Inc. at 614-846-7777; or by calling the GCSAA's Burk Beeler at 913-841-2240.

The nominating criteria are:

1. The nominee must be employed as a superintendent.
2. Their course must be well

maintained.

3. They will have shown good teaching and mentoring qualities throughout his or her career.

4. They must be a leader, helping to further understanding of and within the profession through communication, such as speeches to organizations or writing for publications.

5. They will demonstrate environmental responsibility.

6. They will have been involved with research and innovation in cultural or management practices.

7. They will be involved professionally at the local level.

## Skip Wade

Continued from previous page

shore of Long Island, or anywhere some architect built a green in the middle of the woods, it would be harder to go organic. I don't have any really bad problems in the corners."

Remember, it was here on Long Island that hundreds of geese were allegedly killed after consuming pesticides applied at Seawane Country Club in nearby Hewlett Harbor. Like many superintendents with geese problems, Wade turned to an organic/canine solution. Instead of going with the more common border collie approach, however, he settled on a Chesapeake retriever, Hershey, who has done the job.

The Cherry Valley membership has also responded, purchasing a catalytic water conditioner, designed to make water more easily absorbed by turf and plants. According to the manufacturer — Carefree Water Conditioner of Santa Ana, Calif. — by making water "wetter", this approach can help cut irrigation by 30 percent.

Wade has also worked with the club chef, recycling an average of 2,000 pounds of kitchen waste each month. The resulting compost is used on the golf course and saves the club an average of \$15,000 per year in tipping fees.

Though he has taken some abuse, from members and colleagues, Wade hasn't been shy about spreading the organic gospel. The Times article proves that. He also speaks for the Coalition for Alternative Pesticides in New York.

In that vein, Wade will present two seminars at the upcoming GCSAA show, Feb. 24 and 25: "Reconstructing bunkers with compost" and "Cutting down on pesticides — Poa control and organics."

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