

# VICE PRESIDENT

**Name:** Bruce Williams

**Age:** 45

**Course:** Bob O'Link GC, Highland Park, Ill.

**Former head superintendent**

**at:** In charge at Bob O'Link since 1979.

**Years GCSAA member:** 18

**GCSAA posts:** Board of director member since 1991; chairman of finance, industrial advisory, certification appeals and technological information services advisory committees; vice chairman of chapter relations resource group; member of seminar resource, conference and planning, CEU guidelines, certification and education, public relations, scholarship and research, finance and planning committees; government relations liaison to the board of directors.

**Other associations:** Past president of Chicagoland Assoc. of GCS and Midwest Assoc. of GCS; member of Chicago District Golf Assoc. Turfgrass Research Advisory Committee, Chicago Botanical Garden Advisory Committee, International Golf Museum and Hall of Fame Advisory Board, USGA Green Section Committee, Illinois Golf Hall of Fame Selection Committee and Northern Illinois Horticultural Assoc.; instructor at College of Lake County.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in English and speech, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio; graduate of turfgrass management program, Michigan State.

**Family:** Wife, Roxanne; children, Blake, 13, Claire, 9, David, 6, Mary 1.

**Goal:** "We'll spend much of the coming year developing cooperative working arrangements with our chapters throughout the country. It's impor-



Bruce Williams

tant for the future of the national association to make sure the chapters have a loud voice in what happens. We're also working on further enhancing the image of the golf course superintendent. The television show on ESPN will let us give the superintendent's slant on what happens at the course and should have a positive impact on public opinion toward the role of the superintendent."

# President's Environmental Award to Hiers

By MARK LESLIE

NAPLES, Fla. — It has been a remarkable journey the last few years for Tim Hiers. From superintendent at the environmentally friendly John's Island Club in Vero Beach to operating the country's first Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Course at Collier's Reserve here, to winning the treasured President's Award for Environmental Leadership from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) — this has been a time of excitement.

Yet, Hiers, a member of the *Golf Course News* Advisory Board, would give credit elsewhere.



Tim Hiers

"Without sounding falsely humble, I have been in the right place at the right time," he said. "The accumulation of what I'm doing has been direction and guidance and experience from other superintendents — not books and magazines. It has not been from real-life experience and looking at examples of myriad superintendents who have done all this before. We just had the opportunity to try to embody most of those simultaneously."

The President's Award was created in 1992 and has only been presented to the Cape Cod Superintendents Association and Audubon Wildlife Sanc-

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## Candidate Grigg

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are responsible conservators of their golf courses. We're going to hit extra hard at the idea that we are the environmental good guys and to encourage our members to get out in the community to promote themselves. To help them, we'll try to deliver a proactive program demonstrating golf's environmental benefits that our members can use in their local communities.

"We'll continue to work hard at enhancing the professional image of the superintendent through a comprehensive and effective public relations program. We want a clearly defined government relations program that allows us to work effectively with Washington and to continue stressing strong chapter relations. We're also looking to reach the 15,000-member mark and bring in more public golf course members through an aggressive membership drive.

"As for what I bring to the job, I think I have a unique blend of daily superintendent knowledge and construction experience that has allowed me to develop ties with architects, builders and other allied associations. I also have an advanced agronomy degree and feel that I'm a good writer and speaker. That should help me represent the association.

"I came to Naples National three years ago knowing I was going to be very involved with the association into the foreseeable future. Dr. Charles Benton, the club president and one of its founders, let me know the membership was behind me 100 percent. I'm very grateful for their support."



Mr. S. Nakano, Greenskeeper Kouraku Golf Club Okayama, Japan



Garrett Deck, Golf Course Superintendent The Harvest Golf Course Kelowna, BC, Canada



Joseph M. Hahn, Golf Course Superintendent Oak Hill Country Club Rochester, New York



Gary Dempsey, Golf Course Superintendent New South Wales Golf Club Sydney, Australia



Mandel Brockington, G.C. Supt. Diamante Country Club Hot Springs, Arkansas



## Supers salute Hiers

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tuary Program for Golf Courses administered by the New York Audubon Society in concert with the U.S. Golf Association. The recipient is chosen by the GC-SAA board of directors based on exceptional environmental contributions to the game of golf — contributions that exemplify superintendents' image as stewards of the land. It will be presented to Hiers at the opening ceremonies of the GCSAA International Conference and Show in San Francisco.

William Timothy (Tim) Hiers, a certified golf course superintendent, has fought for years to illustrate that superintendents are environmentalists of the first degree. Now at Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla., the first Audubon Signature facility and a worldwide model of environmental excellence, he received the first-ever John James Audubon Steward Award and the Florida Region Environmental Steward Award last year.

A member of the GCSAA Government Relations Committee and co-chairman of the Florida Turfgrass Associations External Affairs Committee, he was recently named the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association's government liaison.

Hiers has actively presented the case for golf courses regionally with tours for schoolchildren, seminars and local speaking engagements.

"I can tell you in individual categories where other superintendents have done better than we have," said Hiers. "That's where I got a lot of the fodder for doing this. And if it had not been for a company like Collier Enterprises and someone like Jeff Birr, who are committed to giving me that opportunity and then backing me up with the necessary resources, we wouldn't be talking. Collier Enterprises was committed to this as much as we were. You have to have not only financial, but moral support."

He also credited his staff, Collier's architect, Arthur Hills of Toledo, Ohio, and his lead designer, Mike Dasher.

Performing the work for the Signature Program is a money-saver, he said, pointing to much lower costs for electricity, pesticides, fuel and manpower.

"It is good for the game, good for the environment and good for business," Hiers said.

Having completed the Collier's Reserve project, Hiers said he could do it "20 percent better a second time."

Passing these tips along to the industry, and spreading the good word about golf courses to the general public are next on Hiers' agenda. He has speaking engagements scheduled at turf industry events, and is constantly addressing schools and civic organizations. He also leads schoolchildren on tours of Collier's Reserve, GOLF COURSE NEWS

because "observation is worth a lot more than dissertation."

"As long as we're involved, we can help pass laws that make sense. But as long as we have politicians and people who label themselves as environmentalists writing laws, they are always going to be superfluous, extreme, capricious and counterproductive," he said. "Superintendents have been and will continue to be the leaders in many of these [environmental] areas. We're in the trenches. We're the ones who have to deal with the regulators and the fire marshals, EPA and club members."

## Harivandi & Engelke

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lems... Superintendents need to analyze the water and evaluate its suitability for irrigating their golf course based on the type of grass, plants and soil they have. That is the first step.

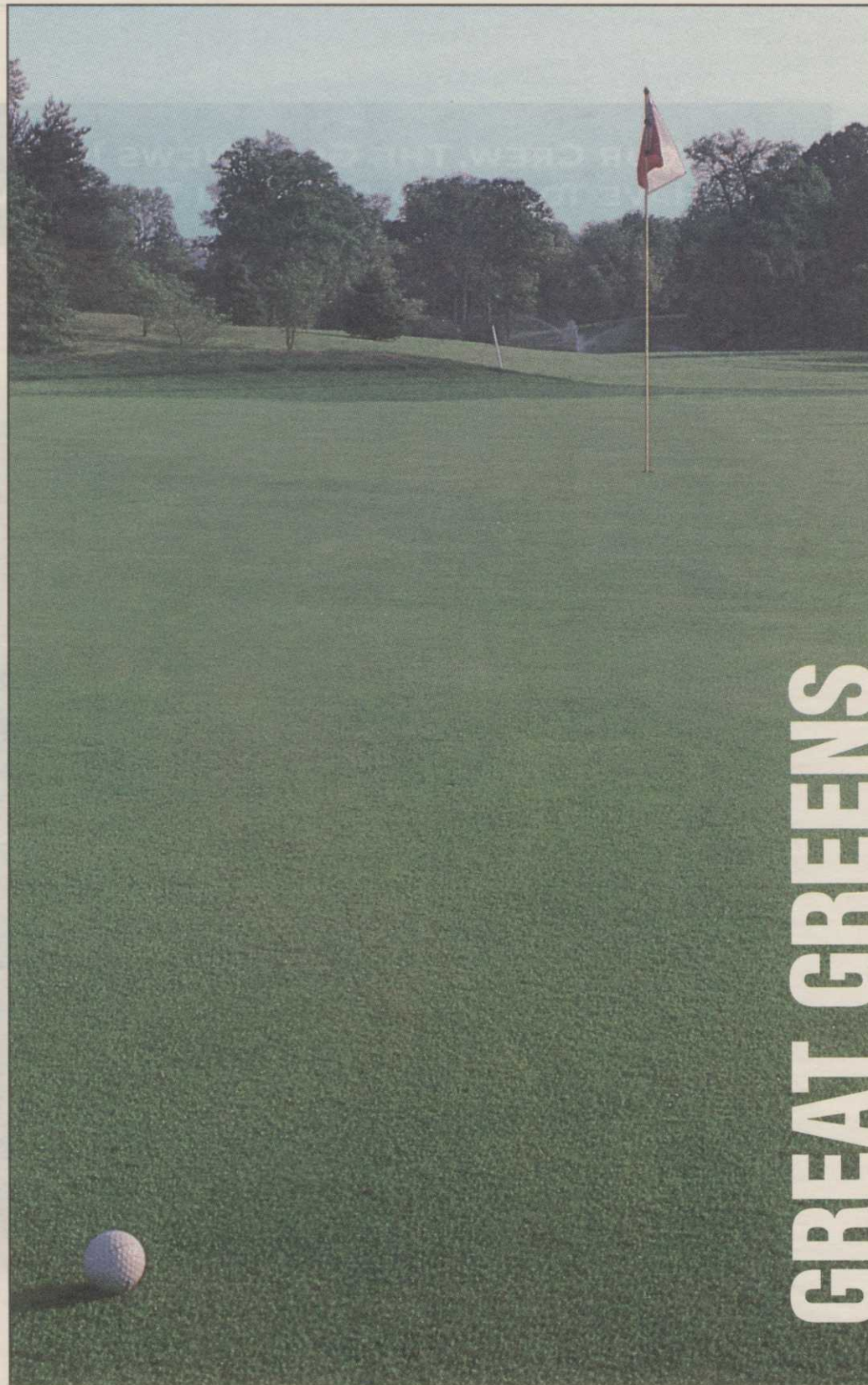
"If, indeed, they have very low-quality water, they must think of remedies and there are many ways to deal with that: such as blend with a better quality water or grow salt-tolerant grasses" or inject acid, or gypsum or another chemical into the irrigation system.

Harivandi is also spearheading research projects to reduce green waste, especially grass clippings. A law was passed in California in 1989

which requires all municipalities to reduce solid waste by 25 by 1995, and 50 percent by 2000.

The Alameda County specialist found that mulch mowers are a great help. Also, he said, "You can use slower-growth grasses, apply more effective growth regulators with not much toxicity, use recycling mowers and manipulate your fertilization program to slow growth. The combination will reduce the amount of clippings tremendously. You can basically eliminate the grass clippings."

The 1982 and 1992 recipient of the Northern California Turfgrass Council's Research and Education Award, Harivandi was the GCSA of Northern California's selection for its Distinguished Service Award in 1990.



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