

## Former GCSAA president Williams honored by USGA Green Section

FAR HILLS, N.J. — A “very, very pleasantly surprised” Bob Williams will receive the 1996 U.S. Golf Association Green Section Award during the Golf Course Superintendents of America Association (GCSAA) Conference in Orlando, Fla.

The retired golf course superintendent of the Bob O’Link Golf Club, in Highland Park, Ill., Williams is a former GCSAA president and still works in turfgrass consulting.

The USGA’s annual honor recognizes persons for distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass.

Williams’ professional career began back in 1926 at just 12 years of age. That year, he became a student trainee at Bellaire Country Club, in Wauconda, Ill. By the time he turned 18 he was the club’s superintendent. He remained in the post until he became assistant superintendent at Medinah Country Club in Chicago in 1938, then later at the Ohio State University (OSU) golf courses in 1941.

His stint at OSU was interrupted by World War II. Williams entered the Army as a private in 1942, and was discharged as a full captain in 1945 after service in the combat engineering corps in the European theater. After the war, he returned to OSU, then departed in 1947 to become superintendent at Beverly Coun-

try Club in Chicago.

Williams held that position until undertaking a similar role at Bob O’Link golf Club in 1958. He remained at Bob O’Link until his retirement in 1979, when he was succeeded by his son, Bruce.

Williams held leadership positions in local, state and national industry associations, culminating with election as GCSAA president in 1958. He implemented many innovations during his GCSAA tenure, including several promotional activities that led to wider

Bob Williams



recognition of the organization.

Williams also initiated innovations in the turfgrass field. Among these were design and construction of one of the first customized automatic irrigation systems at Bob O’Link; formula-

tion of one of the first three-nozzle, tractor-mounted boom sprayers for golf courses; service as teacher and mentor to more than 60 students and apprentice superintendents who have gone on to become professional leaders; and preparation and delivery of many articles and speeches around the world as a spokesman on behalf of golf course maintenance.

“Bob Williams truly exemplifies the spirit of the USGA Green Section Award,” said current

GCSAA President Gary T. Grigg. “His lifetime contributions, particularly his commitment to professionalism, put him first among many you could consider for the 1996 award.”

Williams’ son Bruce, who assumes the GCSAA presidency in Orlando, said: “I realize that I am perhaps more than a little biased, but I, too, believe he [is] a very deserving recipient. As one of many young superintendents who learned at his feet, I can attest to his skills, his commitment, and his love for the game and the profession. He’s also one heck of a dad.”

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## Rackliffe earns Feser Award

ORLANDO — The 1996 Leo Feser Award will be presented to Dan E. Rackliffe of The Longshore Club Park in Westport, Conn., during the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presents the award annually, honoring the author of the best superintendent-written article published in the association’s monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management* (GCM). GCSAA’s Publications/Technical Resource Advisory Committee selects the article that it believes best serves the interests of golf course superintendents and the golf community.

In his article, “A long time coming,” published in last April, Rackliffe described his struggle to replace the 19th-century maintenance “barn” with a new facility built for worker safety and environmental concerns. The article offered valuable advice for superintendents facing similar projects. “In fact,” he wrote, “this project has been one of the most rewarding I have ever completed in my career.”

GCSAA will honor Rackliffe during the Opening Session of the show on Feb. 7