

GCSAA registers as lobbyist

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The GCSAA board of directors agreed with a Government Relations Committee recommendation to register the association and appropriate staff as lobbyists in order to advocate positions on legislative issues in Congress. The committee also supported taking advantage of opportunities to use the grassroots, or member superintendents as voters, to influence government decisions. A campaign was set in motion to encourage GCSAA members to ask their senators and representatives in Congress to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to address a problem with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The WPS became an issue for GCSAA when an Interpretative Guidance Work Group

determined that WPS should cover the portion of golf courses where sod, ornamentals and trees are grown for replacement purposes as these plants would normally have "commercial value."

Previously, golf courses were exempted from WPS because the rule covered only agricultural workers and did not apply when plants are grown for other than commercial or research purposes. In addition, the 11-member panel recommended that GCSAA expand its influence by participating in coalitions, including the Alliance for Reasonable Regulation; the Coalition of Occupational Safety and Health; and the Grassroots Endangered Species Act Coalition.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

GCSAA, Valent join forces in project to expand education

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the Valent S.A. Corp. have agreed to continue a partnership developed this year to produce a GCSAA Professional Development Catalog.

Distributed for the first time in 1995, the Professional Development Catalog provides more information on GCSAA educational opportunities and association services than any previous publication.

Under the partnership agreement, Valent U.S.A. renewed its commitment to underwrite the catalog for three

years, through the 1998-99 education season.

"This Professional Development Catalog is your key to opening the door to current information and new professional opportunities," wrote Philip A. Nelson, president and CEO of Valent, in the catalog.

"Valent is a strong believer in the value of education and personal development efforts. We believe our valued customers in the golf course industry continuously demonstrate their professionalism and desire to improve not only their future, but the future of the industry."

GCSAA Education Committee Chairman Tommy D. Witt said: "The agreement with Valent has allowed us to develop a high-quality, year-round reference guide to GCSAA services. Approximately 30,000 have been distributed to all GCSAA members, potential members, affiliated chapters and others. We believe this annual catalog will become an essential tool for all GCSAA members in the years ahead."

Designed to provide members a more integrated approach to GCSAA services, the catalog highlights GCSAA's:

- career development materials and services;
- education programs, including regional seminars, programs available at GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show, the Environmental Management Program, the Certification Program and correspondence courses; and
- technical information services, such as electronic search services, audiovisual materials and bookstore listings.

Free copies of the 1995 Professional Development Catalog may be obtained by calling GCSAA at 800-472-7878.

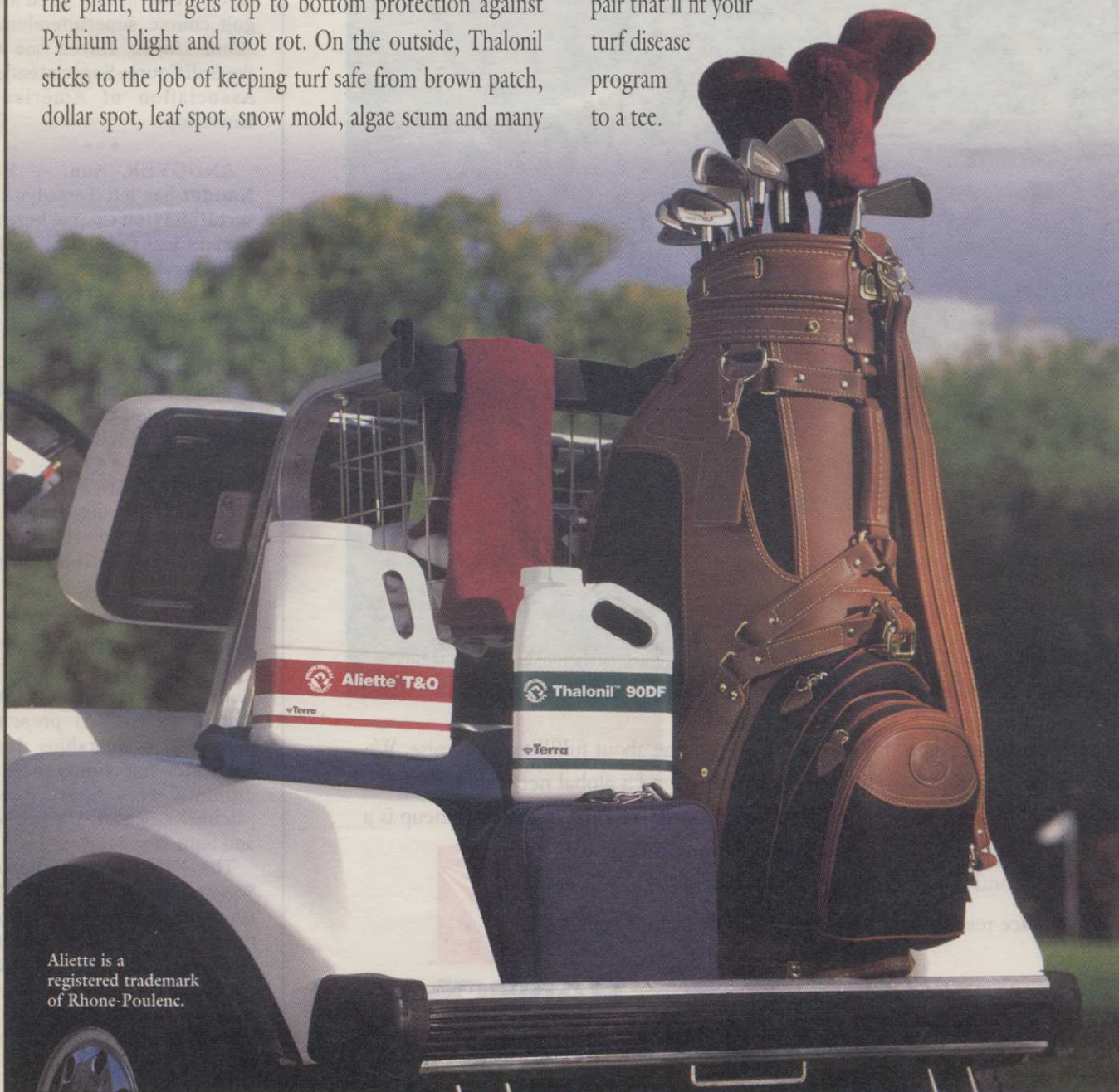
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Certification offered OPE technicians

AUSTIN, Texas — The Outdoor Power Equipment (OPE) technicians certification program has released a new registration form and nationwide test locations and dates for January through March.

The certification program has become an independent organization. Virgil Russell is director of certification. As an independent agency, the OPE technicians certification program will expand to include:

- Certification of all engine and equipment technicians in the categories of engines, outdoor power equipment, golf and commercial turf and power generation.
- Development of a training council consisting of service and training professionals from education and industry.
- Development of an educational foundation to provide support to schools and providing instruction for the industry.

People interested in more information on the program may contact the OPE technicians certification program at 512-442-1788, or by fax at 512-442-1789.