

Rolling Greens Photography



Bill Kubly (left), president of Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., accepts the Golf Course Builder of the Year Award from Golf Course News Publisher Charles von Brecht.

## Builders honor Cornish, Kubly; welcome President Eldredge

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — A game of tradition caught up in a whirlwind of revolutionary technological advance — that is how Geoffrey Cornish described the state of affairs in the golf industry while accepting the Donald A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) here.

Cornish, a past president and fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, was presented the award during the annual GCBA banquet during the International Golf Course Conference and Show. The Rossi award is given in memory of the late Don Rossi, who once headed up the GCBA and National Golf Foundation.

Honoring Cornish, Robert Muir Graves cited his longtime colleague as fulfilling "all the qualities of a good Boy Scout" from being morally straight to being loyal, trustworthy, kind, courteous, cheerful and reverent.

"We are in a real revolution — a Renaissance," Cornish said, "the revolution of the integration of a global economy plus great technological advances. They are having a profound effect on golf course development."

In the face of these advances, Cornish said, the fact that golf is a game of tradition "keeps us on our feet..."

Jim Kirchdorfer of Irrigation Supply Co. in Louisville, Ky., the only founding member of the 23-year-old GCBA present at the banquet, passed the gavel of the presidency on to Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

First, Kirchdorfer reviewed the association's growth to more than 150 members and added: "After two years of work, our construction cost database is complete. We are really proud of it. Our certification program has grown and matured. The [fund-raising] auction last year was a lot of fun and offers a lot of promise."

Eldredge promised "to carry the banner forward."

"We definitely are on a roll," he said. "Our organization has grown tremendously the last five or six years. Also, what speaks highly of our organization is the ever-increasing quality of construction. That's what we are all about."

Eldredge heads a new slate of officers including Vice President Bill Kubly of Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., Treasurer Jeff Gredvig of John Deere and Secretary Mike Harrington of HARCO Fittings.

The second annual auction following the banquet raised about \$65,000, according to GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold. Some 25 percent of that will be donated to environmental causes, including \$5,000 to the Golf and the Environment Summit at Pinehurst, N.C., March 10-12. Arnold said the GCBA goal is to give a higher percentage of the profits each year — next year's goal being 50 percent.

The GCBA has welcomed Boyd Irrigation, Inc. and Brigance Contractors, Inc. as its newest charter members. Charter Members express their support of the GCBA by making a one-time minimum contribution of \$5,000 beyond their annual membership dues.

Roger Boyd, president of Boyd Irrigation, said: "We're happy to be in the organization, and we want to make a commitment to the organization in both time and money. I'm a firm believer in associations, and we think this is an excellent one for us to be involved with."

Boyd Irrigation Inc. was formed in 1988 by a family with over 70 years cumulative experience in the golf course business.

A family-owned business headquartered in Oxford, Miss., Brigance Contractors, Inc. is headed by President Joe Brigance, Vice President David Brigance and Secretary/Treasurer Fran Brigance. They recently added an irrigation division headed by Ron Divilbliss.

and ground water quality, including both pesticides and nitrates.

"Providing evidence that golf courses are environmentally friendly is very important to GCSAA and the rest of the golf industry," said Dr. Jeff Nus, GCSAA's research manager. "This work by ETS could go a long way in providing that evidence — not only to the golf industry but to regulatory agencies and environmental groups as well."

## 'Old Tom' Fazio forecasts advances making putting greens even better

By MARK LESLIE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Looking back to great strides in playside equipment manufacturing, the 1996 Old Tom Morris Award-winner envisioned a future of major advances in playing surfaces.

Accepting the Old Tom Morris Award during the annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) banquet, golf course architect Tom Fazio said:

"I see tremendous changes that have occurred in the game and ... it is incredible to think what is going to happen in the future of operations and maintenance of golf courses."

The award honors an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

Presenting it, GCSAA's outgoing President Gary Grigg said Fazio is "recognized by superintendents and architects as a truly great architect" and cited his extensive work with the Girls and Boys Clubs, both lo-

cally and nationally.

"People ask what trends do you see in golf course design?" Fazio said.

Instead of improvements in golf balls and clubs and other equipment that have changed substantially, he said, "I firmly believe we will see a major change in a grand, grand way — something that we probably can't even visualize: [University researchers] creating new and better surfaces for us to play on. And this will have a major impact on every superintendent in this room."

Because of economic competition, Fazio said, "the desire for excellent conditions on every golf course has become such a premier focus that we are going to have to ... develop new technology to help make that happen."

He said the GCSAA has been a forerunner in that research "and we appreciate all the great work you are doing on the technology and research side..."

In accepting the Old Tom Morris Award, Fazio cited his staff, "who actually do the majority of work that make our courses happen."

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