Chicagoland AGCS exclusively for superintendents and education

By TERRY BUCHEN

CHICAGO — The Midwest Golf Course Superintendent Association (GCSA) has been the main chapter for the Chicago area since local chapters have been in existence. However, back in 1968, a mini-revolution took place when a small group of North Shore superintendents — who wanted to learn more from their association and from their peers — formed the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (AGCS).

"We formed Chicagoland AGCS with the belief to openly share knowledge, ideas and opinions with the mutual trust of fellowship and to continually strive for self-improvement and advancement of our profession," explained Julius D. Albaugh, superintendent at Westmoreland Country Club and the only active charter member in the area. "Simply put, only golf course superintendents can be members of our association."

The Chicagoland AGCS normally meets in the afternoon on the fourth Tuesday, from November through March. From April through October, it meets for evening dinner, usually at a super's club. Twenty or more of the 75 members routinely attend.

"Unless specified in writing, coat and ties are required at each meeting," Albaugh said, adding that the $1 fine for improper dress has never been collected.

At meetings, two topics are the subject of separate roundtable discussions. The subjects are determined by the education chairman. Every superintendent has a chance to actively participate, explained Les B. Rutan, Chicagoland AGCS president and superintendent at Beverly Country Club.

"If over 25 attend, we can't get around the table for every superintendent to participate," Rutan continued. "So the education chairman picks five to 10 superintendents, at random, to participate on both topics for the month. We have guest speakers, from time to time, if we feel there is an important topic that a nonmember can contribute to."

Each January, the association plans a tour of three turf care centers in the north, west and southern areas of the city. This is also attended by superintendents' employees, such as assistants and mechanics.

The December Christmas Party meeting traditionally has the largest attendance, as the U.S. Golf Association regional agronomist presents his "Year in Review." The November meeting traditionally features The Forum, the association's annual "special" education program in a seminar format.

"Guests — such as green chairmen, course officials and assistants — normally attend," Rutan said. "Every two years, we have a budget comparison, usually held in October, where superintendents put their budgets on the table where they are openly shared

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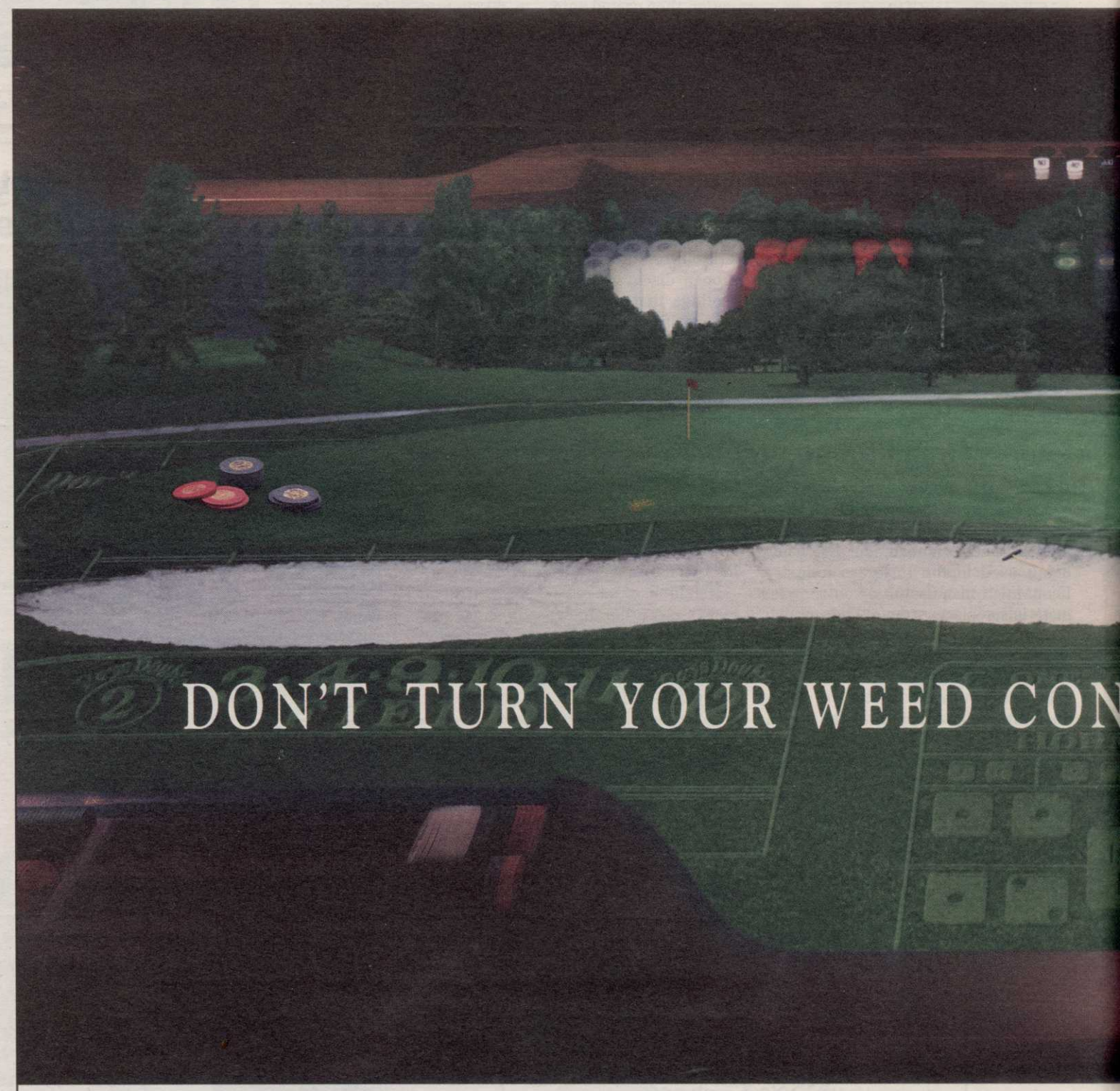
SAVVY SUPERINTENDENT

THE CHICAGOLAND AGCS CREED

We, the members of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents, believe the unity of an association depends on the professionalism of members therein. Our goal is to create the ultimate environment for the game of golf.

We pledge to openly share our knowledge, ideas, and opinions with the mutual trust of fellowship and to continually strive for self-improvement and advancement of our profession. We shall strive to adhere to our bylaws and see that the purpose is understood and respected.

We will uphold the proud heritage of our profession with dignity.



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