

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 non-member 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 meet-

ing 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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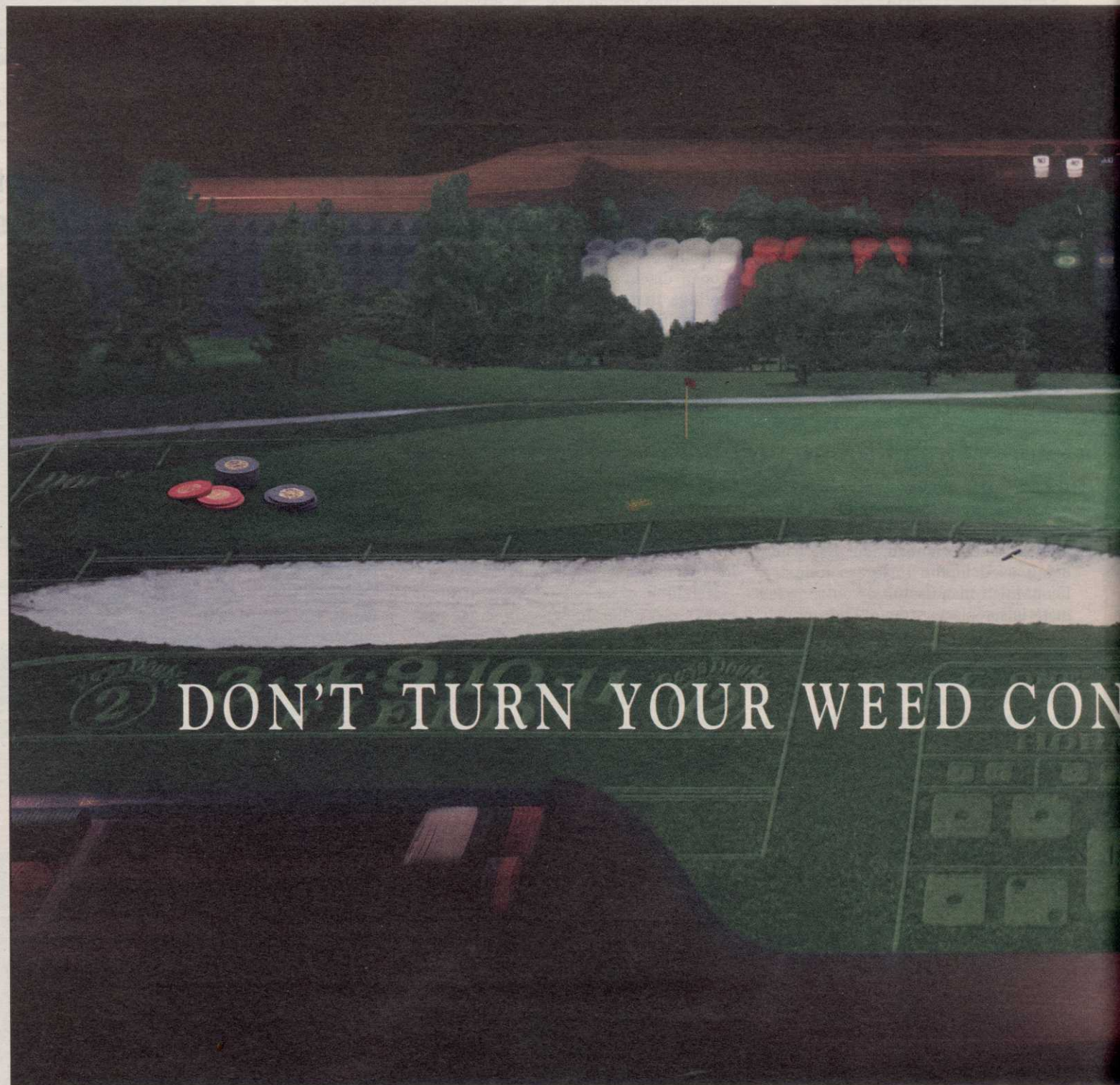


THE CHICAGOLAND AGCS CREED

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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Lewis leaves Portland CC to start company

FALMOUTH, Maine — **Pat Lewis**, superintendent for eight years at Portland Country Club (CC) here, has left to form a consulting firm and undertake other business opportunities.

Lewis, who was succeeded by long-time assistant **J.B. Christie**, has joined brother Peter in creating Lewis Brothers

Lawn & Turf Consulting Services, located at 170 U.S. Route 1, Suite 200, Falmouth.

Peter, a superintendent for 14 years at Country Club of Farmington (Conn.), came to Maine as superintendent at Westerly Winds in Westbrook a year ago. He will remain there.

Lewis Brothers will specialize

in soil samples, consult with homeowners, lay out turf fertility programs, calibrate spreaders and other duties — “basically teaching the homeowner,” Pat said.

Pat will also remain affiliated in some way as an agronomic consultant with Portland CC.

Christie, who holds a degree in communications and has stud-

ied turfgrass management at University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School in the winter, has worked at the Portland CC for 10 summers. Eight years ago he was

promoted to second assistant, and six years ago took over as first assistant.

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ORONO, Maine — **Blayr**



Crowley has left Penobscot Valley Country Club here to join Sawtelle Brothers, a supplier to the golf course industry. Crowley

will be the Sawtelle representative in Vermont.

•••
QUANTICO, Md. — Billy Casper Golf Management, Inc. (BCGM) has named **Charles T. Sheridan** superintendent here at Green Hill Yacht & Country Club. BCGM was selected in December to provide complete turnkey management services to Green Hill. Sheridan is the former assistant golf course superintendent at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, where he participated in the regrassing of the course and an extensive irrigation upgrade in preparation for the 1995 U.S. Open. Sheridan also held the position of links superintendent at Waterville Golf Links in County Kerry, Ireland.

•••
VERO BEACH, Fla. — **Michael Rowe** has been named superintendent here at Sandridge Golf Club, a club managed by Lakeland, Florida-based International Golf Management, Inc. (IGM).

Rowe is responsible for complete maintenance of Sandridge's two 18-hole courses — the 7,000-yard Dunes and the 6,300-yard Lakes. He supervises a staff of 23 and reports directly to Jim Wells, IGM's central Florida regional manager.

Chicagoland

Continued from previous page with the other members. About 95 percent put their names on their budgets, and five percent remain confidential because of course rules. Also included in this comprehensive meeting are superintendents' fringe benefit and salary comparisons.

“Guests are not allowed at the budget meetings,” Rutan said.

Assistants or course officials can be guests, except during the budget meeting.

One member reads the entire “creed” at the beginning of each and every meeting (retired superintendents are members, as well). The block of votes goes entirely with the Midwest GCSA.

The Verdure Newsletter comes out monthly, announcing future meetings. It also includes a unique section on “news around town”. No meeting is held in February because of the national conference. Dues are \$55.

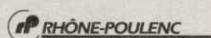
“We are, and have always been, a close-knit group, basing our existence on education, by sharing occupational secrets, by discussing ideas privately as superintendents,” Albaugh said.

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