

By MARK LESLIE

Zontek accepts Rossi Award

LAS VEGAS — Declaring that “agronomists like myself are comfortable working behind the scenes,” Stanley Zontek nevertheless came forward here to accept the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA).

Presented by President Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. during the GCBA's annual banquet at the International Golf Course Conference and Show, the Rossi Award is named for the

organization's former executive director. Zontek is the longest-tenured employee of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA) Green Section and directs its Mid-Atlantic Region.

“The USGA has been the vehicle that brought me here this evening,” Zontek said. “My thanks to a great organization and great people.”

He also thanked his wife, Marty, and

son, Christopher, and said of his hosts: “I have always had a special bond with golf course builders.”

Zontek said of Dr. Joe Duich, who taught him at Penn State University: “Dr. Duich set a standard of hard work, common sense, practicality and honesty. I have built my life around [those characteristics].”

Citing Don Rossi as “a nice man,” Zontek said, “There are fewer and fewer nice people

in this world, and to be recognized as a humanitarian is truly an honor.”

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Sam Sakocius of SAJO Construction, Inc. in Richmond, Texas, and Allan MacCurrach III of MacCurrach Golf Construction, Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla., were presented the Golf Course Builder of the Year and Small Builder of the Year awards at the banquet.

Both men saluted their families and their crews in accepting the *Golf Course News*-sponsored awards.

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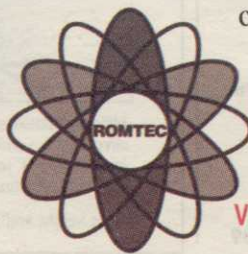


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Scotts honors Spodnik's achievements

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ing 35 years at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio, and a career spanning 45 years in the golf industry. During his time as a superintendent, Spodnik trained more than 25 turfgrass students, many of whom became superintendents themselves.

Spodnik remains very active in the profession as well as in his community. He participates in seminars at local, regional and national conferences and makes presentations to community organizations. He served as president of the GCSAA in 1969, and has been secretary/treasurer of the Northern Ohio Turf Foundation for 35 consecutive years. Presently, he is treasurer of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, serves on the Northern Ohio GCSA Employment Relations Committee and the GCSAA Historical Preservation Committee.

The Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award is not Spodnik's first recognition from the industry. He received the McLaren Award from the Northern Ohio GCSA in 1981, the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1994, and the Ohio Turf Federation Man of the Year Award in 1983 and 1986.

Throughout his career, Spodnik has championed sound environmental practices on the course. He was an originator of programs now considered “Integrated Pest Management” and also developed inventive recycling rinse pads and pesticide storage areas.

Twenty of his peers nominated Spodnik to receive the Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award. In his nomination of Spodnik, Robert Mitchell, 1994 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award recipient and executive director of golf and grounds at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., said, “All who have had the pleasure of playing either of his courses will attest to the greatest condition of both and the minute attention to detail, setting them apart from other courses.”

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