

## GCSAA begins standards initiative

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is in the initial stages of a membership standards initiative, an organization-wide research, development and communications effort to advance the superintendent profession.

Last year, GCSAA formed a membership standards resource group comprised of 13 association members to provide direction to the initiative, which focuses on the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to meet the needs of the golf course superintendent profession. Two consulting firms—SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute) and Mullen, a communications firm, have been retained to conduct ongoing research. SRI is examining membership educational needs and learning preferences. Mullen is analyzing the current perceptions of golf course superintendents and developing communications plans and programs.

The most recent development of the standards initiative has been the creation of GCSAA's Learning Systems Innovation and Design Department. Under the leadership of former Education Director Deena Amont, this unit will concern itself with education development and delivery issues such as new curricula, introducing distance learning programs, Web-based training and creating faculty internship programs, among other concepts.

"The timing was right to create a team to focus squarely on the future educational needs of our members," said GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Stephen F. Mona. "We now are better positioned than ever to move forward to continue GCSAA's mission to advance the profession through education."

The GCSAA Education Department will continue to focus on program development, delivery and quality improvement of all existing education program areas such as conference education, seminars, the Etonic Superintendent Leadership Series and correspondence courses. Hannes Combest, formerly GCSAA education manager, has assumed leadership of the education department as senior manager of education and will also serve as staff liaison to the GCSAA Education Committee.

"You can think of the new department as an education- and information-focused research and development department," Amont said. "Our role will be to stay ahead of what's new and what's working in the world of continuing education; and to see what will work for GCSAA members."

## Savvy Super

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white photos on VHS videotape along with identical, current black-and-white shots taken from the identical spot. These are also shown with two different side-by-side television monitors.

Hopefully, every golf course architect and superintendent will have the pleasure of working together as part of this important team, for a fun, personally rewarding experience. It is a great benefit that all golfers will enjoy as well as for the future of the game of golf.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



SHOP TALK

## 'Going vertical' saves major storage room

By TERRY BUCHEN

Boca Raton, Fla. — Spare cutting units and verticut units for five-plex fairway mowers are usually stored on the floor of the mechanic's shop area, taking up valuable storage space. Not at Woodfield Country Club here, where equipment manager Andy Gmelin has built a vertical "storage rack."

Five spare cutting units and five verticut units can be stored in this rack, in a very small footprint.

The two vertical, three-inch-square, hollow, tubular steel beams are approximately 6 feet high. Each has two legs welded on the bottom which holds the storage rack vertically in place. On each side, there are 1-inch-square, hollow, tubular steel brackets that hold the cutting units and verticut units in place, said Gmelin.

He said the brackets are 12 inches long and spaced 17 inches apart, across from each other, while the brackets are 10 inches vertically apart. They are welded in



Terry Buchen photo

This vertical storage rack makes more efficient use of space at Woodfield Country Club.

place at an approximate 15-degree angle to hold the units in place."

"Andy and I originally talked about the possibility that wheels could be added on the bottom of the storage rack, with locking devices so it would not move," said superintendent Mike Hummel. "We are still considering that."

The storage rack cost about \$75 for the two sizes of tubular steel. Working around his normal chores, Gmelin built the rack in one day, cutting the brackets with a chop saw and welding everything together. He used an aerosol spray can of glossy black paint.

"We are very pleased with our storage rack system that Andy built," Hummel said. "It is saving us a lot of valuable floor space and is quite sturdy, but not too heavy and pretty neat to look at."

## GCSAA makes 1st Tee commitment

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has established its commitment to the World Golf Foundation's The First Tee Initiative.

"Junior golf is a subject near and dear to the heart of GCSAA and its members," GCSAA President George Renault said. "The vast majority of our members first experienced the game at an early age, playing and/or working at a golf facility. The First Tee Initiative combines the resources of the nation's golf governing bodies to provide access to the sport for those who otherwise may not have had the opportunity."

Among the activities GCSAA has committed to include:

1. Provide GCSAA members as role models for minority programs.
2. Provide support for The First Tee through GCSAA's internal and external media outlets.
3. Develop an operations manual for maintenance of First Tee Facilities.
4. Solicit in-kind donations from industry partners.
5. Support the environmental edu-

cation of youth in conjunction with First Tee facilities.

6. Facilitate chapter support for maintenance programs for First Tee facilities.

7. Coordinate with chapters to provide labor from local golf course maintenance facilities.

8. Conduct turfgrass/environmental research at First Tee facilities.

9. Develop a charity even around GCSAA's annual 800-member Golf Championship, presented in partnership with The Toro Co.

The primary contribution of participants in The First Tee initiative will be provision of expertise and consulting advice, land-planning and other services to reduce the total cost of each project.

President George Bush is the honorary chairman, while the oversight committee includes the PGA Tour, U.S. Golf Association, Augusta National Golf Club, PGA of America and the LPGA. Joining GCSAA among the organizations on the advisory committee are the National Golf Foundation, American Society of Golf Course Architects, National Golf Course Owners Association, Tiger Woods Foundation, American Junior Golf Association, National Minority Golf Foundation and National Association of Junior Golfers.

## TEXANS RAISE \$3,500

More than 80 members participated to raise more than \$3,500 at the North Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association's annual East vs. West Ryder Cup Challenge. The event, which benefits charity, was held at Twin Creeks Golf Club, with superintendents from the Dallas area competing against superintendents from Ft. Worth area. The West prevailed. Proceeds were donated to the Lindy Miller Foundation for Junior Golf, which brings golf to Ft. Worth's inner-city children.

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