

## Dr. Watschke to get President's Award

NEW ORLEANS — Dr. Thomas L. Watschke, professor of turfgrass science at Penn State University, will receive the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) 2000 President's Award for Environmental Leadership. The award will be presented by GCSAA President Dave Fearis

at the 8:45 a.m. Golf General Session, Feb. 18, at GCSAA's 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

The President's Award was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course

superintendent's image as a steward of the land." The GCSAA board of directors selected Watschke on the basis of his research and education in the area of golf and the environment.

In 1985 Watschke established runoff facilities that provided some of the first scientific research showing the positive ef-

fects of healthy turfgrass on the environment. He developed numerous Integrated Pest Management programs for golf courses and developed the world's first undergraduate turfgrass degree program.

He has been a vocal advocate for the environmental benefits of golf courses through promotion of IPM and Best Management Practices and through his comparisons of golf courses with

other land uses. He has been interviewed twice for CBS Morning News regarding healthy turf.

Watschke worked as a superintendent before completing his doctorate.

"Dr. Watschke is a most deserving recipient of this major award," Fearis said. "His research, education and continuing public support have contributed to an enduring legacy of environmental excellence."

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## Maples honored

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and B.J. Johnson and famed superintendent Chet Mendenhall, Maples will be given the award during the U.S. Golf Association's annual general session, Feb. 19.

"To get that award is as meaningful as any you could get," Maples said from his home in Lawrenceville, Ga., where he is semi-retired and working as an agronomic consultant. "It is a crowning accomplishment. I will receive it for the Maples family. I feel my extended family has contributed to golf a little bit. We've been blessed by being in the golf industry."

Asked what he thought was his personal major accomplishment, Maples said: "I would hope that [the selection committee] looked at my feeling of sharing ideas that you've developed and that have worked for you; and my continuing reminder to never think you know it all. There is always education out there that you need. When you're looking down a long narrow path, the more steps you take the wider that path gets. Every time we learn one thing we find out there are maybe 100 other things we don't know."

Maples served as president of the GCSAA in 1975, when he was presented its Distinguished Service Award, then was director of education from 1976-80. He retired on June 22, 1998, after 16 years at Summit Chase Country Club here.

The University of Georgia graduate worked as assistant and head superintendent at Charlotte (N.C.) Country Club for 11 years, then took the superintendent job at The Standard Club in Duluth, Ga., in 1970.

He is a member of the GCSAA Historical Committee and the Donald Ross Society.

The Maples family has included Frank (construction superintendent and greenkeeper at Pinehurst Resort for 48 years who died in 1949); Angus (superintendent at Pine Needles Golf Club who died in 1958); Palmer Maples Sr., (a golf professional who died in 1979); golf course architects Ellis (who died in 1984) and Dan Maples; superintendents Gene, Wayne and Joe; and golf professional Willie.