

## GCSAA cancels celebration

LAWRENCE, Kan. — In light of the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America canceled its 75th anniversary celebration that was scheduled to take place here Sept. 13-14. At press time, the GCSAA had no information about possibly rescheduling the event that was to host more than 500 people.

"It is not appropriate to host a celebratory event in the wake of the tragedies, nor do we want to risk the safety of anyone who would have to travel," said GCSAA president Tommy Witt in a statement.

The anniversary weekend was to be the mid-point of a yearlong celebration that kicked off at the International

Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas last February and will wrap up at the 2002 show in Orlando.

During the two-day event at its headquarters, the GCSAA had planned to host an industry forum, a golf outing and a gala. During the festivities the organization also planned to unveil a bronze sculpture of Old Tom Morris, dedicate a new sculpture garden and com-

memorative walkway, and seal a time capsule.

### CELEBRATING ITS HISTORY

The GCSAA was officially founded as the National Association of Greenkeepers of America on Sept. 13, 1926, when a group of 60 greenkeepers from across the country met at Sylvania Country Club in Toledo, Ohio. The group grew slowly through the Great Depression and World War II, changing its

name in 1938 to the Greenkeeping Superintendents Association.

In 1951, the organization became the GCSAA and by 1957 had 1,000 members. After moving all over the country, the GCSAA established its permanent headquarters in Lawrence in 1974. Today, the association has more than 21,000 members, a \$21 million budget and a staff of 120.

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## Golf 20/20

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play but don't," he continued. "For example, the study emphasizes the importance that junior golf programs have to the growth of the game." (See box)

### ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES

Going forward, research is continuing on the use and impact of alternative golf facilities such as par-3 courses and golf ranges. Sportometrics, a South Carolina-based golf and sports consulting firm, is compiling a database of all alternative facilities and will provide summary statistics by state and region.

The study will analyze what makes certain facilities successful, and determine a successful business model. Additionally, it will try to quantify the impact of the alternative facilities on neighboring traditional courses. The information will identify where alternative golf facilities can and should be introduced to grow the game.

Results from both the player participation and alternative golf facility studies will be presented at the 2001 GOLF 20/20 conference that is scheduled for Nov. 11-13 at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla. ■

## Hamilton Farm

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according to golf course builder Joe Neibur. "We did a lot of hand-work in the bunkers to get the fingers in there," he said. "And believe it or not, it was harder to build square tees."

The extra effort, however, was worth it, according to the club's head golf pro Jeff Purtell. "It is a mature property with mature trees," Purtell said. "When you drive through the gates you do not feel like you are in a new development because of the history and the old stables and the overall layout and style of the course."

Indeed, said Fry, looking down the 18th hole, one would be hard pressed not to think that the course wasn't 100 years old. "The back drop for the 18th hole is this huge, old, 30,000 square-foot mansion," said Fry. "It is one of the most spectacular finishing holes in the world." ■