

## Ohio turfgrass conference & show continues growth

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The 35th Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show, held here Dec. 3-6, attracted 4,298 turfgrass professionals, academia and students to its annual year-end event. More than 3,300 registered attendees took part in over 90 hours of educational sessions, and the trade show featured 540 booths from 246 exhibiting companies.

The event is sponsored by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF), the Ohio State University, Ohio State University Extension, and Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center. At the conference, the OTF presented a check for \$136,470 to the Ohio State University representing

\$111,470 in turfgrass research grants and \$25,000 for scholarships to turfgrass students throughout the state of Ohio.

Several awards also were presented at the banquet, including a Professional of the Year Award to long-time OTF board member and past president Hank Chafin. Professional Excellence Awards were

presented to: Dr. Karl Danneberger, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State University, and Robert Figurella, superintendent, Brookside Country Club in Canton, Ohio. A special Honorary Lifetime Membership Award was presented to OTF past president Bob O'Brien of Century Equipment.

## GCSAA selects DSA winners

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has named Houston B. Couch, Ph.D., William F. Ploetz and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, as the recipients of the 2002 Distinguished Service Award. During the Opening Session here at GCSAA's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show, Feb. 6, each honoree will be recognized for their "outstanding, substantive and enduring contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession."

The award winners are selected by the GCSAA board of directors from nominations by affiliated chapters. "Their service and efforts have not only enhanced the association but have benefited the profession," said GCSAA president Tommy D. Witt. "Individually, they are why this is such a great profession."

### MEET THE WINNERS

Couch teaches turfgrass science at the plant pathology, physiology and weed science department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He also is the author of two books, *Diseases of Turf Grasses* and the *Turfgrass Disease Handbook*, and provides his expertise in the GCSAA seminar "Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control".

Ploetz, retired from Independence Golf Course in Gonzales, Texas, has spent 30 years volunteering his time to teach golf to kids and running summer youth golf clinics. He also has served on several GCSAA committees. He currently serves as a member of the conference and show resource group.

Superintendent at Los Angeles Country Club, Williams served on the GCSAA's board of directors from 1991 to 1996, and he recently served as chairman of the membership standards resource group. The committee helped to implement the Professional Development Initiative to advance the knowledge, skills and abilities of the professional superintendent.

## NGCOA awards

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the course through fire, flood, renovations and additions. The 54-hole operation boasts a 102-unit lodge, 12 tennis courts, and a clubhouse with a large food and beverage operation.

Although he sold the facility in 2000, Hollingsworth continues to be active in the golf business by offering his expertise in a pro bono consulting service that is available to anyone who needs assistance. ■

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