

Off The Fringe

GORDON WITTEVEEN, influential superintendent, author and lecturer, died on Dec. 16, 2010. He was 76. Witteveen was the author of numerous books, including “Practical Golf Course Maintenance: The Magic of Greenkeeping” written with Michael Bavier, CGCS-retired; “A Century of Greenkeeping;” “Keepers of the Green: A History of Golf Course Maintenance” with Bob Labban; and “Keeping the Green in Canada: A History of Golf Course Management.” Witteveen also helped found both the Canadian GSA as well as its magazine, *The Greenmaster*.

“Gordon was extremely loyal to the profession of the golf course superintendent,” Ken Cousineau, CAE, executive director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, said. “He cared deeply about the industry and the profession.”

Palmer Maples Jr., CGCS-retired, was president of the GCSAA in 1975 and had many fond memories of Witteveen from the time when the two were both on the GCSAA board of directors. Maples recalled fondly the 1975 conference and show in New Orleans when their children played together.

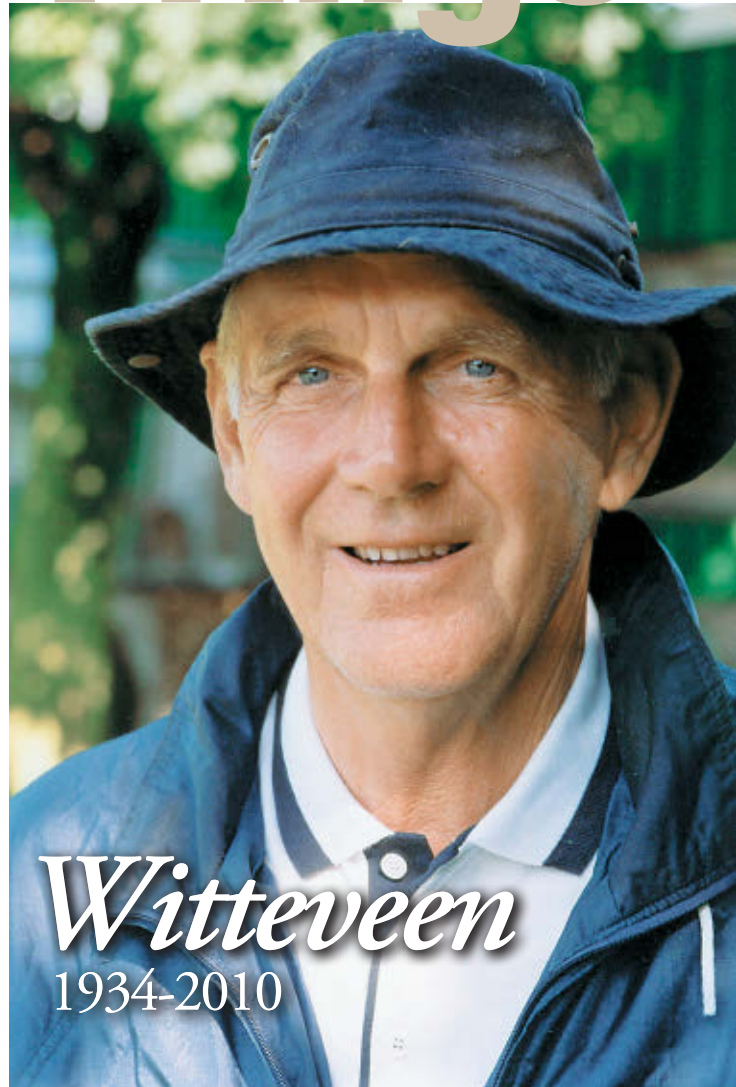
“He was a good, honest, hard-working superintendent,” Maples said. “He wasn’t into going high-tech with your golf course; he believed in dealing with the situation you were in as best as you could so the people playing your course could enjoy the surface.”

Michael Bavier, CGCS-retired, who co-wrote “Practical Golf Course Maintenance” with Witteveen, said he and Witteveen had lost touch these last several years.

“We had a lot of good times back in the ‘90s,” Bavier said. “I wish his family the best.”

Cousineau said one word summarized Witteveen best: inspirational.

“He cared so much, he took the time to speak with so many people, because he was so dedicated to the profes-



Gordon *Witteveen*
1934-2010

LOYAL TO THE PROFESSION

sion,” Cousineau said. “He was an inspiration to anyone he spoke with.”

Though Witteveen succumbed to leukemia, nothing can take away the many inspirations he left behind to his fellow superintendents, Maples said.

“Look at all the things he’s quoted on today,” Maples said. “He liked to expel that information in case someone didn’t know. He liked to plant those seeds and see them spread like *Poa annua*.” ■