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# COOL NEW TOOLS

Here's just a sample of some of the new products superintendents can find on the GIS trade show floor.

**T**he Golf Industry Show is a bonanza for superintendents. In just a few days superintendents can take in specialized educational seminars, see old friends from college, network with international colleagues, listen to golf legends speak and oh, yeah — check out a ton of new hardware available for their golf course.

So somewhere between that Tuesday night Nick Price talk and the Friday morning bermudagrass seminar, don't forget to cruise through the big hall in the Orange County Convention Center to see what new products are out there to help you take care of your course.

plete 90 percent of applications without complicated directions or mechanical adjustments. A 25-cubic-foot hopper keeps operators on the course while still keeping a light footprint on greens. The company says the 1540 TEC gives an accurate, clean and precise spread from ultra-light to ultra-heavy and everything in between, with very few adjustments. Visit Turfco at the GIS at booth # 2740 or online at [www.turfco.com](http://www.turfco.com).



**1** Turfco introduces what it calls the industry's most advanced topdresser, the WideSpin 1540 TEC truck-mounted broadcast topdresser. Featuring on-board diagnostics, electronic controls and WideSpin technology, the WideSpin 1540 TEC is designed for use with John Deere and Toro turf vehicles. A few mounting brackets and connections turn these trucks into quality broadcast spreaders. Simple, push-button controls on the electronic controller, combined with the unique spinner design allows operators to com-

**2** Earthway Products introduces the new S15 Spray-Pro ground-driven push sprayer. The S15 is designed for spraying all types of liquids including ice control products, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. The S15 is a fully assembled smaller version of the S25 Spray-Pro Mark III, and includes an adjustable spray system that makes applications on sidewalks and parking lots easy to manage. The S15 is ideal for areas where the boom sprayer will not go. The S15 does not need gas or battery power. Visit Earthway at the Golf Industry Show at booth # 922, or visit online at [www.earthway.com](http://www.earthway.com)



**3** Zylam 20SG Systemic Turf Insecticide from **PBI Gordon** is a 20-percent soluble granule formulation of dinotefuran, the latest generation of neonicotinoid insecticides. The company says it is the product of choice when you need "muscle in your tank" for control of turfgrass' toughest pests, including chinch bug, cutworms, mole crickets, European crane flies, billbugs and annual bluegrass weevils. Visit PBI Gordon at the GIS at booth # 852 or visit online at [www.pbigordon.com](http://www.pbigordon.com).

*Continued on page 33*



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**GIS Booth #1735**

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Golf Industry Show Booth # 1735

Foreign patents passed and pending  
US Patent #'s 7,624,560 and 5,261,213



*Continued from page 32*

**4 Club Car** will unveil improvements to its Visage Mobile Golf Information System at the 2011 GIS. The improvements increase the system's ability to help course managers address critical revenue and expense needs while at the same time increasing customer satisfaction. Improvements include a vehicle locator feature, a scorecard e-mail service, real-time pin location updates and more control over food and beverage orders placed from the car. Visage utilizes a combination of cellular, wireless and GPS technologies to create what Club Car calls the "new face of customer experience." Club Car also plans to unveil a premium 8-volt battery at the show. The new battery comes with a 4-year/25,000 energy unit warranty and Club Car's single point watering system that makes filling batteries more efficient. Visit Club Car at booth # 1353 or online at [www.clubcar.com](http://www.clubcar.com).



**4**

**5 Rain Bird 751 rotors** offers rapid-adjust technology featuring MemoryArc, making it possible for superintendents to easily and quickly adjust watering on greens, fairways or roughs as needed. These simple, top-adjustable rotation settings retain the memory of their part-circle arc setting when shifting between full- and part-circle operations for quick, dry arc adjustments for the life of the rotor. Because the 751 rotors are backward-compatible with every Eagle rotor manufactured since 1992 means that many superintendents can simply drop the new 751 rotors into their existing rotor cases, saving both time and money. Rain Bird says field and laboratory tests have found the 751 rotors to be up to 23 percent more efficient than those offered by the next-closest competitor — with durability that helps the rotors last up to 10 times longer. Visit Rain Bird at the GIS at booth 1400 or visit them online at [www.rainbird.com/golf](http://www.rainbird.com/golf).



**5**

**6** A new "starter" herbicide providing post-emergent weed control without the wait, SquareOne herbicide is the latest innovation from **FMC Professional Solutions**. The new product has been registered by the EPA for use on lawns, golf courses, sod farms and athletic fields. Unlike other products that are too harsh on newly seeded turf or require multiple applications, SquareOne herbicide can be applied just one day before seeding or as early as seven days after emergence on most cool- and warm-season grasses. This means weed populations are reduced from the start, allowing for maximum turf density with fewer herbicide applications or the need to reseed the following spring. SquareOne is a patent-pending dispersible granule formulation that features a dual action, optimized combination of active ingredients that works primarily through foliar contact and uptake, but also continues to hold back weed competition until the new turf is established. It is labeled for crabgrass and many small broadleaf weeds, and can be used in both spring and fall turf projects on lawns, athletic fields, sod farms and golf courses. Visit FMC at the GIS at booth # 1815 or online at [www.fmcprosolutions.com](http://www.fmcprosolutions.com).



**6**

**7 SonicSolutions** has been designed to keep water features and irrigation ponds clear of algae. Environmentally safe, SonicSolutions uses the resonance of ultrasonic waves to kill algae, yet is safe for fish, plants and other aquatic life. A single unit covers up to 8 acres depending on conditions and uses less than 10 watts. Multiple units can be used in larger ponds. A solar powered model is also available with solar power system sold separately. Visit SonicSolutions at booth # 1009 at the GIS, or contact them at 888-KO-ALGAE (888-562-5423).



**7**

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8

**8 Standard Golf** will introduce several new products at the GIS, including new Junior Tournament flagsticks for practice greens. Similar to the larger flagstick style, the new distinctive fiberglass Junior Tournament rods are designed to taper from a 3/4-inch diameter at the center point of the rod to a 1/2-inch diameter at the tip and ferrule. Standard also releases an aluminum practice green cup, coated with an exclusive chip-resistant Bonderite powder coat. A new beveled edge bottom also makes it easier to insert and remove. Standard will also unveil a unique one-piece hole whitener system that sprays clean white holes in seconds. It requires no assembly and minimizes overspray by focusing the spraying close to the edge of the hole rather than spraying from the center of the cup. A built-in shield also provides added protection against overspray. Visit Standard Golf at booth # 2540 or visit the company online at [www.standardgolf.com](http://www.standardgolf.com).



9

**9** At the 2011 GIS, **John Deere** will introduce a new walk greens mower. The SL Walk Greens Mower line's patented Speed Link technology will serve as a huge time saver for professionals, the company says. Features for the three SL Walk Greens Mowers (models 180SL, 220SL and 260SL) include: adjustable height of cut from one point on either side of the mower cutting unit; 70 percent reduction in steps needed for height adjustment; patented front roller bracket to quickly change roller to meet changing conditions; and optional push brush attachment that helps stand up the grass prior to cutting, providing a more pronounced stripe. To visit John Deere, stop by booth # 2001 or visit the company online at [www.deere.com](http://www.deere.com).



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10



**10 Kocheck** Irrigation Hoses have a series of hoses to offer the golf course industry, including their Dura Flow hose, the GH Series hose, the Ultralite hose and the Clear Braided hose. The Dura Flow is a heavy duty hose designed for durability and maximum flow, yet it looks and feels like a normal hose. The GH Series is a quality hose with a smooth black PVC inner tube. It features high working and burst pressures and is lightweight. The GH can stand up to exposure to harsh weather, the company says. The Ultralite is a durable yet lightweight hose that the company says is the most durable on the market. The hose comes with a 1-year warranty and is kink resistant. Finally, the Clear Braided hose is made of a lightweight clear PVC compound and reinforced with spiraled polyester and longitudinal tracer yarns. To see any of these hoses in

person, stop by booth # 832 at the GIS, or visit the company online at [www.kocheck.com](http://www.kocheck.com).

**11 C & S Turf Care Equipment**

announce the Turf Tracker Arc, an electric zero-turn riding spreader/sprayer. The Arc takes no gas and no oil, and produces no emissions or noise. The company says the spreader/sprayer can allow superintendents to spread or spray an acre of turf in just ten minutes. The Arc will last all day on a single charge, the company says. Plugging the Arc in at the end of the day will make it ready for work the next morning. For more information contact C & S Turf Care Equipment, 800-872-7050 ([www.csturfequip.com](http://www.csturfequip.com)).

11



Got a product you'd like the readership of *Golf-dom* to see? E-mail a press release and a digital photo to Seth Jones at [sjones@questex.com](mailto:sjones@questex.com).

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# A VIEW OF THE TOP

Former GCSAA presidents reflect on their past posts and the benefits of serving the association

BY JOHN WALSH,  
CONTRIBUTING  
EDITOR

Since 1926, 74 different men have served the GCSAA as president of the association. When Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., takes over the reigns as president at next month's Golf Industry Show, he'll be the 75th person to proudly hold that title.

While the office of president is prestigious, it also comes with some heavy responsibilities. These men have gone into the office of president and worked hard, taking time out of their lives, to serve their fellow members.

*Golfdom* caught up with four former GCSAA presidents: Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS (president, 1989); Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, MG (president, 1995); R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS Retired (president, 2000); and Tommy D. Witt, CGCS (president, 2001). They reflect on how their time on the board influenced their lives, from learning and honing non-agronomic skills to developing new friendships, many of which last to this day.



# DENNIS D. LYON



# GARY T. GRIGG

# R. SCOTT WOODHEAD



# TOMMY D. WITT



## Becoming president

Certified superintendent Dennis Lyon, head of the golf division for the City of Aurora, Colo., was a local chapter president in 1980 and was elected to the GCSAA board in 1985. He's always been active in committees and committed to the certification program and members' education.

"Any time you run for the board, you should be willing to serve as president," Lyon says.

In 1989, Lyon was the first GCSAA president from a municipal golf course, which was a big deal then.

"It wasn't an issue, just an evolution of the association," he says. "It's the willingness of the public guys to get involved."

In 2000, R. Scott Woodhead, senior manager of member relations for the GCSAA, was superintendent at the private Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont., while serving as president. Involved in committees since 1987, Woodhead served 12 years on the Peaks & Prairies GCSA and nine years at the national level.

But Woodhead's route to the presidency was different than most because he was asked to serve on the board in 1993 by then-president Randy Nichols as a result of a vacancy. Woodhead served as a director for five years then moved through board offices.

Tommy Witt, CGCS, director of golf course operations at Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park, Ill., followed Wood-

head in 2001. Witt, who was the superintendent at The Kiawah Island Club during his year as president, was elected to the board in 1994. He served as president of the Lone Star and Central Texas GCSAs before moving to GCSAA committees and board service.

"I've always been involved at the local and state level," he says. "In my first year as a superintendent in Texas, I was asked to serve on the local board, and I enjoyed that. I got into the volunteer tract. Being young, I always was involved in associations to learn and meet people. It became natural."

Gary Grigg, CGCS, vice president and agronomist for Grigg Brothers, was 27 years into his career in 1995 when he became president. He did his due diligence and served on various committees for the GCSAA before running for the board in 1989 while he was superintendent at Shadow Glen Golf Club in Olathe, Kan. In 1992 he moved to Naples National Golf Club. From there, he went to Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples where ownership allowed Grigg to complete his presidency and time on the board.

## Addressing the issues

During a presidency, there are usually several issues to be dealt with, and most likely, the president is familiar with them because of his time on the board.

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When Woodhead was president, the big issues were tied to membership-approved standards, i.e., the professional development initiative (PDI). Before the standards were implemented, Class A status required only paying dues and being a member for three years.

The biggest challenge of PDI was to provide members with all the information, so they could make an educated decision, Woodhead says.

"A good portion of my time was the formulation and communication of standards," he says. "Be-

cause membership approval was 75 percent, the GCSAA viewed the standards as a mandate. But some members didn't appreciate being told what to do. We lost a few members along the way, but membership, in general, appreciated it.

"It was a case of documenting their professional development — things they were already doing," Woodhead adds. "It wasn't a case of having to do more

than they were already doing. We can now market the value of hiring Class A and certified members."

"The standards classification leaves an option for everyone who wants to be a member," Witt, who served the following year, says. "They can choose where they want to fall."

Whether GCSAA should change its name and if the association should relocate its headquarters were the two hot-button issues when Witt was president. The board approached the issues by conducting focus groups with members and allied associations, using a combination of member and resource groups and outside professional consultants.

"Rarely can people get 'GCSAA' out of their mouths," Witt says. "It's a lengthy name and a mouthful. I've always thought the name recognition of the association could improve with a name change."

Regarding the relocation, Witt says he'd been told it was challenging to recruit people for upper-level positions in the association, and that it was extremely difficult to get top staff candidates to relocate to GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

"Board members come and go, but executives are there every day," he says. "We were told it was difficult to attract top-level staff to Lawrence. We had a significant amount of staff turnover at the time, and some board members thought that could improve with a new location."

There was one burning issue while Grigg was on the board — looking at moving away from the delegate voting structure. Grigg says a fraction of the board wanted a one-man, one-vote structure. Some thought the board should decide, others thought members should decide. Ultimately, the membership voted to keep the delegate voting structure.

"It's not a lot of fun when there's division on the board, but that's part of having a board," he says.

In Lyon's final president's message, he addressed the environmental challenges

### TRAVEL AND PERKS

Throughout the years, GCSAA board members' travel and perks have been scrutinized and criticized. But several past presidents view that aspect of the job as a duty, of serving the association.

Woodhead attended major golf events where the GCSAA wanted a presence and to industry meetings such as Golf 20/20 during his presidency in 2000.

"Traveling was an eye-opener for me being a kid from Montana," he says. "I was able to see much of the country. Because of some of my travel, I missed some things in my family life and was away from home during major family events. That was my biggest challenge while on the board."

Woodhead says no travel is required while serving on the board, and that family comes first, employer second and the GCSAA third.

"You have to make sacrifices, and many of those came at the expense of my family," he says. "When I became a board member, something had to give. My fly fishing license expired, and I wish I hadn't let that happen."

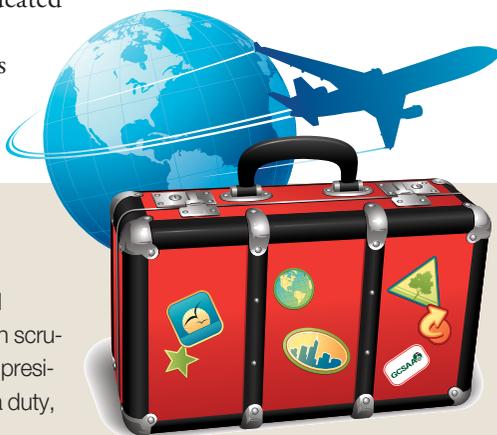
Lyon says he traveled efficiently when he was president in 1989. He traveled over the weekends so he would miss only one day of work.

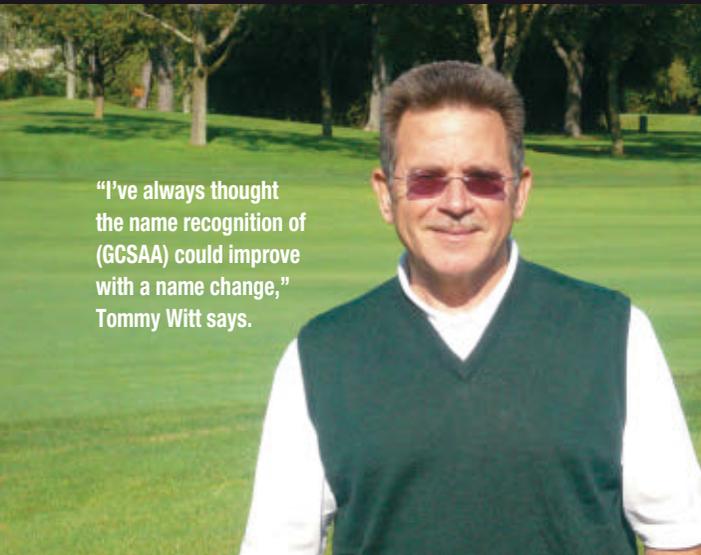
"I wasn't hanging around for allied meetings," he says. "I did what I had to do and left. Officers travel more now compared to back then. For example, I never went to BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association)."

However, Lyon did go to Australia to attend a superintendent's association event and England for a Ransomes golf tournament. He views that sort of travel as part of the job, not necessarily a perk.

Typically, when one serves on the board, there isn't a lot of travel, says Grigg.

"The president can take what he wants and delegate the rest," he says. "I was in between doing a lot of travel and delegating a lot. Travel is a duty because the president is representing the association. It was nice to go to the Masters and Ryder Cup. We always squeezed in a board meeting at those events." — *J.W.*





"I've always thought the name recognition of (GCSAA) could improve with a name change," Tommy Witt says.

the industry was going to face in the 1990s. Those challenges are still relevant.

"The price of maximum golf course maintenance may be ecologically and financially too high," he says. "We need to shift from maximum maintenance to optimum maintenance."

In Lyon's last article he wrote as president, he also said superintendents, although often comfortable in a behind-the-scenes role, need to get involved at the highest levels of club decision- and policy-making.

"The positions we hold and the decisions we're entrusted to make are critical to the ultimate success of our clubs," he says. "The bottom line is we're responsible for the golf operation, and we needed to move from the barn to the boardroom."

### Never stop learning

One constant while serving on the board is learning about non-agronomic subjects such as leadership, communication and delegation.

Woodhead's communication skills grew, as well as his ability to see the big picture and realize there's much more to the success of a facility.

Lyon was surprised by the personal growth he experienced as a leader and a supervisor. He developed relationships and a sense of accomplishment, but he also had fun.

"It wasn't my life," he says. "I paced myself and did the best job I could. When my year as president was over, that was fine. Then I got involved with the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association and the Colorado Golf Association."

Being on the GCSAA board is a lot like being on city council, Lyon says.

"It helped me have a better understanding of what our elected officials go through," he says. "I learned about consensus building and finding win-win solutions, and to address issues professionally. I continue to use these skills in my job."

Witt learned a lot about himself and how to listen to others and their opinions. He developed strong relationships with

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a number of board members, some of whom are his best friends. How to delegate effectively was the most important skill Witt learned.

“Prior to me being on the board, I judged myself on how much I worked and how many hours I was at the course,” he says. “It became imperative to delegate responsibility to those who were on my staff to give them the chance to excel. I couldn’t have been on the board without the people who worked with me from 1994 to 2003.”

Grigg learned a lot about planning meetings. He’s taken that knowledge and put it to good use helping operate Grigg Brothers.

“You need to look at your company top to bottom and take a good, honest look at yourself,” he says.

**A look back**

Looking back, past presidents see how their service has influenced the association.



“Those who are afraid should **step up and do it.**”

— DENNIS D. LYON,  
HEAD OF GOLF DIVISION,  
CITY OF AURORA



“Back in late ’80s and early ’90s we adopted a philosophy of governance: The president is responsible for the board, and the CEO is responsible for the staff,” Lyon says. “We sensed board members were getting very involved with the daily operations of running the GCSAA, so we drafted a philosophy that was different. The board drifted away from that philosophy, but now it’s similar to what we had.”

For Woodhead, the opportunity to meet and interact with various individuals was the best part of the job. He has fond memories of the friendships he developed with allied members. One high point for him was standing at the podium as president when members approved the professional standards — this after one of the most contentious meetings in 20 years at the GCSAA, he says.

“My feeling was that I was there to serve the GCSAA, and the members allowed me to serve,” he says. “I appreciate the opportunity the members gave me to serve them.”

As a board member and president, Witt says he knew his job wasn’t to call and talk to former CEO Steve Mona every day and occupy the time of the department heads. The GCSAA staff assumed a more active, decision-making role, and it was the job of the board to set policy and for Mona and his staff to execute the policies.

“The year I came on board, we just returned to the committee system,” he says. “While I was high on accountability, I had to balance that with my job as a board member and president. There was a time when board members had minor roles in how these things were decided. I favor the committee system, but I didn’t want to dictate what the committee was going to do.”

Witt admits he could’ve handled some issues better.

“By the time I got off the board, I’d have tried to find different ways to encourage people to do better or would have done a better job accepting accountability. I could’ve approached holding others accountable better.”

Witt developed speeches and talked about topics he says weren’t being presented by other instructors, such as enhancing superintendents’ value, the environment in which a superinten-

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