

56th GCSAA Conference

“WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW”

The week of February 6 through February 13 saw a strong contingent of Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents in Washington, D.C. to attend the 56th annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show. Although the weather was far from good, it nevertheless provided a pleasant and educational break from Wisconsin's long and cold winter.

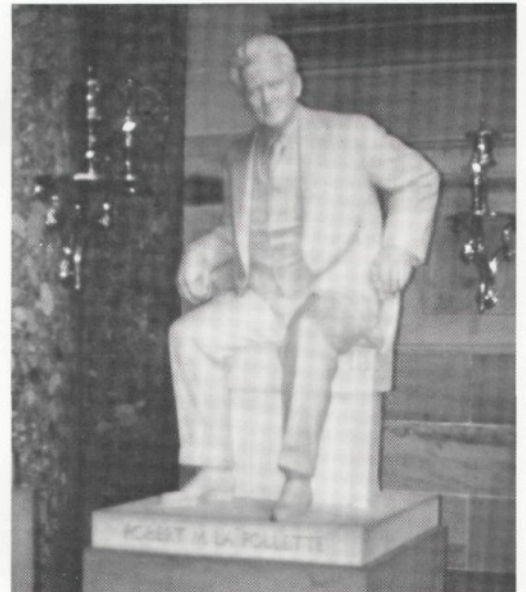
It was an educational week in every sense of the word. A record number of WGCSA members attended pre-conference seminars on topics ranging from computer use to plant physiology to golf course architecture. Many wives and children were present this year to visit the wealth of museums and historical sites our nation's capital has to offer. It afforded many their first opportunity to visit the Capitol Building and White House, to reflect at the Viet Nam Veterans' War Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial and Jefferson Memorial and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. It was the first chance some had to ride to the top of the Washington Monument or visit Ford's Theater where President Lincoln was killed. For everyone there, the city gave them a renewed good feeling about our country.

The educational program was rated among the best, and Wisconsin played a strong role as a contributor. Milwaukee Country Club's Dan Quast was not only on the GCSAA "Thinking Superintendent I" program, but he also participated as a panel member on the USGA Program. His GCSAA lecture was entitled "In-House Nursery." The USGA panel discussion, which he was a member of, was centered around the subject "Six Deadly Sins of Superintendents and Green Committees."

"Using a Weather Consultant" was the subject of Monroe Miller's talk on the "Thinking Superintendent II" program given both Saturday and Sunday afternoons of the Conference.



An attentive audience at the opening session included Tom Parent, Mike Semler and Tom Schwab.



Statue of Wisconsin's own "Fightin'" Sen. Bob LaFollette in the nation's Capitol Building.



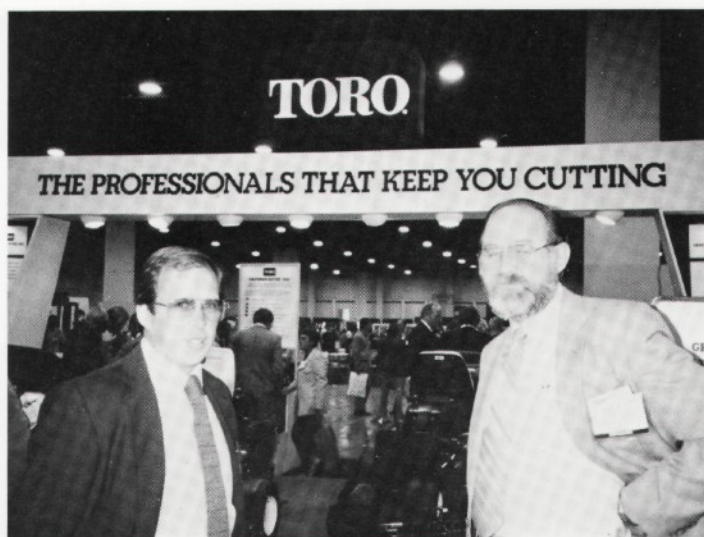
Pat Mertz, Steve Blendell and John Krutilla socialize in WGCSA hospitality room.



Pat Roberts, wife of GCSAA candidate Bill Roberts.



Bill Roberts and John Krutilla visit with GCSAA Past President Bob Mitchell.



Chad Ball and Bob Reinders.



John Belfield, Dan Quast, Roger Bell, Dennis Robinson & Ralph Christopherson.



Suzanne Bell, speaker on GCSAA Spouse Program.

Suzanne Bell, Roger's better half, shared her thoughts on how to be supportive of a Superintendent husband and get what you want out of life together. Suzie's talk received rave reviews and she was a real talent for public speaking. Everyone from Wisconsin was proud of her.

Needless to say, the election efforts of the WGCSA were an important part of the Washington conference. Be sure to read Bill Roberts' "Reflections" elsewhere in this issue of the GRASSROOTS.

The trade show had an all-time high number of participants, and our state was again well represented. Jacobsen, headquartered in Racine, Ransomes, Inc. (North America), headquartered in Johnson Creek, and Toro, with a manufacturing facility in Tomah, anchored Wisconsin's industry contingent. Other manufacturers representing Wisconsin were the Columbia ParCar Corporation of Deerfield, Ametek, Inc. of Sheboygan, Briggs and Stratton Corp. of Milwaukee, Menasha Corp./Lewisline from Watertown, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission/Milorganite of Milwaukee, Kohler Co. of Kohler and Terracare Products of Pardeeville. Their presence amplified Wisconsin's important role in the national and international turfgrass industry.

Even the opening session had references to our state when Pat Summerall, responding to a question, reflected for several minutes on playing for former Head Coach of the Green Bay Packers, Vince Lombardi.

Also capturing some attention for the WGCSA during the opening session was the presentation of newsletter awards. Our own GRASSROOTS was recognized twice — as winner of the original editorial category and as one of the overall ten best newsletters.

There can be little argument that it was a memorable and educational week. Nor is there any dispute that we did our chapter and our state proud. Good for us!

"Pictures compliments of official GRASSROOTS photographer Ed Devinger."