



*This issue IS the Bill Roberts issue.
But turn the pages and read stories about shops
and shows, the EPA and the USGA, winter
and spring, werewolves and fertilizers.
And more! And more!*



THE GRASS ROOTS

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ROBERTS RULES!

By Monroe S. Miller

William R. Roberts, past president of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America on February 17, 1992. The election was held at the GCSAA's conference in New Orleans.

Roberts' long trek to the presidency started in 1984 when he first appeared on the GCSAA ballot for director at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in early 1985. That effort ended up only a few votes short of victory.

He ran again the following year and was elected to the board. That meeting was held in San Francisco in early 1986.

From the time he first notified the officers, directors and members of the WGCSA that he was running for office in the GCSAA, support for his effort has been total and steadfast. Campaign brochures, hospitality rooms, hundreds of phone calls and moral support from everybody in the Wisconsin organiza-

tion certainly contributed to his advancement through the GCSAA offices.

Roberts himself, however, is the reason he was elected to the prestigious position he now holds. His work ethic, his vision for the profession, his sense of what the critical issues of the day are, his superb communication skills, and his outstanding leadership ability have gotten him to where he is today. He was able to take control, when he needed to, of his own fate and move forward.

Five nominees for director at that Washington, D.C. meeting have moved through the GCSAA presidency. Roberts, Cadenelli, Faubel, Lyon and Segui were candidates that year. Roberts and Cadenelli were not elected. Roberts was elected the next year and Cadenelli was appointed. Roberts is the last of the five to serve as president.

Roberts has the most widespread respect and support among the GCSAA membership I have seen in twenty years as a member. Past presidents, current board members and voting delegates

have an especially high regard for Roberts and his ability. One current board member shared with me his opinion that "Bill might be the best president the GCSAA has ever had."

So we wish him well for the next year. We will be there to help when we can, offer suggestions when we must and applaud like never before when we meet in California.

A Sketch of the 1992 GCSAA Conference

You might want to call this "a look at the National through awards". Many have told me this kind of a vehicle is more interesting than paragraph after paragraph of narrative that accomplishes little more. So here goes for 1992.

BEST QUOTE

"I spent my career touching another man's butt." Terry Bradshaw at the Opening Session.

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The president-elect's wife is far better looking than the president-elect!



Erin, Jennifer, Bill's mom and Megan Roberts arrived at the banquet early for a front row seat.

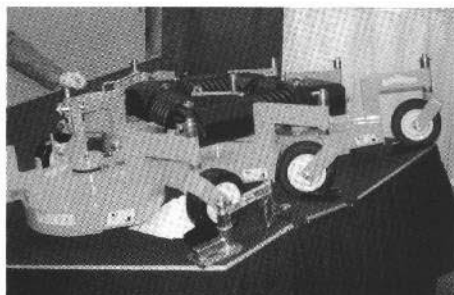
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BEST CONFERENCE FEATURE

The Environmental Session. Thousands attended and left with a reaffirmation of golf course value to the environment. It was also made clear how extremists work and how they can be had with facts. John Stossel was both tremendous and impartial.

BEST NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT

The new sectional rotary deck introduced by LasTec, Inc. It might allow older courses like mine and courses with severe or uneven ground to make more use of outfront rotaries. That is the current rage, isn't it?



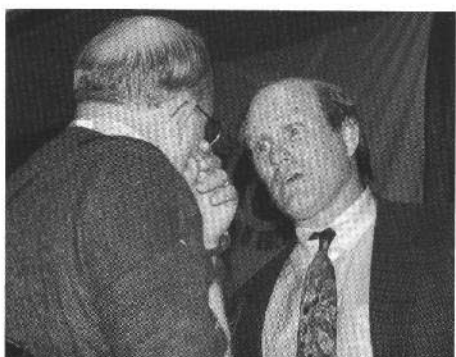
A good looking new product—Lastec's rotary deck that eliminates a lot of scalped areas.

NUMBER ONE ANNOYANCE

Of course the name badges serve a purpose although they lack even a shred of dignity. But it's high time the goofy ribbons disappear. Really, who cares if a person is a committee person, a speaker, a candidate or a past president (or a wienie, for that matter). Some of the guys strut around with three or four ribbons flying in the wind. They look like some Russian general who spilled a salad on his chest. *Lose the Ribbons!*

NUMBER ONE IRRITATION

The GCSAA store, unfortunately, was located on the show floor. GCSAA members aren't allowed on the floor the first day. Result? Selection for members is diminished by those who aren't golf



Terry Bradshaw did an excellent job as keynote speaker. His story about Mike Webster's liver pills was hilarious!

course superintendents. Solution? Get the GCSAA booth back outside the show floor where it belongs and give GCSAA members an equal chance at logo merchandise.



Jennifer and Erin Roberts "admired" dad's bow tie!

NUMBER ONE AGGRAVATION

For years, a group of WGCSA members get together to fill a table at the banquet. One person takes the ten vouchers, gets in line hours before the banquet booth opens and waits to select a table with a good location. Scores of others do the same.

Imagination the aggravation, having done that, when the slob who invested no time in line for location, are actually invited to "come on up" and park right in front of those who did invest their time for a good stage view.

It was rude, regardless of what the entertainer wanted. Hopefully, it will not happen again.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT

As with many others I visited with about the educational sessions, I am disappointed again this year that it was:

1. limited to one day,
2. offered lectures of common interest at the same time, and
3. limited lectures to a meager twenty minutes.



Chad Eberhardt, Tom Parent and Tom Schwab wish Bill Roberts lots of luck at the helm of the GCSAA.

BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

The president's reception—absolutely fantastic this year. Great food, too!

DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR

Bow ties and cummerbunds worn by O & D at the banquet. Wild colors, but not what I would choose. But I'm no fashion guru, either.

NOTICEABLE BY THEIR ABSENCE

I'd hoped to visit with some of the USGA Green Section staff members at the prez's reception. But not one was there. Any reason? Or shouldn't I ask?

BEST DISPLAY ON THE SHOW FLOOR

McCord Terra Tire Sales. They won this award by including as a part of their booth display a perfectly restored 8N Ford tractor with absolutely the best paint job I've ever seen on any vehicle, bar none. Super.



The best looking piece of equipment on the show floor—a restored 8N Ford tractor!

BIGGEST DRAW ON THE SHOW FLOOR

Blue Gold Reel Sharpening Compound. They won this prestigious award for having Spanky McFarland greet people who came to their display. Yes, I have my autographed copy of Spanky framed and hanging on my office wall. For the younger generation, Spanky McFarland was the star of the very old movies, Spanky and Our Gang.



A walk through the French Quarter tells you that New Orleans is a very old town.

SPECIAL SHOW AWARD

I collected my 20th Jacobsen Show Hat this year. Of course, I have every one they've given since my first GCSAA conference in Boston in 1973 in my collection.

Giving golf course superintendents this neat memento from each show is very generous and greatly appreciated. This year's hat may be their nicest ever. A tip o' my (Jacobsen) hat to them!

BEST PROGRAM INNOVATION

The Green Chairman Session. This feature has potential; hopefully, GCSAA will see fit to develop and polish it for next year.

MAJOR COINCIDENCE

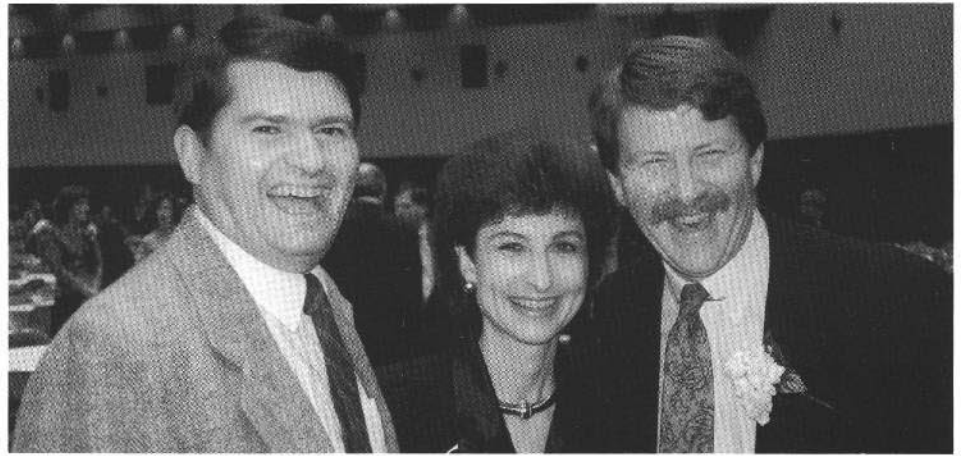
Both GCSAA president elect Bill Roberts and CMAA president elect Jack Sullivan started their quest for national leadership in Wisconsin. We all know of Roberts' roots in Stevens Point. But did you know that until a few years ago Sullivan was the clubhouse manager at the Nakoma Golf Club in Madison?

More interesting yet is that both men moved from here to Michigan (go figure that one!). In fact, they ended up next door neighbors in Grosse Pointe, "a drive and a wedge apart" as Jack told me.

There shouldn't be any miscommunication between the GCSAA and the CMAA this year. (You know, misunderstandings about things like the general manager concept.)



If you want really smooth greens,...



Randy and JoAnn Smith were happy to see Nakoma's former clubhouse manager, Jack Sullivan. Jack is new president of the CMAA.

IF I HAD MY WAY . . .

The blasted (and often boring) proceedings at the banquet take way too long.

An hour and a quarter is out of line; it seems an eternity when you are in the audience. If I had my way, I would build a trap door behind the podium where the speakers have to stand to reach the microphone. At the end of 45 minutes the trap door would open, swallowing whoever was speaking at the moment (and everyone thereafter, too).

I understand some patience is required to do necessary business. But too much time is spent on personal items that are meaningless, uninteresting and, frankly, unnecessary to inflict on the audience. This has been true for many years.

Advice to Willy: KEEP IT SHORT. You'll make thousands of friends.



Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Roberts—mother and wife of the new GCSAA president.

ENTERTAINMENT

The show put on by Kenny Rogers was pretty good. There are a couple of reasons why I am able to say that:

1. he followed an unusually good dinner, and
2. he kept the hillbilly music to an absolute minimum, and
3. he didn't invite some poor fool up to the stage for ridicule.

Post Conference Reflections

I wasn't wild about heading to New Orleans for this meeting. I remembered it, from two previous visits to attend GCSAA conferences, as a grubby and dirty town with too many sleazy characters on the loose.

My memory was correct. However, there were some improvements that moved NOLA up the GCSAA city list a little bit.

Notable among them were the Riverwalk and the new convention center. The Rivergate, site of the previous two conferences I attended in NOLA, now stands empty. It is a real dinosaur when compared to the new facility.

The weather was decent during our five day stay, despite a few periods of rain. A day with an 84 degree F. high is bound to bring smiles to a Badger.

The hotel situation was pretty good; I heard little grouching about accommodations this year, a change for the better from last year. I did hear a lot of griping about the obscene cost of a room however. The shuttle service between hotels and the convention center seemed to work well.

(Continued on page 23)



A look at the near future—a bulk delivery system for fungicides that eliminates scores and scores of containers.



Steve Cadenelli wrapped up his presidency in New Orleans.



Thank you and good-bye until next year in Anaheim in January.

Now that the past year for the GCSAA is over, it is fair to judge Steve Cadenelli on how he did at the helm. Personally, I give him good marks. I think he worked hard. I know a lot of nuts and bolts items were completed. And I believe he confronted some touchy situations in the media with courage. Nice job. Plus, he's a former newsletter editor!

Many superintendents put it this way: "The New Orleans conference was better than I expected." That's sort of how I feel. Certainly, it was above average, despite the lack of any appeal for families.

Still, if we don't go back to bayou country for a long time, you won't hear any complaining from me.

And, finally, this meeting will always be most remembered because Bill Roberts took charge as president. It just cannot get any better than that.

See y'all in Anaheim next year!

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