

Celebration of a 35-year Career

By Bev Quest, DHD Products

November 12, 2002: One hundred fifteen colleagues, friends, and family gathered at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan to recognize Wayne Otto's 35 years as superintendent at Ozaukee Country Club. Dignitaries from across the country were present: Steve Mona, Executive Director of GCSAA; Stan Zontek, USGA; Phil Trailies, and President and CEO, Club Car, to name a few. Dan Nelson, a past green chairman and long-time friend of Wayne's, served as Master of Ceremony for Wayne's retirement party.

The evening began with a cocktail hour where old acquaintances got together to talk about the good old days. Lon Kamp, Wayne's friend from Nebraska was present. Yes, Wayne started his career in Lincoln after graduating from Penn State turfgrass program.

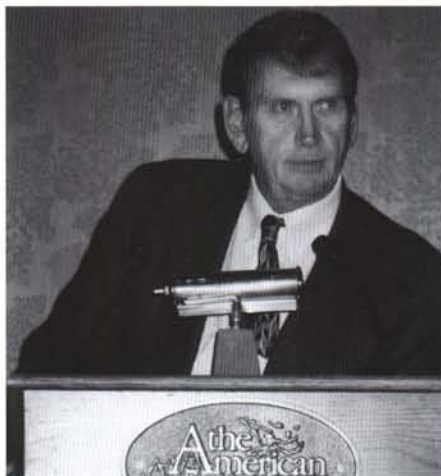
After dinner, the microphone was offered to anyone willing to comment on the celebrant's history. JoAnn, Wayne's wife, sat on the edge of her chair hoping to hear stories she hadn't heard before.

Steve Mona noted that any superintendent who stayed at one golf club for 35 years was a rarity. Steve pointed out that Wayne was one of the first superintendents in the country to be certified. Steve concluded by stating that Wayne's model career was a living example of what being a golf course superintendent was all about.

Wayne's last day at Ozaukee was on November 6, at which time he turned the reins over to Gordy Waddington. Wayne will be available to all through "Turfgrass

Support Services", his own consulting service and as a representative for Brookside Labs. Wayne can be reached at wdotto@msn.com.

The following morning, Monroe S. Miller, on behalf of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, presented Wayne with the association's Distinguished Service Award. This award has only been presented 12 times since the conception of the WGCSA. ♣



Dan and Bev Quast, along with Rod Johnson, planned the Otto retirement event.



Rod Johnson had many insights to offer about Wayne Otto on the occasion of the WGCSA Distinguished Service Award Presentation.



Stan Zontek travelled from the East Coast to participate in Wayne's retirement celebration.

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