

A CAPITAL IDEA

TURF CONFERENCE MOVES TO DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL WITH GREAT SUCCESS

by JIM NICOL
Conference Co-Chairman

The 59th Annual MGCSA Turf Conference and business meeting switched its location this year to the Radisson Hotel St. Paul and all indications are that the move was very well received. The service and food at the Radisson were quite good and there was plenty of room to move around. The downtown atmosphere and proximity of shops and activities added an upbeat tempo to the event which we hope was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Kudos are in order for my co-chairpersons Chris Hague and Scott Hoffmann who put in many hours of preparations toward a successful event.



Conference Co-Chairman Hoffmann, Hague & Nicol

We registered 277 people for Wednesday's first sessions. The day began with Ralph Sylvester of Jacobsen Co. offering time and money saving ideas for preventative maintenance on equipment. Tom Wanner of Minnesota Wanner Co. brought us up to date on taking good care of sprayers. The service schools were put together by Mike Olson of Golden Valley. Wednesday also featured a session on pesticides featuring Larry Palmer of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Ward Stienstra of the University of Minnesota, Tom Clark of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Dr. Mark Acerno from the University of Minnesota Entomology. Everything from rules and regulations and underground

tanks to turf diseases and insects and labeling was discussed in this session which was organized by Rick Fredericksen of Rolling Green. Superintendents with pesticide applicator licenses could qualify for recertification by attending this session, and 175 did just that.

After a lunch of turkey and apple pie we moved to the general session in the afternoon. Dr. Joseph Rossylin, President of the Freshwater Institute offered a keynote address offering many insights into the nature of a precious resource which is all too often taken for granted, pure clean water. Jack Laimer used his sharp wit, not only to place some well targeted jabs on our Board of Directors but to help us find within ourselves the motivation to perform our tasks the best we can. He was most entertaining and right on the mark.

The annual meeting began at 3:30 p.m. Elections were held and the following officers will lead our organization in 1987:

President: Doug Mahal, Interlachen
Vice-President: Scott Hoffmann, Madden's
Treasurer: Keith Scott, Oak Ridge
Secretary: Fred Anderson, Purple Hawk

Elected to serve on the Board of Directors were:

Tom Fischer, Edinburgh USA
Brad Klein, Detroit Country Club
Rick Fredericksen, Rolling Green



NEW DIRECTORS Brad Klein and Rick Fredericksen

302 people registered for Thursday's sessions which got under way with the annual Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. 40 breakfast attendees were treated to an inspirational talk by Jerald Maxwell and

Continued on Page 5

CONFERENCE from Page 3
the fine piano playing of Jon Bloom. It was a great way to start a busy day.

The morning found Dr. James Watson of Toro Co. giving us the latest on U.S.G.A. research programs and David Gross of HPI discussing the pros and cons of covering greens. Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University discussed Summer Patch Diseases and Keith Scott instructed us all on how to negotiate gold plated contracts. In the afternoon we heard a GCSAA update from

William Roberts, CGCS, Stevens Point Sport Center. Throughout the day Exhibitors tables (43 of them to be exact) were open to display new wares and answer millions of questions.

On Friday Dr. Douglas Brede of Jacklin Seed Co. was undaunted by the fact he was called away on urgent business. He taped his talk on Poa/Bent Competition Studies in order to fully update us on his research which we helped to finance through our Research Fund. We appreciate



Speakers Watson (L) and Gross (R) with Session Chair Scott Ainsworth.



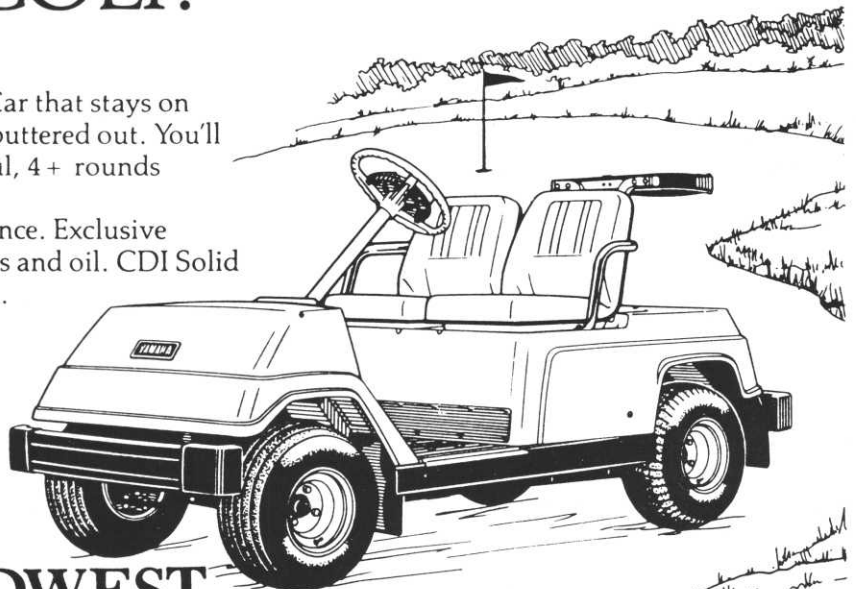
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his extra effort to keep us informed. Dr. Vargas was again on hand to explain the current status of efforts to combat Bacterial Wilt. Dr. Jim Kitz from the University of Minnesota told us about the best times and techniques for trapping moles and gophers. Hopefully, he will not reveal the gopher trapping tips to the University of Tennessee (at least until the Liberty bowl is over). In the afternoon we heard from superintendents of three great golf clubs. Bob Randquist from Southern Hills talked on the return of the Walking Greensmower. Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link Golf Club addressed the responsibilities of Assistant Superintendents and our own Chris Hague of Hazeltine told about the Green Conversion Program that his course used to overcome

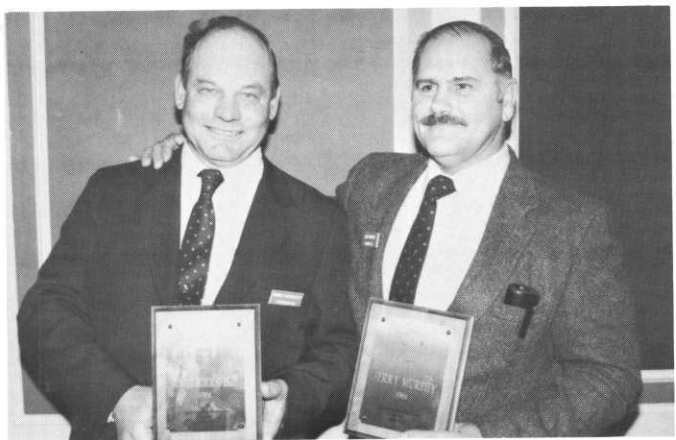
the dreaded Bacterial Wilt. Chris has offered a wealth of information to us all on how to overcome this problem. He is to be commended for this as well as for the outstanding job he and his crew have done on the great greens at Hazeltine.

We concluded with a very fine banquet Friday night. The reigns of power were turned over from Kerry Glader to Doug Mahal and we appear more than ready to tackle the challenge of 1987. Kerry did an outstanding job as president and we wish to congratulate and thank him for his fine service to our organization. We would also like to extend our thanks to all participants, speakers and exhibitors who helped make the '86 conference one of our best ever.

MORE CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Century of Service - Gordy Miller (L), Jack Kolb (C) & Jerry Commers combine for over 100 years as members of MGCSA.



Silver Supers - Dennis Schoenfeldt (L) and Jerry Murphy celebrate Twenty-Five years of making things beautiful.



Wise Man From The East - East Lansing that is, Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University addresses the conference.



The Big Picture - New facilities at Radisson St. Paul offered comfort and style as well as function.