on August 6, 1987, the establishment of the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund to Support the organization's ongoing scholarship and research programs.

"We have never before made this kind of commitment with any one person or even any single organization, " said GCSAA President E. Hearn, CGCS. "But the Donald monumental accomplishments and lifelong services of Mr. Jones and his close working relationship with our association and its mambers merit prominent recognition. "

In addition to Jones' own personal gift, friends and associates contributed more than \$50,000 to establish the initial funding level.

Jones, the 81 year old architect of some of the world's most famous golf courses, said of the honor: "We can build the greatest golf courses in the world, but if they are not properly maintained, they are nothing. To golf course superintendents around the world I owe a great debt, and every architect in America owes a great debt. We can only continue to provide

these great facilities with well-educated professionals to maintain them. That education does not come easily to all and must be supported by every aspect of this industry."

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association contributed \$2,000 to the Jones Endowment "over and above" their annual scholarship and research donation.

"We're proud to have the opportunity to be the first GCSAA chapter to contribute to this new fund, " said Reed LeFebvre, who presented the check to Gerald L. Faubel. CGCS, chairman of the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Committee. "We're pleased that Mr. Jones and the association would this site, the PGA select Championship in Florida. to the announcement. "

Faubel added: "This fund will enable GCSAA to encourage promising young turfgrass students enterina the profession. The long-term impact will be reflected in better conditions for every colfer as our education and expertise continue to grow. "

NEW MEMBERS

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is pleased to announce the two new members of the GCSAA. Minnesota GCSA members Keith Johnson and Randall William Allen are now also members of the national association.

Should We Be Using The Walking Greensmower More?

By Bill Zuraw, Superintendent Crumpin' Fox Country Club

Through the decade of the seventies, the golf course and turf industry experienced a technological revolution. Many types of sophisticated maintenance equipment became popular because they could reduce labor costs. One of these was the triplex greensmower. Since many courses are built with greens in excess of 4000 square feet, the job of mowing can be greatly reduced by a riding triplex. Today, there are very few golf courses that do not use triplex greensmowers. But the walking greensmowers still have a place in the golf course industry. I would like to discuss some comparisons and advantages which I have discovered.

From an economic point of view, triplexes save on time and

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labor. But how much? At Crumpin' Fox Club, one man on a triplex can mow ten greens in about two hours. I found that two men with walkers and cushman can do the same job in less time. So labor costs are less than doubled. The walker mower costs less than the triplex initially, but also is simpler to maintain. The engines are small and inexpensive to replace and there are no costly hydraulic components. There are no tires to leak, batteries to die or hoses to drip oil. They are easier to adjust. It is very difficult to get all three units of a triplex to cut exactly the same. With only one cutting unit, that is no problem.

I also found that the walker can help the superintendent to grow better turf. Although compaction pressure of a triplex is probably less than that of a golf walking across a green, the repeated tracking in the same ruts on the cleanup cut throughout the season can cause compaction. Another problem with triplexes is abrasion and scalping during this cleanup cut. Triplexes do not cut well while they are turning. Another point to consider is the turf areas surrounding the greens. If these areas are sloping, bunkered or too narrow, there will be considerable wear to the turf. The turf will always appear weak and may be the first to die out under stress.

With walkers it is easier to train operators, since the machinery is less complex. There is also a higher degree of safety with a simpler and lighter weight machine. I also found it was easy to do other tasks at the same time. Since we transport between greens with a cushman and trailer, it is no problem to move cups, tee markers and put out water

coolers in the same trip around the course. In this way we are getting the same jobs done in same amount of time without using a triplex.

I am not saying that we all should park the triplex. They are a useful labor saving tool. However, many golf courses could benefit from more frequent use of walkers on some greens or part of the time. The layout and design of Crumpin' Fox made my switch to walkers an economic as well as agronomic success.

CREDIT: New Hampshire Turf Talk





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