

GCSAA Expands Commitment International

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced the formation of a new department to develop and implement programs for international members.

Tom Akins, GCSAA director of planning, will head the department and assume the new title of director of planning and international programs.

"This new department is part of GCSAA's commitment to share ideas about sound golf course management with the rest of the world," said John M. Schilling, GCSAA executive director. "For years, GCSAA has been the recognized leader in providing professional and educational opportunities for superintendents in the United States. Formation of this department will allow us to respond to increasing demands worldwide for these same opportunities."

The department already has started the process of surveying a wide range of superintendents, university researchers and golf industry representatives worldwide to ascertain specific course management needs.

"International requests for as-

sistance and information have steadily increased over the last several years," noted Akins. "We're excited about the opportunity to focus our efforts on the international arena and provide tools for superintendents outside of the United States."

Akins noted that GCSAA will examine a number of programming options for interested superintendents and greenskeepers, including education, publications and trade shows.

"Many countries already have estab-

lished golf federations and associations that are providing quality professional development for their membership," Akins said. "Our desire is to work cooperatively with those associations, lending our expertise while learning from their unique methods."

The addition of the department comes at a time when GCSAA is experiencing growth in its international membership. Of the more than 10,800 current members of GCSAA, 734 live and work in 47 countries outside of the United States.

Golf On Right Course Environmentally

A senior U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official has said that America's golf industry must work with environmental authorities to seek "win-win solutions" that will ensure that the game's growth is not inhibited by concerns about development, pesticides and water usage.

Lewis Crampton, EPA associate administrator for communications and public affairs, told a group of golf industry officials that "golf is doing a number of positive things, (but,) if the industry is going to continue to grow... golf courses have to be environmentally friendly places."

He cited cooperative efforts by the EPA with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), including public education campaigns and efforts to reduce pesticide usage, as evidence that golf is "on the right course."

GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, told the group that, "It's only natural that golf course superintendents be leaders in environmental stewardship."

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