

GCSAA Introduces New On-Line Education Program

Participating in continuing education can be difficult in a profession where much of the day is spent on the golf course. To enhance accessibility for its members, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is adding to its on-line education programming.

"The Art and Science of Maintaining a Functional Putting

Green" is now offered using on-line, streaming video technology. The new course features Milt Engelke, Ph.D. at Texas A&M University, and focuses on the components of a functional root zone and its importance in managing a top quality putting surface. The physical, chemical and biological components of the root zone are discussed in detail for both native soil and sand-based root zone greens.

"We are excited about adding another on-line class to our curriculum," said Hannes Combest, GCSAA director of education. "We believe that in order to provide quality education for superintendents in the most accessible manner, this will be the path we need to take. We are planning two more courses that will be available by fall."

The class takes approximately 3.5 hours, and is broken into 20-minute segments to make it easy for the busy superintendent to complete in multiple sittings. Students who successfully complete the course and exam will be awarded .35 CEUs.

Topics covered in Engelke's course include:

- + Environmental limitations for bermudagrass and bentgrass on putting greens.
- + Physical characteristics of the root zone, optimum for the plant growth and development.
- + Mechanics of perched water table, layering and positive and negative results.
- + Flushing greens versus leaching .
- + Soil amendments, root zone activity and managing organic matter.

Registration for the seminar is available at www.gcsaa.org/learn/selfstudy/artandscience.html.

For more information: Contact Nicolas Shump, GCSAA education sales and program coordinator, at 785-832-3650.

-GCSAA Media Room

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*John Betchwars, CGS
Creeks Bend GC – New Prague, MN*

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