

Problem Solving and Learning Spanish Highlight February GCSAA Seminars

MGCSA members who attended the February 21-22 GCSAA Seminars at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Bloomington gained valuable knowledge and GCSAA educational points. Speaker J. M. "Joe" Vargas, Jr., Ph.D., professor at Michigan State University in plant pathology, teamed with A.J. "Al" Turgeon, Ph.D., professor of Turfgrass Management in the Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences at the Pennsylvania State University. Turgeon currently serves as Senior Faculty Coordinator of the Penn State World Campus Turfgrass Program, a web-based series of undergraduate courses through which students from around the world may earn certificates or B.S. degrees in Turfgrass Science.

Thinking Your Way to Better Problem Solving in Turfgrass Management

Vargas and Turgeon's focus was "Thinking Your Way to Better Problem Solving in Turfgrass Management and More." Members were given a workbook and were taught how to deal with a variety of scenarios from bluegrass invading bentgrass to dealing with the firing of a long-serving Superintendent whose disgruntled Assistant, mechanic and full-time crew members resigned.

Spanish for Golf Course Maintenance

Although a fairly small turnout, those attending benefitted from Speaker Steve Valdez' expertise. As Hispanics become more prevalent in the turfgrass workplace, it is very important for Superintendents, Assistants, mechanics and crew members to be able to communicate. Even a few words learned from the seminar will be valuable throughout the season.



GCSAA Seminar Speaker Steve Valdez, left, is owner and instructor of his own consulting company, Carpe Diem Consulting Services. Valdez has over 10 years of experience as a case manager and counselor. He spent seven years working at a golf course, where he managed projects and supervised the non-English speaking Hispanics. Pictured with Valdez at the February GCSAA Seminar is Eric Peterson, Superintendent at Dellwood Hills Golf Club in White Bear Lake.



Speaker J. M. "Joe" Vargas, Jr., Ph.D., left, professor at Michigan State University in plant pathology, teamed with **A.J. "Al" Turgeon, Ph.D.**, right, professor of Turfgrass Management in the Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State University. They focused on problem solving.

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