

# GCSAA Staff Realigns to Provide Improved Member Services

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced a series of changes in its management structure and staffing designed to reflect a renewed commitment to outstanding member service. The changes resulted from months of strategic planning and analysis involving the association's board, member-driven committees and the entire GCSAA headquarters staff.

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Stephen F. Mona, CAE, called the new structure "more efficient, more effective and more reflective of the needs of today's superintendent." He added that, "Our objective is to become one of the nation's finest service organizations by the year 2000. These changes create the structure needed to accomplish that goal."

Among the key changes announced were:

- Creation of three new departments in the areas of chapter relations, career development and technical information services.
- Consolidation of public relations, government relations, publications and advertising sales functions into a single communications department.
- Merging marketing functions with management of the annual GCSAA Trade Show and Golf Championship.

"The new departments will help us fulfill critical member needs," Mona said. "Our members told us they wanted stronger ties between GCSAA and chapters, more employment assistance and a 'one-stop' source of technical information, so we directed people and resources into those areas."

Two of three leadership roles for the new departments have already been filled. Don Bretthauer, formerly manager of Pacific Rim operations, has been named manager of chapter/international relations. David Bishop, formerly director of education, has been appointed manager of technical information services. A manager of career development will be named in coming months.

Pat Jones, formerly director of development, has been appointed director of communications. He succeeds Clay Loyd, who has announced his retirement after 11 years with GCSAA. Chris Caldwell, formerly managing editor of GCSAA's *Golf Course Management (GCM)* magazine, has been named editor-in-chief. Terry Ostmeier, formerly special projects editor for *GCM*, has been appointed managing editor. Sharmion Linseisen, formerly assistant editor, has been appointed associate editor.

Robert Shively, formerly director of marketing and sales, has been appointed director of marketing/conference and show. Bonnie Stephenson, formerly conference coordinator, has been appointed manager of conference events. Pam Owens, formerly manager of exhibit sales, has been appointed manager of expositions and tournament.

Patricia McCarthy, formerly director of administration, has been appointed director of central services. Marc Lim, formerly computer operations coordinator, has been ap-

pointed manager of management information services. Gwen Denton, formerly administrative assistant, has been appointed manager of human resources. Beverly Schuster, formerly production clerk, has been appointed supervisor of the mail and production center.

Dr. Jeff Nus, technical editor for *GCM*, has assumed the additional duties of manager of research.

Carol Hayes, formerly manager of communications, has been appointed manager of executive communications.

Jennifer McCaughey, formerly membership coordinator, has been appointed manager of membership.

Betsy Evans, formerly regional seminar coordinator, has been appointed manager of regional seminars.

Nationwide searches are underway to fill five new management positions and vacancies created by the realignment.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 13,700 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

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## Green Industry Legend to Receive Superintendents' Highest Honor

A giant figure in the history of golf course and turf industries, Dr. James Watson, has been chosen to receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

"Dr. Jim has been a great friend to GCSAA and its members for half a century," said GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS. "His career provides a perfect example of how one person can make a tremendous impact on an entire profession. We are delighted to be able to pay tribute to the contributions he has made."

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1982 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to the game. The award is named in memory of Old Tom Morris (1821-1908), greenkeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Watson's influence has been felt throughout the entire turfgrass profession. Following military service in World War II, he earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Texas A&M in 1947. Watson obtained his doctorate in agronomy from the Pennsylvania State University in 1950.

As a graduate student at Penn State, Watson was the recipient of the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section fellowship and studied under the famed Dr. Burton Musser. He returned to A&M to serve as an assistant agronomy professor and conduct turfgrass research.

In 1952, Watson left A&M to begin his career with The Toro Company as director of agronomy. For over four decades with Toro, his research touched on nearly every aspect of turfgrass management. Later as the company's agronomist and vice president of customer relations, he led Toro's efforts in equipment development and evaluation, and served as the liaison to professional groups such as GCSAA.

Watson has received nearly every major accolade the industry has to offer, including the USGA Green Section Award (1976), the American Society of Agronomy's Agronomic Service Award (1977), GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award (1983) and the Golf Course Builders Association Don Rossi Award (1994).

Watson is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society. He has served on the boards of the Sports Turf Managers Association, the Freshwater Foundation and the National Golf Foundation. Semi-retired now after 40 years with Toro, he currently serves on the planning council for the Irrigation Association and was agronomic coordinator for the seven 1994 World Cup soccer venues.

Watson joins Arnold Palmer; Bob Hope; Gerald Ford; Patty Berg; Robert Trent Jones; Gene Sarazen; Juan "Chi-Chi" Rodriquez; Sherwood Moore, CGCS; William Campbell; Tom Watson; Dinah Shore and Byron Nelson as recipients of the Old Tom Morris Award. The GCSAA board

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of directors selects the Old Tom winner.

Watson will be honored during the closing banquet of GCSAA's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show on Feb. 27, 1995, in San Francisco.

GCSAA is a 13,700-member international professional association dedicated to promoting the principles and techniques of responsible golf course management. Its members are the men and women who manage the playing fields of golf.

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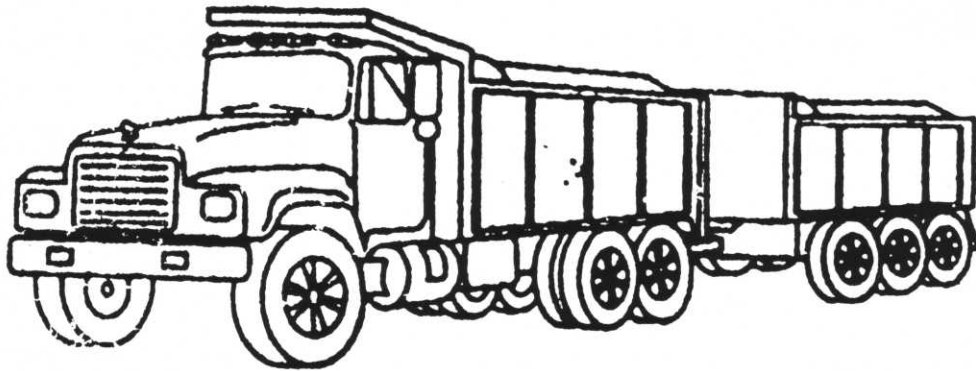
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# Spray Drift Management

Spray drift, which occurs anytime liquid sprays are applied, is undesirable for economic, environmental and safety reasons.

Although complete elimination of drift is impossible, applicators can reduce problems if chemicals are applied with the proper equipment under favorable weather conditions. Efficient applicators don't spend money for pesticides to watch them drift away from target areas.

Today's chemicals require more precise application, and unsatisfactory pest control could result if a significant portion of the chemical is lost in drift. Also re-spraying the same field may be necessary. You may even find yourself in court if spray drift damages sensitive crops in a neighbor's field.

The environmental effects of spray drift are equally costly and unacceptable. By reducing drift to a minimum, you can reduce potential for pollution of streams, lakes and other water supplies. Regardless of how accurately an application is made, drift is always possible, but that possibility may be minimized by selecting the right equipment and using sound application techniques.

**Your judgement can mean the difference** between an efficient, economical application or one that results in drift, damaging non-target crops and creating environmental pollution. Definition of spray varies but generally means movement of a pesticide through air, during or after application, to a site other than the intended site of application. The affected area is usually limited to the close proximity where pesticides are applied.

Usually small amounts of drift are harmless, and the pesticide disappears into the upper layers of the atmosphere. However, under certain conditions, off-target movement may affect areas distant from the application site. Problems occur when this movement affects a sensitive crop or another person's property.

Sometimes pesticides may leave the application area in the form of vapor, a significant concern only if the pesticide is highly volatile and the atmospheric conditions become suitable for rapid vaporization of the pesticide.

Drift is influenced by nozzle type and size, spray height, spray pressure, characteristics of chemical formulation, weather conditions, equipment and application techniques and operator skill and care. Under a given spray situation, any one of the factors may be the most critical in reducing drift hazards.

**The applicator determines the critical factor** and takes precautions against it. By exercising good judgment regarding equipment and weather, applicators can minimize drift potential in nearly every case.

Spray droplet size by far most affects drift. Spray droplet diameters are measured in microns. One micron is equal to 1/25,000 inch. For reference, the thickness of a human hair or a sheet of paper is roughly 75 microns. Droplet size at which drift potential becomes insignificant depends on wind speeds—it is in the range of 150 to 200 microns for wind speeds less than 10 mph. Small lightweight droplets that can drift long distances should be avoided.

Small droplets are unnecessary when applying fertilizers and systemic herbicides. Small droplets are desirable with insecticides and fungicides for better penetration into the canopy and better coverage of the small target organism. Applicators are responsible for attaining balance between drift reduction provided by large droplets and good coverage provided by small droplets. Spray droplet size should be no finer than necessary to do an effective job. Recommended droplet sizes for fungicides, insecticides and herbicides are 150-250, 200-300 and 250-400 microns, respectively.

*(Continued on Page 30)*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Budd Larson Now Enjoys Watching Someone Else Mow Grass, Shovel Snow

There's one thing that Clarence (Budd) Larson really enjoys about living in his retirement townhouse on Big Lake, about 35 miles northwest of the Twin Cities: watching someone else cut the grass and shovel the snow.

Engaged in the turf industry for nearly 30 years, Budd worked for the Minneapolis Park Department at Columbia Golf Course before operating Minnesota Toro's "red wagon" from 1976-1982. A member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association since 1961, he served on the Board of Directors in 1966.

One of his most enjoyable projects was the rebuilding of Columbia Golf Course in 1973.

Following retirement in 1975, Budd still kept busy in golf course work. In fact he helped build the nine-hole course at Crosslake while living about seven miles south on Horseshoe Lake.

In addition, he and his wife, Helen, were in the cast of Brainerd's "Geritol Frolics," a group of senior citizens who put on sell-out stage productions that also took them to other parts of the country.

Much of his retirement life revolves around traveling to the West Coast in the summer and fall as well as playing cards, shooting pool and chairing the Monticello Senior Center, located only a few miles from his townhome.

"I enjoy that and I can come and go as I please," said Budd, "but I do miss work, my friends in the industry and performing in the Geritol Frolics."

"I still keep in touch with Maynard Erickson (another retired superintendent) and it's always fun to see other old friends."

Budd and Helen can be contacted at 261 Shoreview Estates, Big Lake, MN 55309.

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# When Snow Mold Season Comes Around

By Dr. Julie R. Meyer  
Extension Plant Pathologist  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

It's too early to be thinking of snow drifts and freezing rains, so don't let this article interrupt your enjoyment of our mild sunny mornings. But, inevitably, planning for the winter must be done. When that time comes, here is some information I've gathered on snow mold control this past year that you may find helpful as you plan your snow mold management strategy.

First of all, I'd like to share with you some results of fungicide trials conducted this year in several northern and southern locations in Wisconsin. The purpose of the trials was to evaluate the efficacy of currently labeled and experimental fungicides, and combinations of fungicides, in controlling gray snow mold. Gray snow mold is caused by several species of the *Typhula* fungus, including *Typhula incarnata* and *Typhula ishikawaiensis*. The freezing rains in early winter, the heavy snowfalls throughout the winter, and the spring that was slow in coming, all contributed to extensive outbreaks of *Typhula* snow mold throughout the state. In plant pathology, we call that disease pressure. Even in southern areas, the snow mold we observed was caused mainly by *Typhula* spp and less by *Microdochium nivale*, the fungus that causes pink snow mold (although this fungus was active, too, especially during our long, cold spring).

**Because of the phase-out of mercury fungicides**, the trials emphasized fungicides that do not contain mercury. Treatments were applied once in late October in the north and early November in the south to bentgrass putting greens and practice greens and a practice range of about 40% Kentucky bluegrass and 60% fescue. The plots were rated for snow mold injury in mid-April by determining the percent of 6 ft. x 9 ft. plots that had typical symptoms of snow mold.

It was good to see that several labeled, nonmercury fungicides gave good control of gray snow mold, even in a severe year. Combinations of fungicides were often especially effective. The results in Table 1 are from a bentgrass green in northern Wisconsin but are typical for what we found in all of the trials, including the bluegrass/fescue site. Several of the experimental compounds also looked promising. Please remember that these are results from a single year and, therefore, the fungicides cannot necessarily be expected to perform in the same way under different conditions. However, we will conduct evaluations of the most promising fungicides every year which will help determine how consistently they are working.

New York state has banned the use of mercury fungicides and I have gathered together their current recommendations for chemical controls. They include anilzine (Dyrene), thiram (Spotrete, Thiramad), chloroneb (Terreneb SP) and quintozone (Turfcide, Terrachlor) as contact fungicide op-

tions, and chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787), fenarimol (Rubigan), iproddione (Chipco 26019), propiconazole (Banner), and triadimefon (Bayleton) as systemic chemical control options. Remember that systemic fungicides are effective only when the turf is not yet dormant, as they must be taken up by the plant.

**Healthy, nonstressed turf which hardens off** in a timely manner has the most resistance to snow mold. So our job in research and in turf management is to think of how we can enhance chemical control, and perhaps reduce the amount needed, by getting the turf in a healthy, nonstressed state during the time when the fungus is most active (late fall and early winter). This will reduce the ability of the fungus to get into the leaf and colonize it.

Fertilization and other management practices affect carbohydrate reserves (important because long, deep snow cover subjects the plants to nutrient exhaustion), dormancy, hardening off and subsequent freezing tolerance—all of which play a role in the development of snow mold.

There is some controversy about the effects of fall fertilization on snow mold. I think this stems from the type and timing of fertilization. In general, if the effect of added N is to encourage growth and delay the onset of dormancy, then the turf is likely to be more susceptible to snow mold. However, moderate applications of balanced fertilizer, with special attention to adequate K, applied in the fall when turf is nearly dormant, encourages rapid growth and recovery in the spring. Recovery time is an important part of snow mold management. I do not know yet exactly what role potassium may have in the resistance of turf to snow mold, but I have seen and heard several reports of this.

This year the plots were rated only once at snow melt. This gives us a snapshot of the presence and severity of gray snow mold, but doesn't give us the whole picture. How quickly does the turf recover? How quickly does dead turf fill in? Does injury to bentgrass result in invasion by *Poa annua*? These aspects are as important, or more important, to you than simply the amount of gray snow mold present after the snow melts. I was often taken by surprise at how quickly some heavily damaged turf was able to recover. In fact, because of the late snowfall, we postponed rating some of the tests and barely made it before the grass had recovered! In the future, I think we should be looking at the dynamics of this disease and how control strategies affect the entire process of getting the turf back in shape after the winter.

There is much to do in the area of gray snow mold control and it will be challenging from the biological as well as turf management perspective to figure out our most effective strategies.

—Sept.-Oct. 1993 Issue Grass Roots

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# Not So Fast! Don't Jump To Conclusions about Pesticides!

By the time you read this, most of the shouting should be long over. But some of the doubts may linger. I am talking about the University of Iowa study that was released in February that suggested that golf course superintendents have a higher death rate than the general public because of their exposure to pesticides. The report also suggested that certain kinds of cancers were more common in this group than would be found in the public.

Well, of course, the media picked right up on this and had lots of fun inferring lots of things from the results of this study—things that were, in fact, completely false. We've been down this road before, and we will be again before too much longer. So let's do a quick review of what we know and what it means for our health, safety and well-being.

**First, you need to know** that this was a statistical study and by its own admission does not try to establish any cause and effect. It is the media who are trying to do that. This report only looked at the reasons why these 618 superintendents died as listed on their death certificates. There was no follow-up about lifestyles, family histories, work practices or the kinds of materials used in their profession. Although it may raise some questions about these issues, this study did not address them. Of course, the anti-pesticide folks tried to link this study with the Kansas/Nebraska and Iowa/Minnesota studies that also inferred a problem with pesticides. But it is critical that you remember that those studies were deemed flawed by the scientific community—not by pro-pesticide advocates, but by impartial scientists who reviewed the data. In fact, a soon-to-be-released report from the Science Advisory Panel and the Science Advisory Board will say that a connection between 2,4-D and cancer is only “weakly suggestive,” a category that many everyday materials could fall into.

Also, you may have seen other articles in newspapers and magazines that have picked up on a report from the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) written by the Department of Health and Human Services. According to these articles, “A white male of the baby-boom generation has twice the risk of developing cancer as his grandfather.”

“Farmers incur chronic exposures to potentially harmful compounds, such as engine exhausts, chemical solvents, pesticides, fuels, animal viruses and sunlight,” note researchers in the JAMA article. “Could increasing exposures to similar materials in the general population account for the fact that some cancers that are elevated in farmers are also increasing in developed countries?”

**The response from the American Cancer Society, however, is very telling:** “We should focus on the things we know are of major importance—smoking and diet.” Certainly Americans are exposed today to materials in every-

day living that our grandparents never even dreamed of years ago. And so much of it is beyond our control. This gives great importance to doing the little things with our lifestyles that will minimize our risk of developing serious diseases.

And, of course, be sure to do those things on the job that minimize any risk of exposure to the materials we use. Using proper personal protective equipment when mixing, loading and applying pesticides will go a long way to reduce, if not eliminate, any chance of exposure to pesticides. That's just good common sense.

Although the media and other forces will jump at the opportunity to cry wolf about the safety of pesticides, we can just as quickly cry out, “Not so fast!” The whole story of mortality in the U.S. is more than just about pesticide use. Be sure you are examining everything clearly, rationally and with all the available information before you go jumping to any conclusion. And be sure you are helping to get that rational information to your relatives, neighbors, club members and co-workers.

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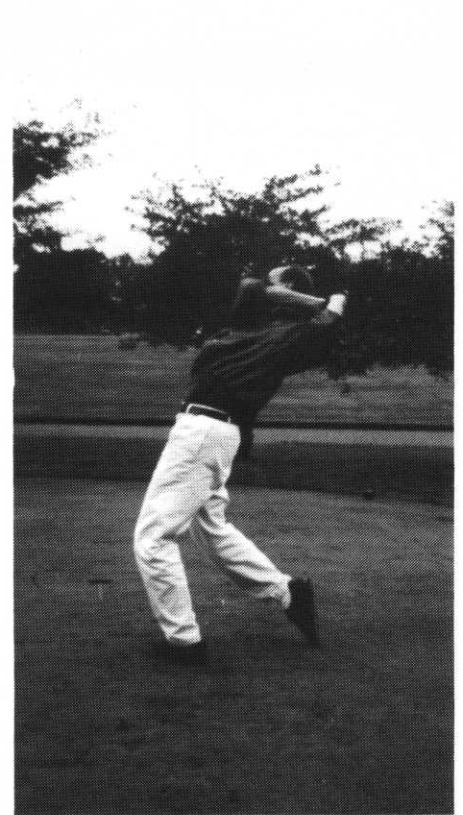
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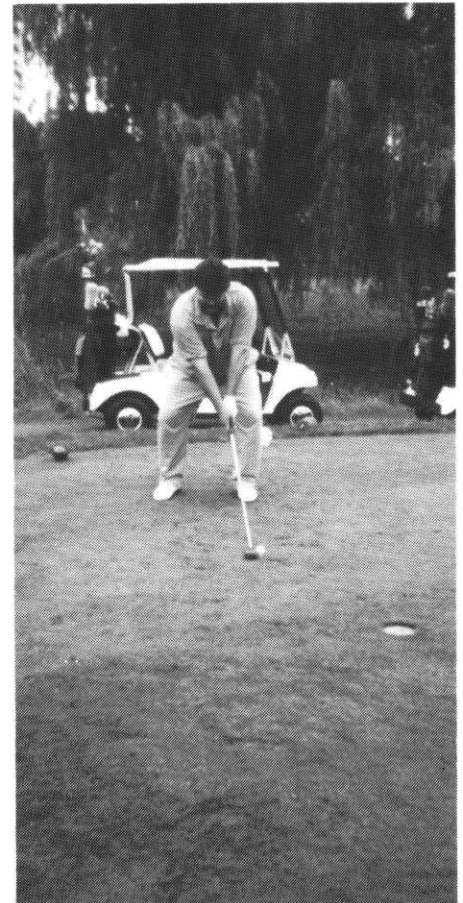
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