

GCSAA and Chapters Develop Options For Dual Membership Verification

When the dual membership requirement went into effect last month, one of the most challenging aspects of the affiliation agreement began: dual membership verification.

The chapter relations committee met recently and reviewed chapter leaders' comments and suggestions from a survey about the administrative work involved in the process. Committee members recommended that in the near future GCSAA work with affiliated chapters individually. But the long-term goal is to have one membership form, accept checks for both national and chapter membership dues at one location and require that chapters and the national issue the same membership numbers.

The following are the three methods by which a Class A or B golf course superintendent can apply for membership in a local chapter and GCSAA:

1) A Class A or B golf course superintendent contacts GCSAA first. The individual will receive a map with locations and contact information of all affiliated chapters, along with an affidavit form. The individual will be informed that he or she needs to select a chapter from the list and apply for affiliated chapter membership. The individual should submit a membership application and dues to the chapter and secure an affidavit signature from an official of the chapter. The individual should send the affidavit form, a GCSAA membership application and dues to GCSAA.

2) A Class A or B golf course superintendent contacts an affiliated chapter first. A chapter official explains the dual membership requirement and that the individual must apply for affiliated chapter membership first. The chapter collects the individual's GCSAA membership application and dues and forwards them to GCSAA after the individual applies for affiliated chapter membership.

3) A Class A or B golf course superintendent approaches an affiliated chapter first. A chapter official explains the dual membership requirement and that the individual must apply for chapter membership first. The chapter chooses not to collect the GCSAA membership application and dues, but the chapter supplies the potential members with a GCSAA application. The individual is responsible for sending the application and dues to GCSAA. Once the individual has applied for affiliated chapter membership, a representative of the chapter completes a GCSAA membership intent form and sends it to the national headquarters. If GCSAA does not receive a membership application and dues from the individual within 30 days after receiving the intent form, GCSAA will contact the individual to expedite his or her application process.

To maintain the same records for A and B members, affiliated chapters and GCSAA will exchange membership lists semiannually. The list will include Class A and B memberships that have dropped, new Class A and B

members and reclassifications of members who join after July 1, 1997. These reclassifications include Class C to Class B and Class A to Affiliate. Affiliated chapters also will need to indicate the Class A and B members who are not grandfathered into their associations.

GCSAA is finalizing a verification process for each affiliated chapter by calling every chapter's primary contact on this issue to discuss the three scenarios, determine the best method for the chapter and identify when the chapter will submit its Class A and B membership lists.

MTGF BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(Editor's Note: The following is a brief synopsis of the August 7 Board of Directors meeting held at North Star Turf, Inc.)

Roll Call

Tom Redmann Steve Balfany, Mike Zins, Dave Kemp, Brad Pedersen, Tom Rudberg, Joe Moris, John Hopko, Pat Walton, Scott Turtinen and Greg Hubbard.

President's Report

1997 MTGF Golf Tournament was fun and successful.

Committee Report

Two positions open at the University of Minnesota; 1) Turf Plant Pathology. 2) Bert Swanson's position (Woody Plants Area).

MTGF Expo '97

Turtinen reported that 29 booths were sold to vendors along with 220 lunch tickets. Talk of having Expo every other year. Talk of combining MNLA show and the MTGF Expo and create one large summer show.

Conference & Trade Show

Speakers have been established. Booth prices were increased by 5% (\$315). Attendee price is now \$95 dollars. Vendor registration will go out in early September. Attendee registration will be mailed out in late September. The headquarters hotel will be The Regal. Rooms will be \$85.

Secretary's Report

Donation of \$300 from Miracle Recreation.

Executive Director

Need names from all organizations to establish a long-range planning committee.

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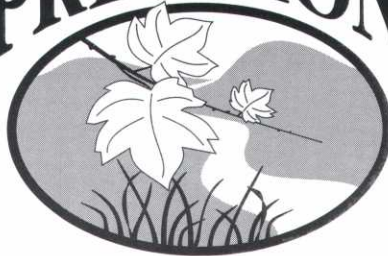


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USGA, GCSAA, NTEP Join Forces

To Administer On-Site Golf Course Testing for Grass Varieties

The United States Golf Association, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program are combining resources to manage a new national research project that will evaluate grass varieties (also known as cultivars) on actual golf course settings.

"On-site testing of turfgrass cultivars is not a new concept," said Robert C. Shearman, Ph.D. NTEP executive director. "However, the joint sponsorship of on-site putting green trials is new. Golf course superintendents have been asking for some time to have information that bridged the game between small-plot university trials and their end-use needs."

Practice putting greens built to USGA specifications at 16 different golf courses across the nation, featuring bermudagrass and/or bentgrass varieties, will be monitored to provide data for golf course personnel in the building and maintenance of facili-

ties. The northern locations will integrate bentgrass cultivars, and far-south venues will employ bermudagrass varieties. Both will be used in transition zone climates.

The USGA originally funded variety testing research on golf courses in the 1930s and '40s. Testing then moved to university research settings in the late 1940s. While this research has been the backbone of the turfgrass industry, there was a void of actual on-site testing for those in the golf industry. The USGA / GCSAA / NTEP project will use the combined efforts of superintendents, university researchers and USGA Green Section staff for monitoring and evaluation. Annual reports will be filed over a five-year period, with an evaluation of the program for possible continuation with the same or different grass varieties.

"The greatest gains in turfgrass research have and will continue to come from universities," said GCSAA

Director of Research Jeff Nus, Ph.D. "But this project allows us to do 'real world' testing and replicate actual conditions in order to provide the best data to those in the golf course maintenance profession. Golfer expectations and golf course conditions have changed so much in the last three decades that we need to study cultivar performance based on the conditions demanded by today's golfers."

Because traffic is an important factor in cultivar performance, all of the putting greens constructed for the project will be used as actual practice greens at the respective facilities. Preliminary work has begun on the construction of greens at some locations, while sponsors/companies have entered the various bentgrass and bermudagrass cultivars to be considered by researchers for use in the trials study. The list of cultivars to be included in the test will be determined later this fall.

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- Keeping detailed maintenance records and inventories.
- Maintenance of golf cart fleet.
- Organization of maintenance facility.
- Help on grounds when needed.

Qualifications:

- Golf-related experience preferred.
- Formal education preferred.
- Familiar with small engines.

Compensation:

- Starting Salary — \$20-22,000/yr.
- Paid employee health insurance.
- Paid vacation, holidays.
- Pension plan (after one year).
- Paid life insurance.
- MGCSA dues.

Resumes should be directed to:

MIKE NELSON, Superintendent
The Links at Northfork
9400 153rd Ave. N.W.
Ramsey, MN 55303

Phone: (612) 441-7430

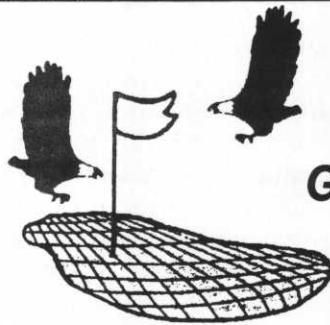
Application deadline: September 12, 1997

Legislation to Preserve Caddie Programs Introduced in Congress

Washington, D.C. — The National Club Association (NCA) announced that Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, has introduced legislation, H.R. 2321, that would preserve independent contractor status for caddies. Burton, a former golf caddie himself, has worked with NCA to develop language for the bill. NCA President Hugh J. Jones, Jr., praised Burton's steadfast interest in this issue saying, "His assistance has been invaluable and has greatly advanced the debate on this issue."

"Preserving independent contractor status for caddies has been a top legislative priority for NCA," according to Elizabeth Kirby Hart, NCA vice president for legal and government relations. "For more than 30 years, the Internal Revenue Service has aggressively attempted to reclassify independent contractors as employees. This is a critical issue for caddies, who have a long tradition of independent contractor status. There are a number of student scholarships that exist solely because of caddie programs. The combined financial contributions made to these programs represent millions of dollars each year."

NCA has worked closely with a number of members of Congress to advance this issue and formed the Coalition to Preserve Caddie Programs in 1996. Composed of over 50 state and regional golf associations and caddie scholarship programs, the coalition has been instrumental in providing critical grass roots support on this issue. Said Hart, "At long last, Congress is recognizing the value of caddie programs."



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GCSAA Conference and Show Registration Available Online

This year, you can register online for GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, Calif.

Beginning Aug. 1, the members-only area of the GCSAA Web site has had complete information about the conference and show, including the latest on seminars, education programs, the golf tournament, special events and the trade show. All the forms you need to register are available in an easy-to-use format.

If you are paying for registration by credit card, simply complete the forms and submit them electronically. Your registration will be processed, and you'll receive a confirmation letter by mail within 10 business days.

Your confirmation is an important document. Watch for it in the mail, review it upon receipt and take it to the

conference and show. Your confirmation will list the events in which you are registered. If you request a seminar and it is full, your confirmation will list this as well. Remember that if you select a seminar, you must always list your first, second and third choices.

Even if you do not register online, the Web site will be your best source of information on the availability of seminars. The list of open seminars and hotels will be updated several times a week, or daily if needed.

Be sure to check out the conference area frequently after you have registered. New information will be added as the annual event approaches, including in-depth information on education programs, an itinerary planner and a trade show booth locator.



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Bentgrass—

(Continued from Page 5)

also be possible to prevent this condition.

Curative

Don't go crazy with fungicides, since infectious fungi don't appear to be involved. These greens must be allowed to grow new roots at a time of year when roots don't really grow well. *Aerify* the greens (solid tines, 1/4" hollow tines, a Hydroject with the platform raised, whatever will punch holes with as little damage as possible). *Raise the mowing height* and reduce the mowing frequency, to allow for as much photosynthesis as possible. A 3/16" to 1/4" height is recommended until the turf recovers and cooler weather returns. Re-seed bentgrass. This is not a good time to try to get it established, but the general management of plants without roots will tend to favor the new seedlings. Provide light/frequent irrigation, preferably hand-watering. "Spoon-feed" the green with soluble fertilizer (1/8 to 1/10 lb. nitrogen every 10-14 days). Use preventive Pythium control to protect the new seedlings during sustained periods with nighttime temperatures above 70° F.

Preventive

When establishing new greens, make sure they are well-aerified by Memorial Day, and do not lower the mowing height quickly during the first summer. Depending on surface smoothness, 3/16" to 1/4" may be advisable during the first summer.

Perseverance Pays Off

How do you turn critics of your golf course into supporters? When Peter Leuzinger, CGCS, was hired by Ivanhoe Club, Ivanhoe, Ill., to achieve certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, one of the biggest challenges he faced was criticism. Here are a few ways Leuzinger turned his public relations problems into positive results.

- Obtained a resource advisory committee of local residents, outside consultants, internal staff and golfers.

- Explained the project in great detail, setting expectations that the golf course would be unsightly at first.

- Responded to individual complainers, one-on-one. Embraced the philosophy that if someone has a problem, he'll solve it.

- Helped golfers and community members learn to appreciate the wildness and diversity of a natural habitat that can coexist with a world-class golf course.

- Established an open-door policy, inviting the nearby residential community to experience the nature preserve and wildlife sanctuary.

- Conducted educational sessions for school children.

- Invited golfers and visitors to participate in a wildlife inventory by reporting sightings to members of the resource committee.

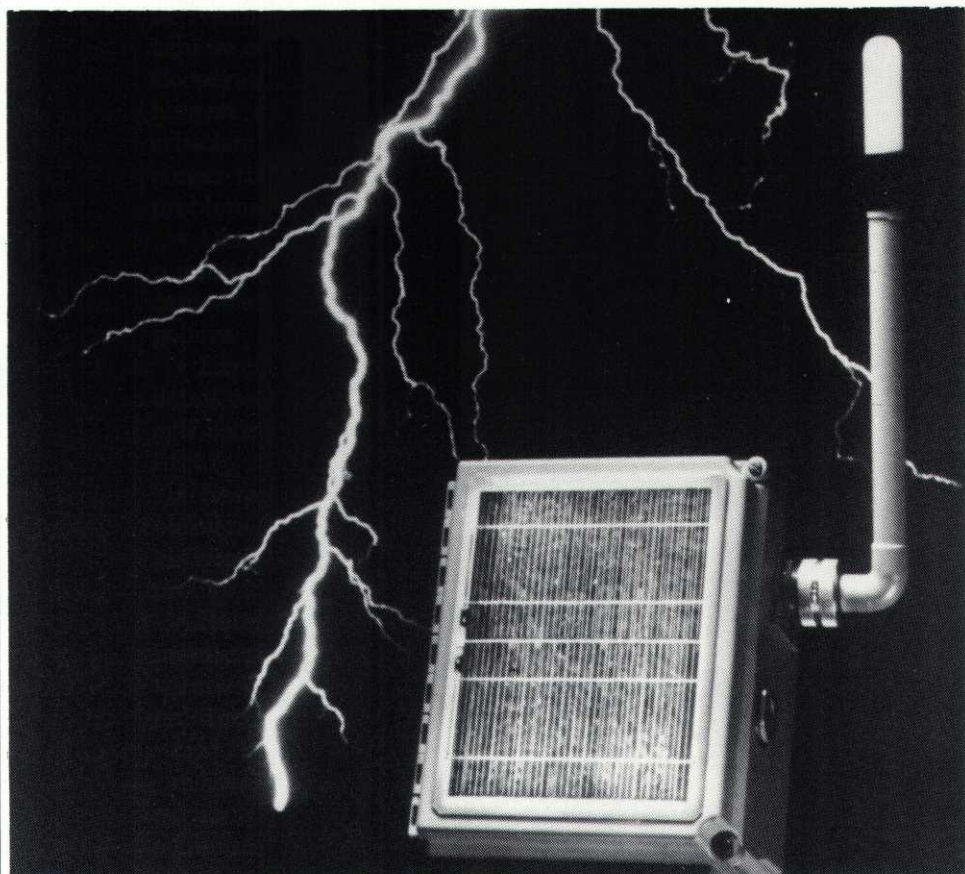
- Stayed positive and persistent. Key to his success was tenacity (and a thick skin!)

Benefits: The club benefited in many ways besides the obvious environmental advantages. Membership has increased. In fact, the membership committee uses the course's environmental stewardship as a tool to recruit new members. Positive media interest has increased and resulted in numerous articles and stories. Relationships with regulatory agencies have improved.

— *Leaderboard*

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Rob Panuska
Waseca Lakeside Club



Thanks to all who participated in the MGCSA Amateur Championship held at Rush Creek Golf Club on August 18th. Congratulations to all the individual flight winners. Look for more details and pictures in this issue. Special thanks to Superintendent Tom Fuller, Club Manager Ed Money and the entire Rush Creek staff for providing superior service and a great event.

* * * *

Nominations are now being accepted for the MGCSA Distinguished Service Award. If you know a fellow superintendent who has served the profession or our association above and beyond the call of duty, please take the time to nominate him or her for this award. Just give Scott a call at the office.

* * * *

It seems as though the older I get the faster time goes, or is it that I am just slowing down and don't get as much done or maybe I'm just too fussy and can't be satisfied with my performance any longer????? Whatever the cause, here it is September already and I haven't accomplished half of what I thought I could at the beginning of the year. I'll bet my expectations were out of line with my abilities and available time.

Speaking of expectations, do your expectations match those of your course management or members??? It seems to be a guessing game for most of us and the key to success seems to be keeping our expectations just ahead of those who play our course. Damage control comes into play when those expectations/demands exceed our budgetary and course capabilities. This is where good communication skills and a keen knowledge of your own course's internal politics becomes so important. We all walk a tight rope in this business and even the best walkers fall sometimes. The difference can be that communication NET that can break your fall.

* * * *

Please take the time to read the reprint on lawn chemicals from Don Gordon out of the *Mankato Free Press*. This is a very well-written column with a good message for all concerned about chemicals and our environment. As those people who know me well would tell you, this is one of my biggest beefs. We as turf management professionals — who do not even have to be licensed (because we don't apply restricted use pesticides) BUT ARE because we know it's the right thing to do — are subject to all the EPA, MDA, OSHA regulations regarding storage, application and record keeping. Yet average Joe Blow homeowner can walk into ANY discount, hardware or mega-store and pick from hundreds of products that will

kill any and every "pest" he can think of.

Not only can he buy these products without any training or application knowledge, he also can let his 5-year-old help him. If those who are up-in-arms about pesticide use in our country really want to have positive impact on their proper use, then go after the retail markets and require people who purchase these products to have a minimum level of training....just like we require our kids to have completed a minimum level of training before they can swim in our public pools without supervision. Enough said!!!

—Rob Panuska
Editor

WANTED

The MGCSA wants your talents and energy. Please consider serving on the MGCSA Board of Directors. Contact James Gardner for more information at (612) 496-0037.

The Watson Fellowships

The goal of The Watson Fellowships program is to identify and recognize outstanding post-graduates who will be the leading industry educators and researchers of tomorrow.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic excellence, peer recommendations, communication skills, accomplishments in research and education and the potential to contribute significantly to the industry. The four winners will receive \$5,000 scholarships and an expense-paid trip to attend the GCSAA's 69th International Conference and Show in Anaheim, Calif.

Financial need is not a consideration in the judging.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled and registered in post-graduate studies in a field related to turfgrass science and/or golf course management. Typically, this includes candidates for master's degrees or doctorates in appropriate fields of study.

For more information or an application, call the GCSAA Foundation team at 800/472-7878, ext. 445. An application may also be found on GCSAA's Home Page at <http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa>.

Application deadline is October 1, 1997.

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R-11 Spreader-Activator improves the activity of the spray application by reducing surface tension.

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- Shields chemical from the adversities of water and air
- Allows more chemical to be deposited on target
- Retards drift
- Sticks to negatively charged plants and soil
- Improves suspension in spray tank, because positive charges repel each other
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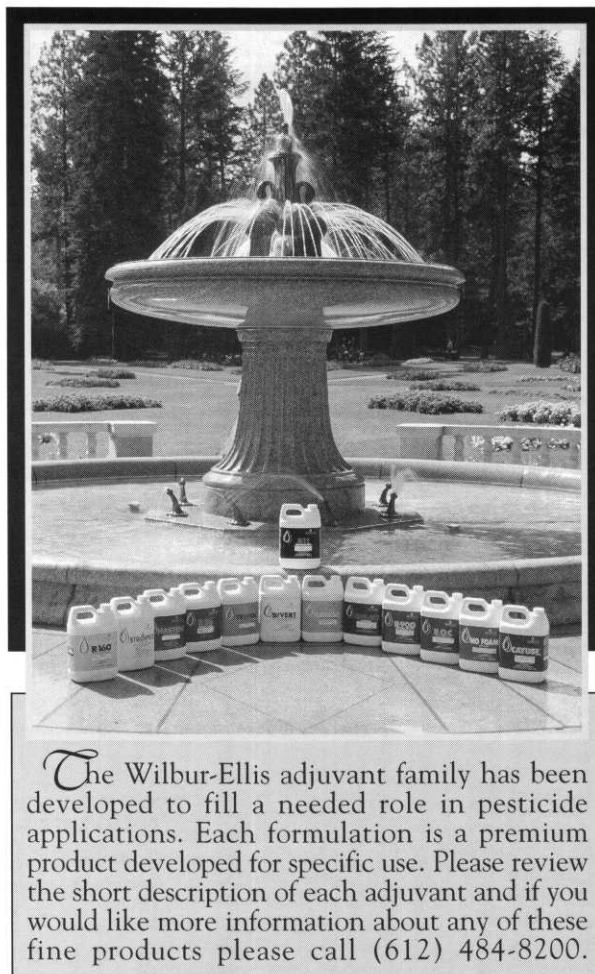
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TRI-FOL is an organic acidulant and buffering agent for lowering the pH in spray water. This formulation utilizes organic acids instead of corrosive mineral acids. Tri-Fol does not contain certain heavy metals that may inactivate companion pesticides. This unique formulation contains Calcium that is helpful for quality plant growth and development.

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- Carefully formulated for all types of spray equipment
- For best results add before pesticide or surfactant
- Especially useful in mixtures containing a surfactant

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