

# Chapter Delegates—

(Continued from Page 9)

- The challenges faced by smaller affiliated chapters should be taken into consideration.
- Chapter delegates are in general agreement that membership standards will take time to develop and implement. Overall, delegates are pleased with the progress made. They will have an opportunity to provide more input at next year's Chapter Delegates Meeting.

## Government Relations

- Chapter delegates are encouraged to write letters to Congress, asking them to tell the Environmental Protection Agency to collect and use real-world data when determining pesticide use restrictions under the Food Quality Protection Act. Affiliated chapters are encouraged to attend local and state coalition meetings. Affiliated chapters located in states without coalitions are encouraged to become involved with a coalition in a nearby state.
- Chapters may also wish to contact candidates running for Congress or state office from their district. Handwritten letters, telephone calls, and messages via fax and e-mail are all effective ways to contact lawmakers.

## National / Chapter Media Relations

- GCSAA has moved from a reactive to a proactive association, as it builds relationships and contacts with the media. We have an obligation to educate the media and the golf world about golf course superintendents and the association.
- Affiliated chapters need to make contact with their local media and let them know that you're an accurate, accessible source. Remember that the members of the media work on deadlines and have different schedules from superintendents. Let them know when, where and how they can reach you.
- Chapter delegates had the opportunity to review a GCSAA media kit. These kits are available for chapters to distribute to their local media. A notebook of media clippings was also distributed for delegates to review the recent media coverage that golf course superintendents have received.
- Affiliated chapters are encouraged to schedule a media day, where local members of the media are invited to play golf, meet golf course superintendents and learn more about the profession. A second opportunity to do this is by inviting members of the media to high profile events, such as major golf tournaments.
- Affiliated chapters can assist GCSAA with PR and media relations efforts by monitoring public opinion and local news that affects superintendents and the golf world.
- Affiliated chapters should send their membership directory to the local media. This is a resource that puts members of the media in touch with golf course superintendents.
- Projects that receive funding through the Chapter Cooperative Research Program and the Grant-in-Aid Research Program focus on regional agronomic problems.

- If an affiliated chapter has just begun a multiple-year research project, the chapter may submit a proposal for funding. GCSAA's Research Committee approves funding for projects based on their merit.

## Affinity Programs

- Chapters will have the opportunity to be more involved in the marketing of affinity programs. They are now being marketed under one package, called Super Advantage programs (includes travel, rental car discounts and the Golf-Links credit union).

## Compensation Survey and Employer Relations

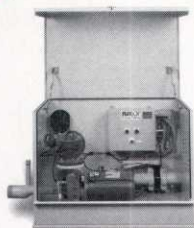
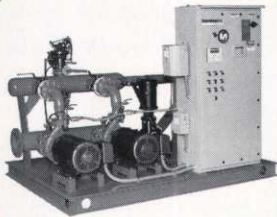
- Overall, the results of the 1998 survey show that golf course superintendents are comfortable with their compensation. Chapters were asked to help define what information should be gathered for future surveys.

## Miscellaneous Issues

- Many affiliated chapters have a "waiting line" of representatives who would like to attend the Chapter Delegates Meeting.
- A list of affiliated chapters that do not send a representative to the Chapter Delegates Meeting should be published.
- Chapter delegates should remember the importance of sharing the meeting outcomes and information presented and discussed at the meeting with their board of directors and members.
- Development of a mission statement for the Chapter Delegates Meeting was suggested. This would help chapters identify the most appropriate member to represent their chapter at this annual meeting. A mission statement will be discussed by the Chapter Relations Committee, and their recommendation will be communicated prior to next year's Chapter Delegates Meeting.
- Nine golf course superintendents participated in a focus group on Friday, September 18 with two representatives from Etonic. The purpose was for the superintendents to share ideas on how to enhance the bottom of Etonic shoes to make them more agronomically friendly. The superintendents were impressed that Etonic took the time to ask them what they thought about their shoes.
- Golf course superintendents continue to have buying power and the authority to make equipment purchase decisions. Superintendents often work with management companies who sign exclusive contracts with manufacturers, and encourage them to purchase products that are of the highest quality and that have service providers available when equipment repairs are needed.
- GCSAA's chapter guide on the Web site includes general information about affiliated chapters' dues structure, and annual meetings and events. GCSAA will post additional information on upcoming meetings and events on the Web site if chapters are willing to provide it. Chapters are responsible for notifying GCSAA when the information needs to be updated.

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# Vintage Photo of “Greenskeepers” At 1958 MGCSA Conference At the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis



This vintage MGCSA photo was submitted by Life Member Ray Hall. Ray is the one in the middle of the photo without a suitcoat. “This 1958 shot was taken at the old Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis where the MGCSA used to hold its fall and winter conference. We were called greens-

keepers then,” said Ray.

1958 was the same year Ray, on a bet, won \$50 for growing grass on a tennis ball in 36 hours. “I was then called the grassman by the editor of the Anoka Herald paper,” he said.

# To Cover or Not Cover Greens That is The Question

By **BOB VAVREK**

*Agronomist, North Central Region*

*USGA*

As the end of the season draws near many superintendents begin to wrestle with one of the more controversial maintenance practices employed across the region — the use of greens covers. Their decisions are further complicated by the wide varieties of covers on the market. The choice was simple in olden days as greens were sometimes covered with evergreen branches to hold snow cover. Now covering greens can be as simple as applying a moderately heavy application of sand topdressing to greens after the final application of snow mold fungicide is made. In contrast, covering greens can be as complicated as (1) applying a breathable geotextile fabric, (2) applying a 12" layer of straw over the fabric cover, and then (3) topping off the green with a waterproof plastic cover. In between the two extremes are:

1. Covering greens with an 80:20 mix;
2. Ultra-thin spun fiber covers;
3. Dark breathable geotextile (Evergreen-type) covers;
4. Light breathable geotextile covers;
5. Relatively thick woven turf blankets (Warren's type);
6. Clear waterproof plastic sheeting;
7. Black waterproof plastic sheeting;
8. Reflective waterproof covers;
9. Wood fiber excelsior mats;
10. Combinations of the above covers;
11. Variations of the above covers.

## **MGCSA Events at December Conference**

### **Past Presidents Luncheon**

Hilton Hotel  
Thursday, December 10  
12:00 Noon

### **Annual Meeting**

Minneapolis Convention Center — Room 103A-F  
Thursday, December 10  
4:45 p.m.

### **Hospitality Night**

Seasons — Minneapolis Convention Center  
Thursday, December 10  
6:00 p.m.

For every superintendent who religiously embraces the use of greens covers, you will find one who has absolutely no use for covering greens. Surprisingly, there are a number of converts each season — staunch supporters of covers will abruptly go naked and the "let nature dictate the severity of winterkill" encampment will begin covering greens. The take-home message is plain and simple: sometimes covers definitely prevent winterkill, sometimes they don't and once in a while they make matters worse.

All types of covers generally provide effective protection from wind desiccation during an open winter. A wide variety of the fabrics can also be useful for raising soil temperatures to jump starting the growth of turf on greens during early spring. Forcing early season turf growth can be helpful on new greens that were seeded late the previous fall. When winterkill occurs, covering turf during early spring can also accelerate the recovery process. In addition, there will be no controversy over winter play on greens that are covered.

Only the thickest, bulkiest types of covers, however, have any appreciable ability to insulate greens from rapid drops in temperature during a mid-winter freeze/thaw cycle, an essential ingredient of crown hydration-type winterkill. Furthermore, the turf under certain types of covers is probably more susceptible to snow mold compared to uncovered turf. Yet each spring there are a number of undeniable examples where the covered greens at a particular golf course survived the winter in better condition compared to uncovered greens at nearby courses.

The potential for consistent snow cover over the winter, the percentage of *Poa annua* in the putting surfaces and the surface drainage characteristics of greens are only a few of the many factors to consider before making a decision to cover greens. The cost of the covers and the availability of labor during late fall and early spring to cover and uncover greens needs to be considered as well.

Covers are not the panacea for all winterkill concerns. The judicious use of covers on certain types of greens, though, can improve the odds (not guarantee) that the turf will survive the winter. The debate over covers will rage until research documents the specific weather conditions and other factors that cause the wide variety of winter-related injury to turf across the North Central Region. Whether to cover greens is just another one of the difficult decisions superintendents must make each season — as they say, if it were an easy job, anyone could do it.

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  - Networking opportunities (an invaluable tool in keeping abreast of the industry)
  - New acquaintances (you can never know too many people)
  - Reacquainted with old friends (friends are one of our biggest assets)
  - An opportunity to see and hear Barbara Bush speak (you won't want to miss this)
- GCSAA offers all these opportunities under one roof — the Orange County Convention Center. The conference and show's Orlando location opens the door for your entire family, as well. Make conference and show a family affair and give your spouse and children:
- An opportunity to understand more about your job
  - Time together as a family

- GCSAA's excursion/seminar offerings
- A chance to place a bid in The GCSAA Foundation's Silent Auction
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- Wonderful weather
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- New friends to meet
- Old friends to see

Register now so you are assured of a spot at this prestigious event. Though you may register on-site, the advantages of advance registration include:

- Lower registration fees
- A bigger selection of available seminars
- Credentials (badge and tickets) received in the mail, which means you can go straight to seminars, educational programs and the trade show
- Time to schedule your daily on-site activities to make the most valuable use of your time.

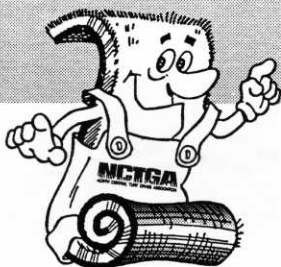
All GCSAA members should have received a comprehensive 1999 Conference and Show Brochure, which details all the necessary information. To receive an additional copy, members may call (800) 472-7878. Comprehensive conference information is also available at GCSAA's dedicated conference and show Web site — [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

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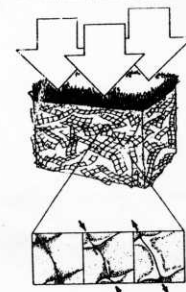
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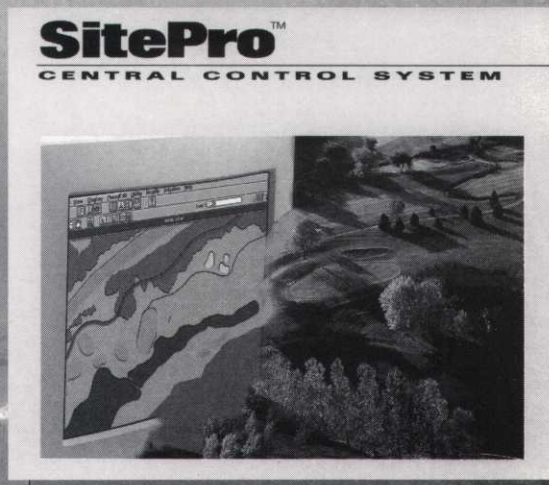


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# Educational Opportunities Galore For MGCSA Members

By **MIKE BROWER**

*Hillcrest Country Club*

As winter draws near, it's time for turfgrass managers in the northern climates to dust off those textbooks and return to the classroom. Each of the four seasons has unique offerings, and as turfgrass managers in the north, we should all appreciate that the winter season allows us to become students again. The MGCSA and GCSAA have once again teamed-up to provide excellent educational opportunities for us over the winter months. A look at the calendar of events shows that these opportunities are nearly here. Put those thinking caps on and be sure to attend these upcoming events.

## **The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation Conference and Trade Show Minneapolis Convention Center December 9-11**

Headlining the list of turfgrass speakers at this year's conference are Dr. David Huff, who heads the Penn State turfgrass breeding program, speaking about "Grasses, Blue and Bent" on Wednesday; the well-respected Dr. Nick Christians of Iowa State University, who will discuss pesticides and fertilizers on Thursday, and the innovative Dr. John Trey Rogers of Michigan State University will speak both Thursday and Friday about "Turf in Shade," "Growth Regulators on Greens" and "Improved Wear Tolerance." These are "can't miss" speakers, so be sure to be there to help roll out the red carpet for these gentlemen. Don't forget a pen and note pad.

In addition, notable speakers for the golf/turfgrass portion of this event will include Dr. Ward Stienstra (U of M), Dr. Don White (U of M), Dr. Don Taylor (UW-River Falls), and Dr. Julian Mercier (U of M). MGCSA members Butch Greeninger (MTI Distributing Co.), Rob Panuska (Waseca Lakeside), Mike Kelly (Glenn Rehbein Companies), and Troy Carson (U of M) will also give presentations at this year's conference.

**This year's keynote speaker is Mr. Robert Veninga**, Professor of Health Maintenance and Policy, with the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. His topic will be "Keeping it Together — How to Love Your Job and Have a Life." He will be speak on Wednesday morning. In a profession (golf course management) that is at times referred to as "a grind," this is a most fitting topic that you won't want to miss.

And that's not all of it, there are plenty of other speakers and topics offered over the three days, as well as the Trade Show which opens at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday. I also encourage all MGCSA members to attend this year's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday at 4:30 p.m. I can't think of a better way to become more involved and contribute to the association than attend the Annual Meeting. There will be a social hour immediately following this session.

## **70th Annual International GCSAA Conference and Show Orlando, Florida February 8-14**

Nearly 100 seminars will be offered at this year's conference on Monday-Thursday — half-day, one-day, or two-day, take your pick and fit it to your schedule. The list is so long and there are so many great topics that it's difficult to narrow your choices down. Not only do you learn from well-qualified instructors, you also meet other professionals in the field that you can talk to and learn from. A list of CEU seminars through the GCSAA sure looks good on a resume to any future employers, so don't wait another minute — sign up for a GCSAA seminar now.

The ever-popular Innovative Superintendent Sessions will be held again on Friday and Saturday this year, and it's your chance to hear first-hand from other superintendents about projects they've completed or methods they have utilized to be successful.

A couple of my favorite events that you should make a point to attend are the American Society of Golf Course Architects program on Saturday morning, and the United States Golf Association program on Sunday morning. How often do you get the chance to here and meet such people as Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones or Geoffrey Cornish? The slide presentations and talks at these events are always very worthwhile.

A special educational session called "The Cutting Edge of Golf Course Management" will take place on Saturday afternoon. For those of you with your eyes on the future, this session will involve industry experts discussing anticipated changes in the turfgrass management field by the year 2020. Topics will include evaluating new products,

*(Continued on Page 20)*

## Educational Opportunities—

(Continued from Page 19)

satellite location systems, meteorology, digital imaging and computerized irrigation. You needn't own a laptop to attend, just bring your imagination.

This year's Opening Session and Reception will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening. The Distinguished Speaker is Barbara Bush, wife of Vice President and President George Bush. When this many superintendents come together in the same room at the same time, you can't help being a bit overwhelmed by what a fine career choice you have made, and what the GCSAA is all about. Assistants, and other rising stars should be sure to attend this event. Dress standards for this event include coat and tie.

### **MGCSA March Mini-Seminar Doubletree Park Place Hotel St Louis Park, Minnesota Monday, March 8**

Attendance at last year's event was great, but it wouldn't surprise me if we surpass that this year. The reason? It's another one of those can't miss programs that you will want to invite your staff and club officials to. This year's seminar topic is "The Magic of Greenkeeping," conducted by two of North America's most highly regarded Golf Course Superintendents. *The Magic of Greenkeeping* is presented by Michael Bavier and Gordon Witteveen. Michael is superintendent at Inverness Golf Club of Chicago, and Gordon is course superintendent at the 45-hole Board of Trade Country Club in Toronto and past president of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association. Michael and Gordon each have over 25 years of experience at their present clubs, and have trained many of the leading superintendents in North America.

The two have also collaborated on a book that is now available through the GCSAA. It's an easy-to-read, practical guide for all superintendents titled *Practical Golf Course Maintenance: The Magic of Greenkeeping*. The 300 page book covers everything from cutting greens to human resource management and can be purchased through the GCSAA Bookstore either online at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) or by calling (800) 974-2722.

The *Magic of Greenkeeping* Seminar will give each participant the inside track on the secrets of modern day turfgrass maintenance, looking at the science at the heart of the business, the technology used to apply it and the tricks of the trade developed through decades of experience. Superintendents, assistants and staff, will all benefit from this seminar, as it focuses on techniques and methods that create a healthy, high quality golf course. The seminar leaders have traveled to golf courses around the world and have discovered new ideas and superior methods. They will share these experiences in the magic of greenkeeping. Their slide presentation is constantly updated with the latest shots of their most recent visits and discoveries. Be sure to mark your calendar now for a most rewarding experience, Monday, March 8.

### **GCSAA Regional Seminars Doubletree Park Place Hotel St. Louis Park, Minnesota March 9-10**

The two days following the March Mini-Seminar, the GCSAA in conjunction with the MGCSA, will be hosting regional seminars at the same location in the Twin Cities.

On Tuesday, March 9, the one-day seminar *Turfgrass Ecology* will be offered. This seminar studies the major concepts of Integrated Pest Management and how they relate to management practices such as mowing, fertilization, spraying, irrigation and management of turfgrass under environmental stress. The instructor is Dr. Karl Danneburger, associate professor of agronomy and turfgrass physiology at Ohio State University.

On Wednesday, March 10, the one-day seminar *Financial Management* will be offered. Dr. Raymond S. Schmidgall of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management at Michigan State University will be the instructor. The focus will be on your role in the financial management of the golf course. Accounting records and financial statements are both analyzed and explained, and managing the balance sheet and income statement accounts is discussed. This course also covers budgeting, analyzing financial data and evaluating capital investment projects.

Attendance in these seminars is limited, so act now if you want to attend these seminars. Contact GCSAA at 1-800-472-7878.



**JON POWELL**

*New Turf Pathologist at the University of Minnesota*