

GCSAA Focuses on Career and Employment Issues

In accordance with its strategic plan, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) recently convened a meeting at its headquarters to discuss ways to provide members with resources to effectively secure employment and pursue career goals.

The Career Development Resource Group met at GCSAA headquarters October 7-8. The group focused on employer education, practical job-seeking skills and tools, and career guidance and counseling. The purpose of the meeting was to give input and direction to the successful establishment of GCSAA's new career development department.

In addition to chapter relations and information services, career development is one of three new areas of emphasis introduced by GCSAA's strategic plan. All three areas now are represented by new departments at GCSAA headquarters.

Some of the suggestions that came from the meeting

included improvements to:

- GCSAA's Employment Referral Service. New changes in the format for the weekly job notices have already been implemented.
- GCSAA's Employment Resources Kit.
- GCSAA's Salary Survey.

In addition, the group recommended changing the purpose and direction of The Leader Board, GCSAA's club and course leader-directed newsletter. The group discussed plans to shift The Leader Board from a subscription-based publication to one that would be provided free of charge to every golf course with a GCSAA member. The publication would stress the vital importance of hiring and properly compensating a well-qualified individual for the position of superintendent.

GCSAA Director Scott Woodhead, CGCS, is a chairman of the resource group.

Tips from the USGA A Christmas Story

*by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist*

The Christmas shopping season has arrived. It is a time of year that should bring peace and joy to every American man, woman and child. If you're like me, I'm sure you're rejoicing at the thought of screaming children at the toy store and a man dressed like Santa Claus at every street corner clanging his bell. Peace and joy or holiday mayhem? Sometimes I get confused.

In times of holiday confusion I'm reminded of a Christmas story about a superintendent who received a very special gift from ole' Saint Nick. This superintendent had been good all year long. He mowed the rough before it got too long, he set the course up easy on guest day so everyone would have a good score, and he even got rid of the gophers without killing a single one.

Despite all these good deeds, however, the golfers began referring to the superintendent as Agent Orange (the "defoliator"). The impetus for this affectionate nickname was due to the July disappearance of all but a few miserable blades of bentgrass on number six green.

It was a mystery to the golfers. Here was a green located in what many considered the most ideal location for growing turf. Surrounded by tall pine trees on the south that provided welcome relief to the golfers from the summer sun, and located in front of a pristine brook, most golfers thought number six green held "signature hole" status.

To solve the mystery the Green Committee applied the following five Laws of Turfgrass Management that all golfers know to be true:

Law #1: Golfers who wear cleated shoes improve the turf by aerating the soil.

Continued on page 5

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