

Greatest Spectacle In Commercial Turfgrass

GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference And Show



Roger J. Thomas, marketing manager, turf equipment, Jacobsen Mfg. Co., discusses noise levels and golf maintenance.

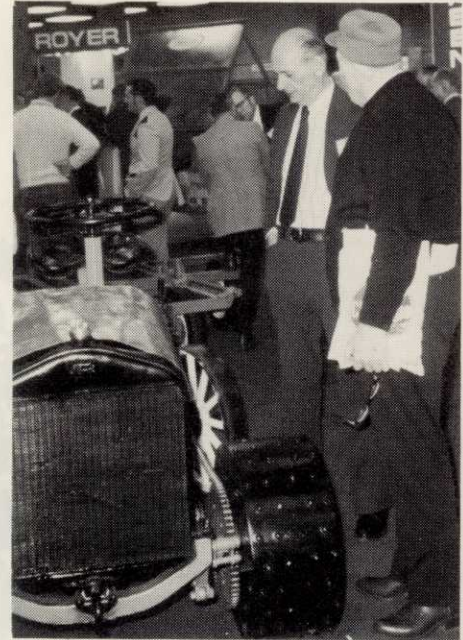
THE International Turfgrass Conference and Show is to commercial turfgrass what the Indianapolis 500 is to racing. Each is at the zenith. Golf course superintendents and race drivers respectively find the greatest spectacle on turf or in racing has a super-attractive force. You just can't stay away from these expos.

This year's January meeting and show in Boston was no exception. More than 4200 members and guests from every state in the nation and at least nine foreign countries made the 44th annual International the largest attended conference and show in history.

Exhibitors, taking a cue, from last year's enthusiastic reception, filled both floors of the John B. Hynes Civic Auditorium to near capacity. Statistics show that there was nearly one exhibitor for every member attending. Equipment, chemicals and services of every description dazzled and tantalized even the most sophisticated superintendents.

The big gala is the annual conclave of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Theme for the meeting was "The Golf Course Superintendent And Changing Times." And with one possible exception all conference speakers were active members of the Green Industry. This pleasant departure from the big name speakers of past conferences gave a warm informality to the meeting which superintendents generally favored. More than one superintendent remarked that executive secretary Conrad Scheetz, the executive group and the host committee had put together a program tailored to the needs on the course.

In his opening address, Robert V. Mitchell, GCSAA president, put the size of the golf course business in proper perspective. "Current estimated capital invested in golf facilities is a staggering \$3.3 billion and a conservative estimate of total spending on such related items as golf
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This early model turf tractor by Ford brings memories to these exhibitors. More than 4200 people attended the show.



Onan displayed three new engines this year. Don Halverson, sales promotion, talks with superintendents.



GCSAA past president John J. Spodnik tells superintendents about the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

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balls, clubs, shoes and other dress items would exceed another \$200 million," he said.

"Americans have been playing golf for more than 80 years, but the past decade has seen the game's greatest growth. During this period the number of courses increased 56 percent, and the number of golfers increased 123 percent."

Mitchell told delegates that 13 million Americans played golf during 1972 on 10,665 regulation courses, 974 par-threes and 298 executive-length courses. He said more than 250 regulation courses are scheduled for completion during 1973. GCSAA currently has over 3800 members in the U.S., Canada and other countries.

"Golfers are very sophisticated in their demand for the finest conditions," Mitchell concluded, "but they don't always appreciate the costs in time, money and labor. In the face of this contradiction, we will get the most from every dollar spent by keeping pace with the modern turf management methods. That is what this conference, with its sharing of information, educational pro-

Table 1. Conference attendance continues high for the national turf conference staged by the GCSAA. Statistics for the past five years are:

	Boston, Mass. (1973)	Cincinnati, Ohio (1972)	Denver, Colorado (1971)	Houston, Texas (1970)	Miami Beach, Florida (1969)
Members	1198	1309	1076	1182	1078
Ladies	487	455	564	592	620
Guests	473	226	234	189	194
Greens Chairmen	87	250	214	211	506
One Day Admission	735	609	333	419	285
Turf Students	122	219	142	52	57
Exhibitors	1114	985	922	975	771
Total Registration	4216	4053	3485	3620	3511

grams, and exhibits will accomplish."

In the sessions that followed superintendents were exposed to "changes" in new laws, putting green construction, turf management practices, automatic irrigation and in the demand for more superintendents.

One law affecting all courses is the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA). John J. Spodnik, GCASS past president and superintendent, Westfield Country Club, Westfield Center, Ohio, explained the purpose of the act. He said that there is a general feeling that OSHA

has little to contribute to the field of turfgrass. But following his comprehensive review of the Act, it is easy to see that OSHA generally affects everyone.

Spodnik said that the employer is charged with furnishing each employee a safe place to work. This includes the wearing of approved safety equipment and the operation of machinery by trained employees only. He also said that the employer is obligated to keep records on employee injury and illness.

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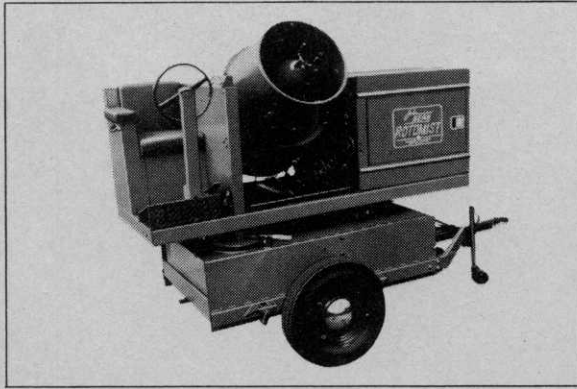
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"Standards specifically for the golf course are almost impossible to prepare," he said, "but by April 28, 1973, a complete package of OSHA standards will be published."

This well attended session next heard Roger J. Thomas, marketing manager, turf equipment, Jacobsen Manufacturing Company, discuss noise levels and golf maintenance operations. While it can be said that noise on a golf course is small in comparison to that of a stamping

plant, noise in general has caught the ear of the Federal government. Thomas said that during the past decade people have become increasingly aware of noise in their daily living.

Using decibels as the unit of measurement, the marketing manager said that 90 decibels is the maximum noise permitted for a worker during an eight hour day. He cited the decibel rating on a number of pieces of equipment, but also pointed out that its the aggregate of noise over the eight hour period that falls within the standard. Thus, a worker operating two pieces of equipment, each of which emits a noise level very near 90 dBA, may have a total combined decibel rating exceeding the federal limit. By law he would be forced to retire to a less noisy environment for the duration of an eight hour day.

Thomas advised superintendents to check the sound level of each piece of equipment used on a golf course. "Each superintendent will have to know the various sound levels," he said. This way you will know how to combine equipment sounds and still stay under the maximum noise level.

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Clarke Fenimore, president, Ky-Inna Turf Supply, Louisville, Ky., (r) discusses sprayers and spray tanks with Bob Edwards, president Edwards Manufacturing Company, Ponca City, Okla. (l) and Bill Cook also of Edwards Mfg. Co.



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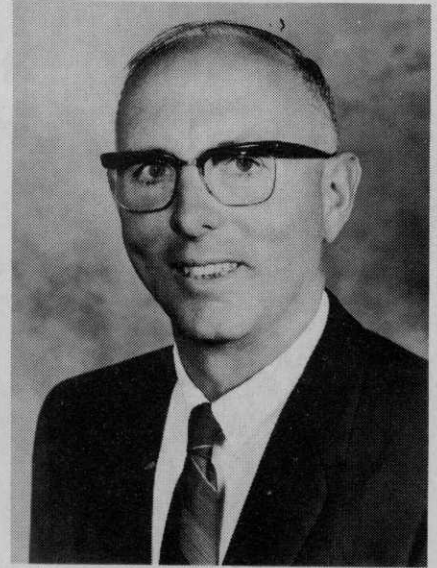
(from page 38)

He also suggested strongly that employees be subjected to hearing tests.

In the area of administrative control of noise, he offered these suggestions: 1. Don't operate equipment too near the edge of a course too early in the morning. It distracts adjacent landowners. 2. Don't use two pieces of high noise emitting equipment together. 3. Trees, bushes and other vegetation act as a noise barrier. 4. Keep equipment in good repair.

James L. Holmes, the Green Makers, Bryan, Texas expressed his views as a builder in changes affecting green construction. Noting that greens have been built quite far into the south which support excellent bentgrass turf, he said the key to a properly constructed green is in adequate infiltration, percolation, water retention and drainage.

Dr. R. E. Engel, professor, soils and crops department, Rutgers University spoke on "the effect of nitrogen fertilization on annual bluegrass encroachment in bentgrass. He feels the management practices of superintendents in relation to nitrogen use are in part responsible for the en-



Clifford A. Wagoner, superintendent of Del Rio Golf and Country Club, Modesto, Calif. is the new GCSAA president.

croachment of annual bluegrass. He said that it has been shown that high rates of N often result in more annual bluegrass.

"Experience gained from research trials has taught us one lesson on N fertilization of bentgrass turf," he remarked. "Namely, avoid any type of high N treatment that is likely to cause massive turf failure and open the turf to increased encroachment of annual bluegrass.

He offered these suggestions to superintendents: 1. Use no more N than necessary for satisfactory growth. 2. Slow, steady growth is best. This is best done with small and more frequent applications. Amount of clippings in optimum cool weather and color are good indicators of N need. 3. Establishment or re-establishment are the only place for more generous N programs on bentgrass.

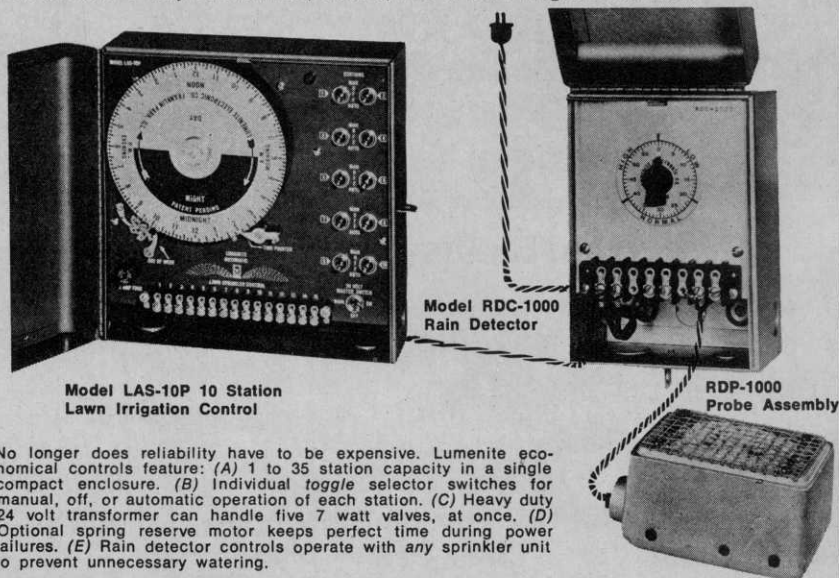
Changes in automatic irrigation concepts from the manufacturer's point of view was the title of the presentation by Ed Shoemaker, national sales manager, Rain Bird Manufacturing Corporation.

"As a marketing organization," he said, "We see ourselves helping you stay out of the traps and pitfalls in a major undertaking such as the construction of an automatic irrigation system." He said these traps can be avoided with the system has the proper planning: 1. Inadequate budget; 2. The free plan; 3. Custom designed equipment; 4. Do it yourself; 5. The low bid; 6. Cut now — pay later; 7. Push button operation.

Speaking about the changes in the demand for superintendents, Gregory W. Graham, turfgrass management (continued on page 76)

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Country Club, Lutherville, Md.; Gordon C. Witteveen, superintendent Northwood Country Club, Toronto, Canada.

Site of the 1974 meeting is the Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, Calif. This will be the 45th annual meeting. Dates are: February 17-22. □

Design Changes Complete Says Lockwood's Dan Walter

The Lockwood Corporation of Gering, Nebraska, has announced completion of its long-rang program to restyle and re-engineer the Lockwood-Hardie line of shade tree and utility sprayers.

According to Dan Walter, Product Manager for the sprayer line, Lockwood has been making gradual improvements in the Hardie line of sprayers since purchasing it two years ago. One major improvement is stainless steel tanks as standard equipment on air blast sprayers to increase their longevity and reduce maintenance. Another is their lower profile design to improve overall maneuverability, prevent sliding and make the sprayers easier to pull.

Walter further announced that Lockwood is now holding training seminars for dealers regarding new features of the Lockwood-Hardie line. One point being stressed to dealers at the seminars will be the importance of new equipment field demonstrations at the user level.

Varieties Resistant To DED Studied At Mich. State Univ.

Arborists will soon be able to replace trees lost to Dutch Elm Disease with a disease-resistant elm variety, according to a Michigan State University forestry specialist.

Within the next decade, an elm-breeding project begun in 1969 at MSU should produce a suitable variety that resists the fungus disease, says Dr. Jonathan Wright.

One type, the Siberian elm, has already proven disease-resistant. But it tends to break down during ice storms and has neither the large leaves nor desirable shape of the American elm, Wright notes.

"We are screening over 600 elm samples from 200 countries, including Bulgaria, Siberia and Japan, to locate a variety that shows resistance to the disease, rapid growth, longevity and good form," the forestry specialist says.

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ment student, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, summed up many of the feelings of turfgrass students about their future. He said, "When Dr. Troll (Univ. of Mass.) greets a new freshman class each year, he passes on this bit of information, 'You have to think turf, sleep turf, eat turf, or in other words, you have to be some kind of man to succeed in becoming a golf course superintendent,' I believe there always will

be a place in this field for a person who orients himself towards Dr. Troll's beliefs."

New president of the Association for 1973 is Clifford A. Wagoner, superintendent at the Del Rio Golf and Country Club, Modesto, Calif. Other officers are: Charles G. Baskin, superintendent, Country Club of Waterbury, Conn., vice-president; Palmer Maples, Jr., superintendent, The Standard Club, Atlanta, Ga., secretary-treasurer. New directors elected are: George W. Cleaver, superintendent, Chestnut Ridge