

# Southern Superintendents Discuss Planning, Success

LOW ATTENDANCE figures once again plagued the turfgrass industry's show season as the Southern Turfgrass Association registered less than 300 people for their recent conference and equipment exposition in Memphis, Tenn.

Close on the heels of GCSAA's New Orleans show and continued competition from budget cutbacks held attendance to the low level. GCSAA attendance was also some 440 less than their 1974 meeting.

Theme of the educational portion of the show was "Success Through Planning".

James Bridges, superintendent of Creeks Bend Golf Course, Hixson, Tenn., welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed the increased importance of meeting present day challenges through planning. Bridges is also a state director of the association.

Educational director for GCSAA, Bill Knoop, noted a strong correlation between thinking before acting and success in undertaking any project. He listed the tried and true methods of planning and



1976 officers and directors of the Southern Turfgrass Assoc. from left: president, Gene Baston, Country Club of Birmingham, AL, vice president, Al Frenette, Peachtree Golf Club, Atlanta, GA, secretary-treasurer, Euel Coats, Mississippi State University, and directors Billy W. Smith, Kayo Mullen, Bill Langer, Frank Gumpert, James T. Bridges, Jr., and Lee Strebel. Not pictured Pat Ardoin, Tommie Hill and Sam Locke.

success as: identification of objective or goal, definition of all courses of action, evaluation of all courses of action and development of supportive materials. Knoop stressed that following these steps "does not guarantee success, but the odds will certainly be on your side."

Speaking on planned work schedules was USGA Greens Section Southern Director, Monty Moncrief. His first suggestion was to determine work schedules — some tentative and some firm—on a yearly, monthly, weekly and daily basis. "Keep communication lines open and plan jobs as early as possible. The less conflict between the pro, greens chairman and club manager the easier your job will be," Moncrief said. Another Moncrief point was the importance of daily work schedule planning. "After the day is complete, review the finished jobs and plan tomorrow's schedule accordingly," he said. To make operations run more smoothly, have someone other than the superintendent know the day's work schedule so something unexpected does not halt work. Plan

the work so completion of all projects can be achieved. Place employees on jobs most appealing to their particular interest. "And above all, show appreciation to employees for a job well done," Moncrief concluded.

*(continued)*



Over thirty regional and national exhibitors set up booths during the February show. Here the crowd takes a look at what's new in the turfgrass marketplace.



STA 1976 president, Gene Baston, presents Reg Perry with a plaque honoring him for 23 years as secretary-treasurer of the association.

WEEDS TREES and TURF

One of the newer trends in housing is the complete community development. In this area, planning is most crucial and speaking from personal experience was Bill Carson, superintendent of Sea Pines Golf Course.

Carson used colored slides to outline the step by step planning and development stages of one of the eastern seaboard's largest developments. "Many of the facilities necessary to attract and maintain a satisfied community must be well planned before the first resident moves in," Carson said. "It takes more than tact to inform any of the residents that there has been a mistake in planning and the new highway is going through their backyard."

Irrigation is another area where detailed planning pays off. "One of the most important considerations in any irrigation installation is desired coverage," said Toro Irrigation's Bill Speelman. Matching

the system to the area prevents burn-outs and many insect and weed control problems. A common practice, he said, is the use of fairway heads on greens. "If you decide this is the route you want to take, make certain there's adequate pressure — 80 to 98 psi — to achieve proper water break-up," he said. Incomplete break-up results in inadequate water coverage and sometimes results in turf damage. "In the long run, it adds much to player pleasure and the superintendents' well being if the irrigation job is properly constructed from the beginning," he said.

Preemergence weed control requires use of the planning process and speaking on this subject was G. Euel Coats, associate professor of weed science, Mississippi State University. "Annual bluegrass is by far the most severe grassy weed infesting southern turf areas during the late growing season through the dormant period and into the early

growing season," Coats stated. "Aside from decreasing the aesthetic value of turf, probably the primary objection of annual bluegrass in southern turf is the weed problem associated with the rapid die-back in late spring." Control is usually accomplished with either benefin (Balan), bensulide (Betasan) or DCPA (Dacthal). Pronamide (Kerb) is a newer material that has shown excellent potential for either preemergence or postemergence control of the grass. "Application prior to seeding is early enough for annual bluegrass to be controlled and not interfere with transition of bermudagrass," Coats said.

Another approach used on many southern golf courses is the use of a postemergence application of a non-selective herbicide such as paraquat or cacodylic acid prior to breaking of dormancy. "This usually does an excellent job on annual bluegrass as well as those annual broadleaf weeds present," he said. □



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