

GCSAA show attendance soars to a record 17,500

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Attendance at the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show reached a record high of 17,500, a 20 percent increase over 1989 attendance.

GCSAA director of communications Pat Jones cited the increased popularity of golf and the show's Orlando, Fla., location as two keys to the high attendance figures.

"There's so much interest in the business because it's crucial to the Florida economy," says Jones. "There was also increased interest from golf course owners, operators and architects. That doesn't represent a huge number, but we're glad to see it."



The GCSAA estimates attendance from 25 European, Canadian and Pacific rim countries at 1500. Ideally, says Jones, foreign interest will increase each year. "We're certainly hoping," says Jones, "that with continued developments in Eastern and Western Europe through 1992 that golf is going to find a bigger place in Europe."

Jones reports that the

show's 552 exhibitors were thrilled with the higher traffic on the show floor, and superintendents expressed delight with the Orlando area and the way the show was set up.

"We were more specific in the educational programs," he notes. "In the past we've offered the op-

portunity to go from very general turfgrass maintenance classes to more specific classes. This year, with the addition of some of the environmental topics that we discussed and some of the very technical and specific regulatory issues they face, we were able to offer them some very detailed information that wasn't available in the past."

Jones says improvements and changes in next year's Las Vegas conference will be based on member surveys.

"We will continue to offer as many duplicate sessions as we can," Jones promises. □

GOLF

Very possible to 'max out' on green speeds, super says

PALM DESERT, Calif. — The extra maintenance required to maintain the fastest putting green speed possible has narrowed the margin between green survival and failure, says Bob Stuczynski, superintendent at Ironwood Country Club here.

As Stuczynski says—and as most supers would concur—closer mowing causes shorter roots and increased summer soil temperatures. The thinner turfgrass stand also encourages more weed problems, which lead to more herbicide use.

NIEMCZYK from page 11 not examined.)

"I hope that people will have confidence that what they're doing to lawns is not contributing to groundwater contamination," concludes Niemczyk. □

Stuczynski finds that some superintendents are inclined to omit the green's minimal nitrogen needs rather than anger golfers. "The major problems with low nitrogen," explains Stuczynski, "are more weeds and moss and more blemishes which heal slowly. Without new growth that can be mowed into a smooth surface, the demand for closer cut increases."

Stuczynski thinks the key is that players must realize what can and cannot be done.

"The golf course superintendent is willing to provide whatever the golfer likes," says Stuczynski, "if it is feasible without excessive failures. Extremely close mowing will increase problems. Needless to say, no one suffers more than the golf course superintendent when turf fails." □

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