

REBOUND

LETTERS FROM READERS

A SHOW FOR ALL SPORTS TURF MANAGERS

40 Years of Experience

As a Class A member of GCSAA for nearly 40 years, and having attended many GCSAA Conference & Trade Shows, beginning with the 1937 show in Washington, DC, when my dad (Lester Hall) was a speaker, I feel I am qualified to answer your Front Office column in the January 1988 issue of **SPORTSTURF** magazine.

I am sure GCSAA members as a whole feel an acute kinship to any and all managers of intense use turf. I have seen in my more than 50 years of experience in turf many of the changes and the progress in the turf management field that both you and Denne Goldstein wrote about in this issue. Hard work, a quest for knowledge, desire to improve one's self, renewing old acquaintances, making new ones and the desire to be able to present to his employers the latest in equipment and supplies, has made GCSAA's International Turf Conference and Trade Show the greatest assembly of turf managers, educators and exhibitors in the free world. To my knowledge, no one, in any area of turf management the world over, has ever been denied permission to attend.

Turf professionals assembled from the world over have attended and I have had the privilege to have met and spoken with them over the years. These have all added to the outstanding qualities of the truly International Turf Conference & Trade Show. Since its humble beginning in 1926, GCSAA has led the field in the advancement of high-quality turf. Not just for golf, but in all areas of turf, including sports, cemeteries, rights-of-way and home lawns.

The past few years, other professional turf managers have been invited to participate as well as conduct their own educational segment of educational programs. As consultant to the Collier County School Board for their athletic fields, I had the privilege to attend some of the sessions in both San Francisco and Phoenix. Those I attended were very informative, excellently presented and well-attended by many other golf turf managers.

I have never heard a member-at-large or board member say anything negative about our fellow professionals attending sessions on golf turf management. Those in fields of like endeavor must help themselves to the opportunities presented. To malign our board and membership in this manner is, to say the least, unsportsman like. Interest and hard work are the keys to success in any endeavor.

The years of success of GCSAA's Inter-

national Conference and Trade Show are due to these ethics; not only by the board, the show committee, and member participation, but also our fine staff of headquarter personnel. The efforts put forth by all of these and the years of experience gained in 58 years of presenting the show should certainly entitle GCSAA to remain the significant sponsor of the show.

I feel the answer lies more in the next to last paragraph of your article rather than any of those preceding. Are these other organizations willing to accept GCSAA's leadership along with the heading, "GCSAA Presents The International Turf Conference and Trade Show?" I feel GCSAA members, board and staff have been more than generous by making its presentation open to all who are sincerely interested and willing to work to make the show even larger, better and more educational.

After all, the show and conference had very humble beginnings and if allied professional organizations wish to compete rather than join our presentation, that is their privilege. The exhibitors are those who must suffer the most in making multi-exhibits of their wares to those of very similar professions.

Every turf professional manager is or should be aware that an opportunity such as GCSAA's Turf & Trade Show exists, and if they desire to be better, all they have to do is register and more importantly, ATTEND. With such a combined attendance the exhibitors would gain by not only larger attendance, but fewer shows. With this savings in costs, they more than likely could make their participation and exhibits better and even more educational.

Daniel L. Hall, Jr., CGCS
Bonita Springs, FL

An Obligation to Share

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation and the National Sports Turf Council, with lots of help, unlocked the door and opened it a crack. In your editorial you kicked the door wide open and sent the blockers sprawling. It is wonderful to see the future through an open door.

Those who have the power to raise funds for research and education are morally obligated to share for the good of all who are involved and doing the right things without bias—seeking only to serve those who need it the most. No longer can one segment stand aloof displaying riches beyond measure while another impoverished facet of the industry suffers from neglect.

Thank you Bruce for the clarity with which you stated the equation. Your magazine is reflecting your leadership.

Fred V. Grau
President, Musser International Turfgrass Foundation

Working Together Is All That Counts

The purpose of the Front Office column in the last issue was to bring the industry together. I hesitated mentioning GCSAA board members at all. Anyone who devotes the time and energy to be a board member deserves only thanks, not criticism. From what I've heard, these board members are just trying to protect the conference.

All that matters is that we recognize each other as teammates, not opponents. If a few members of the sports turf market gain special status, it should be their pleasure to help others do the same.

Bruce Shank, associate publisher

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