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November 2008

FRONT NINE



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## Presidential nod to Dinelli's stewardship

Dan Dinelli, CGCS at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Ill., and a longtime advocate of seeking out new practices to reduce the inputs necessary to provide competitive golf turf conditions, is the winner of GCSAA's 2009 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

Dinelli, a strong supporter of IPM practices and currently involved in developing ways to measure a golf facility's ecological and economic value of carbon sequestration, has been at North Shore CC for more than 30 years. During much of that time he has built a reputation for his innovative contributions to environmental stewardship, his service to GCSAA and Illinois-area chapters and for the myriad articles and technical papers he has published.

The 26-year GCSAA member has also won numerous GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf chapter awards and has earned certification for North Shore in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

"Dan is known by his colleagues as a critical thinker and continually works to apply practical environmental management to golf," GCSAA president David S. Downing II, CGCS, said. "He is committed to the science of golf course management and is at the forefront of many advances in the business. He is highly respected by his peers and is very deserving of this award."

Dinelli has served on GCSAA's Environmental Programs Committee for the past five years and has chaired the IPM Task Group. A portion of this work resulted in a research project to create a national IPM template, which is expected to be available for use in 2009. Dinelli is also working with GCSAA on the Pesticide Characteristics Project, which will allow superintendents to assess the environmental characteristics of pesticide products.

A third-generation superintendent, Dinelli has also provided two case studies for GCSAA's online database, Edge — one about a pond restoration project at North Shore CC and the other concerning a program through the American Forests organization called CityGreen. The CityGreen software provides an evaluation of a golf facility's carbon

storage and sequestration, stormwater runoff reduction, energy conservation via the cooling effect and air quality improvements due to the forest areas. CityGreen also calculates dollar benefits for the services provided by the trees and other green space.

Dinelli is a past president of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents and is also a member of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. He's a three-time winner of the latter's Ray Gerber Editorial Award for excellence in journalism, reflecting his frequent contributions to several golf course industry publications, including *GCM*. He has also co-authored several technical research papers that have been peer-reviewed and published, and contributed to many more.

The President's Award will be presented on Feb. 5 during the Opening Session of the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans. Dinelli also will be featured for his environmental achievements in the February 2009 issue of *GCM*.

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**Former GCSAA CEO Steve Mona**, now CEO of the World Golf Foundation, is the recipient of the International Association of Golf Administrators 2008 Distinguished Service Award. Mona, who was president of the IAGA in 1990, was recognized for his efforts to "promote and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions."

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## Chapters look for leaders

GCSAA chapters looking for a fresh perspective have their national association looking out for them. GCSAA held its first Leadership Academy, sponsored by The Toro Co. and Syngenta Professional Products, this fall in Lawrence, Kan., to give up-and-coming leaders in the profession a chance to hone their skills and abilities.

"Effective chapters have vibrant leaders, and one thing we wanted to do was to reach out to people we know of as emerging leaders that maybe aren't on a chapter board yet," says Leann Cooper, GCSAA's chapter services manager. "That is a big gap that chapters have. Many chapters struggle with finding leaders."

GCSAA contacted chapter leaders and presidents to identify those emerging leaders and invited them to association headquarters for two days of workshops, speakers and networking sessions.

Joe Gardner Jr., Class A superintendent at Dellwood Country Club in New City, N.Y., said he enjoyed the event's networking opportunities.

"It's been really enlightening and more self-reflective than I thought," he said. "It gives you perspective from superintendents from all over the nation."

The group heard from Mark Woodward, CGCS, CEO of GCSAA, and Steve Keating, sales training manager with Toro, among other presenters.

Keating said chapter leaders nominated an outstanding group of participants for the inaugural event. "There is no question that these individuals will make a difference in the future of the golf industry," he said.

Dave Ravel, account lead in turf for Syngenta Professional Products, agreed, saying the "...participants have a passion and dedication to this industry that is second-to-none."

The GCSAA Leadership Academy will continue next year, Cooper said, adding that by the fourth year she hopes to have contacted all GCSAA

chapters for their leader recommendations.

— *Darcy DeVictor, GCM associate editor*

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### **Ambitious turf ed project at Iowa college**

As community colleges go in middle America, Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a notch above most and recently took steps to elevate its horticulture program to parallel other disciplines at the school.

Kirkwood, 16,000 students strong, opened a new \$7 million horticulture education center in time for its fall term this year. The center is part of a sparkling school of agriculture complex and has accommodations for more than 500 students, offering two-year degree programs in such studies as parks and natural resources, landscaping and turfgrass management.

The facility sports a 6,000-square-foot shop and classroom space for hundreds and a grounds irrigation setup fed by roof rainwater runoff into a 6,500-gallon tank. But its showcase features are twin state-of-the-art greenhouses comprising 8,000 total square feet with the latest in technology, such as computerized controls with pinpoint accuracy. The greenhouses also include facilities for turf care study.

Teaching golf course and athletic turfgrass management in the program is Troy McQuillen, an assistant professor who has been at the college for four years. McQuillen says the new center is a boost to student recruitment and defines the horticulture program.

“It’s basically just, ‘get the students in the door’ — it’s a no-brainer,” he says of the new center’s attraction. “Our message to students is about vocational education. It’s all hands-on — see, feel, smell — everything they’re going to learn.”

McQuillen is hoping to eventually develop an articulation with the turf program at Iowa State University (of GCSAA Turf Bowl fame) and arrive at a two-plus-two program — two years at Kirkwood and two years at ISU, adding up to a four-year degree in turf management.

“I can deliver the applied education and they can deliver the technical education,” he says.

Both the horticulture staff and college officials believe the best is yet to come at the center: A six-hole golf course on an adjoining 35-acre parcel that would stress educational aspects while serving as a demonstration lab and research facility. The golf venture is in the final design stages and could possibly come to fruition in a year or more. Besides fairways and greens, it would feature actual irrigation systems, plant identification gardens, native prairie areas and wetlands.

“Many of our students are potential superintendents, and in the course of their careers they could be exposed to native-based greens, sand-based greens, bluegrass fairways and bentgrass fairways — a whole magnitude of differences between golf courses,” McQuillen says. “So we’re going to try to integrate that between each golf hole of our facility. For instance, maybe we’ll have a USGA-modified green with traditional Pennncross, or a USGA-spec green with A-4 or another of the new cool-season grasses, or a green with an interesting velvet bentgrass/fine fescue mix.”

As the professor says, it’s nothing but the latest and greatest at Kirkwood.

— *Terry Ostmeyer, GCM senior staff writer*

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**The 226 members** in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Climate Leaders program aimed at corporations “leaving a smaller carbon footprint” represent more than 10 percent of the U.S. gross domestic

product and have pledged reductions in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions of nine million motor vehicles annually.

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### **Energy-saving assistance for the workplace**

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed a new online tool, Energy Star @ Work, that provides tips and information on how to save energy and protect the environment in the workplace, where nearly half of the country's greenhouse gas emissions and almost half of the nation's energy consumption occurs.

Energy Star @ Work is an animated image of a typical office work space and offers tips and links to information for both business managers and employees. For a tour, visit [www.energystar.gov/work](http://www.energystar.gov/work).

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**Economic rescue legislation** passed by Congress and signed into law in early October included a tax extender/disaster relief package that denied golf facilities access to federal disaster relief.

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### **Agrotain bulks up operations**

Unveiling two years and \$20 million worth of hard work, planning and construction, Agrotain International, along with its parent company, Lange-Stegmann, celebrated in early September the opening of its new St. Louis Urea Center, the nation's largest inland urea import terminal, and the new Stabilized Nitrogen Center, the first and only facility in the country to employ an exclusive phase modifier that transforms granular urea product into a liquid product.

Urea is the base of many nitrogen fertilizers, including Agrotain's stabilized nitrogen technology fertilizers like Umaxx and Uflexx, which can reduce nitrogen loss to the environment through ammonia volatilization, denitrification and leaching.

Because the U.S. supply of urea is mostly through imports, the most affordable way to ship it is through the port of New Orleans and up the Mississippi River. The company previously shipped its inhibitor ingredients off to third-party facilities in East Dubuque, Ill., and Lima, Ohio, to process urea into urea "liquor" before adding the proprietary components to make Umaxx and Uflexx fertilizer. Now Agrotain has that capability all in-house, within yards of where urea is unloaded off barges on the Mississippi River.

A surging demand for Agrotain's fertilizers prompted the new facilities, said Mike Stegmann, president of Lange-Stegmann. The Stabilized Nitrogen Center boasts a capacity of 125,000 tons each year with the additional production capability. The St. Louis Urea Center adds 63,000 tons of fertilizer storage to Lange-Stegmann's existing space and also increases product handling capacity up to 1 million tons annually of imported urea.

As far as the benefit to superintendents, Agrotain's stabilized nitrogen products help keep more nitrogen in the soil, says Alan Nees, vice president of turf and ornamental for the company. Research has shown that superintendents could normally expect at least 30 percent of urea nitrogen to be lost to the atmosphere via ammonia volatility unless it's incorporated into the soil following rain or irrigation of ¼ inch, he says, and more can be lost to leaching and denitrification in saturated soil conditions.

Because Agrotain's proprietary inhibitors make urea more efficient, Nees says, superintendents can reduce nitrogen application rates by as much as 20 percent, which is also why the products are touted as environmentally friendly. The ingredients also exist throughout the entire granule, which means the product isn't compromised by mowing, handling or traffic, he says, adding that an inhibitor is added to the formula to prevent hydrolysis and protect the products from volatility loss for a couple of weeks.

— Darcy DeVictor, GCM associate editor

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### **Safer ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer developed**

Honeywell has developed a patented technology to produce ammonium nitrate-based fertilizers with significantly lower explosive potential.

The new technology already has received designation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act, which was created to provide incentives, including liability protections, for the development and deployment of anti-terrorism technologies that can help mitigate security threats.

Independent tests using guidelines developed with the U.S. government demonstrated that Honeywell's new fertilizer is significantly more difficult to use as an explosive. When mixed with fuel oil — a common method of using ammonium nitrate as an explosive — the new ammonium sulfate nitrate fertilizer does not detonate.

The new technology fuses ammonium sulfate with ammonium nitrate, providing both nitrogen and sulfur needed for efficient plant nutrition as well as enhanced safety, quality and storage characteristics, Honeywell says. The company hopes to have limited quantities for sale in certain regions in 2009 and plans to market the material as Sulf-N 26 fertilizer.

— GCM NewsWeekly

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### **GCSAA stipends to scholars**

GCSAA's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf, has awarded scholarships to 15 college students through its GCSAA Scholars Program funded by the Robert Trent Jones Endowment.

The first-place winner of the Mendenhall Award and receiving a \$6,000 stipend is Matthew Kozlowski of Dover, Mass., a senior turfgrass management major at the University of Massachusetts. Taking second place, the \$5,000 Allan MacCurach Award, which is funded by the PGA Tour, is Jonathan Bennett of Seneca, Kan., a senior golf course management major at Kansas State University.

Kyung Min Han, an international student at Penn State University, won the Ambassador Award and received \$2,500. Other students receiving GCSAA scholarships were Joshua Lewis, Oregon State University; Joshua Fuhrman, Michigan State University; Tyler Bloom, Penn State; Kevin Malloy, University of Arizona; Matthew Turner, University of Tennessee; Scott Wasser, University of Arkansas; Nate Watkin, Lake City Community College; Julian Dion, Penn State; Marc Chappell, Michigan State; Adam Flynn, Louisiana State University; David Hines, University of Tennessee-Martin; and Juan Munoz Puro, Michigan State.

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### **GCSAA presence on Hall of Fame board**

The recent founding of the Myrtle Beach Golf Hall of Fame was followed by the selection of its first board of directors, which includes two GCSAA members: Clayton DuBose, CGCS at Tradition Golf Club in Murrells Inlet, S.C., and immediate past president of the Palmetto GCSA, and GCSAA president David S. Downing II, CGCS, who was appointed a director-at-large through 2011.

Other directors are Tracy Conner, general manager of the Tee Time Network; David Durant, president of the Myrtle Beach Golf Course Owners Association; A.J. Gohil, president of the Grand Strand Golf Directors Association; Ron Schmid, executive director of the Carolinas PGA; Bob Swezey, executive vice president of resort and golf operations for Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc.; and John Springs, chairman of the Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday Board.

The Hall of Fame is located within the grounds of the newly renovated Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach.

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### **GIS partners call for volunteers to aid New Orleans**

GCSAA and its partners in the Golf Industry Show will team up with New Orleans Habitat for Humanity to host a series of work days to help build homes in some of New Orleans' most devastated areas.

The work days will be prior to the opening of the GIS trade show — Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 3-4. Volunteers will be in teams of 15, working on homes within a specific area. The GIS will provide transportation from the New Orleans Morial Convention Center, lunch at the work sites, water, sunscreen and a T-shirt.

Online registration to volunteer for the work days is available at [www.gcsaa.org/conference](http://www.gcsaa.org/conference) or from form A-2 in the conference and show brochure. Donations are also accepted on the registration form. Participation requires a \$25 registration fee. The registration deadline is Jan. 2.

"This is the first time the Golf Industry Show has been back to New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina, and we are excited to join our partnering organizations to help the people of this great city," said GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS. "GCSAA has a compassionate membership, so helping the city rebuild is something that our members have felt very strongly about participating in when conference and show returns."

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### **Winemaker offers incentive to join Audubon program**

Bonterra Wines, headquartered in Mendocino County, Calif., is helping U.S. golf courses make a commitment to the environment by paying for their registration fees to join Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The first 100 courses to enroll (see [www.bonterragreensthegreens.com](http://www.bonterragreensthegreens.com)) in "Greening the Greens" by the end of the PGA Tour's golf season qualify. Bonterra is designated as the official wine of the PGA of America, and Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., site of the 2008 Ryder Cup, was the first course to join the effort through this program.

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### **FarmLinks programs earn GCSAA CEUs**

GCSAA recently announced that it has approved the programs at The Experience at FarmLinks for continuing education units (CEU) through its External Education Program.

Superintendents who now attend the 2½-day program at Pursell Farms near Sylacauga, Ala., will receive 0.45 education points for the Agrium Advanced Technologies' fertilizer technology presentation and 0.30 CEUs for the On the Course Tour.

Earlier, FarmLinks had unveiled its plans for new luxury accommodations for guests. The facility, which is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and includes a championship golf course that also serves as a research and demonstration area, will feature new cottages and cabins and promote family amenities while maintaining a business and meeting atmosphere.

The new lodging facilities are expected to be completed in early 2009.

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### **Carolinas Golf tabs Allen for executive committee**

Randy Allen, CGCS, director of golf course operations for Burroughs and Chapin Co. Inc. in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was recently appointed to the executive committee of the Carolinas Golf Association. Allen, a 30-

year member of GCSAA, is the first golf course management professional to serve on the Carolinas governing board.

Allen has been in golf course maintenance since 1973 and for several years he was superintendent at the Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he prepped for five Champions Tour events. He is a past president of the Carolinas GCSA and its Distinguished Service Award winner in 2006.

The Carolinas region represents nearly 900 courses with a regional economic impact of more than \$5 billion annually.

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### **Golf play rises in late summer**

Golf in the U.S. finished the summer on an upbeat note, with rounds played in August up 4.4 percent over August 2007. That wasn't enough to put the rounds played so far in 2008 over to the plus side, however. The year-to-date figure was down 0.5 percent, according to the National Golf Foundation.

The end-of-the-season boost was due to strong gains in the East North Central region, up 14.4 percent, and the West North Central, up 8.1 percent. Those two areas together comprise 30 percent of the golf holes in America. The biggest decline took place in the Mountain Region, which was down 2.9 percent.

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### **Builders load up sticks for Chinese kids**

Sticks for Kids, the Golf Course Builders Association of America's growing the game initiative, is expanding to China.

Forward Management Group, a GCBAA international member and a leading golf course builder in China, will fund the Sticks for Kids China program in Shenzhen, which will begin in 2009.

Sticks for Kids helps participating youth learn about golf fundamentals and also about etiquette, integrity and discipline. Golf clubs and marketing funds are provided by GCBAA and its partner in the endeavor, the National Recreation and Park Association.

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### **Dain joins GCSAA field staff**

GCSAA reached into the pool of former superintendents to land the third member of the association's field staff, Ralph Dain, who will serve the Florida region.

Dain, who lives in Archer, Fla., has most recently been a golf course sales representative for John Deere Golf. Before that, the 15-year GCSAA member had been superintendent at Mayacoo Lakes Country Club in West Palm Beach, Fla.; director of golf operations at Sailfish Point Golf Club; and director of superintendents for ServiScape Inc.

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### **Collaborative effort aids school softball field**

The Toro Co. and the Sports Turf Committee of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association recently completed a one-day renovation of a softball field at ELCO High School in Lancaster County, Pa. The local Toro distributor, Turf Equipment and Supply Co., the NIAAA and the school's grounds crew combined to level and resurface the infield and aerify and topdress the outfield turf. The NIAAA selects a school each year for the field renovation project.

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**Omaha Country Club in Nebraska** was recently awarded the 2013 U.S. Senior Open. OCC, which has hosted 15 Nebraska Amateur Championships, was built in 1925, redesigned in 1951 and underwent a major renovation project in 2006.

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**Dow Chemical Co. is the “Official Chemistry Company”** of the PGA Tour. Under the four-year agreement, Dow AgroSciences will offer its assistance and solutions to course management at the Tournament Players Clubs and other tournament venues.

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## In the news

### Playing the course a key management practice

An on-course column by Trent Bouts in the *Myrtle Beach Sun News* about the important point of view superintendents gain from playing their course, featuring GCSAA Class A members Kevin Thompkins, superintendent at True Blue Golf Club in Pawleys Island, S.C., and Clay DuBose, CGCS at Tradition Golf Club in Murrells Inlet, S.C.

### Augie has a nose for golf balls

A video on the Lehigh Valley, Pa., local TV station's Web site features GCSAA Class A superintendent Shane Miller and his border collie, Augie, who helps golfers at Berkleigh Country Club in Kutztown, Pa., find their golf balls after each hit.

### Greens and gardens a winning combination

A success story in the *Portland Press Herald* about Darius Iranpour, GCSAA Class A superintendent at Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, hiring Julie Seavey as a full-time garden landscaper.

### Minorities and a career in golf course management

The National Society for Minorities in Agriculture and the Natural Resources and Related Sciences' official publication, *The Network: MANRRS Today* (Page 40 of PDF) reports on beginning a career in golf course management, written by Lanie Griffin, GCSAA career services manager.

### Vesper CC loses its velvet touch

The *Lowell Sun* runs an article about Vesper Velvet, a bentgrass developed by Vesper Country Club's former superintendent Manny Francis in Tyngsboro, Mass., needing to be replaced on Vesper CC's greens. The story also features his son, GCSAA member Manny "Junior" Francis, owner of Green Harbor Golf Club in Marshfield, Mass., which has Vesper Velvet greens as well.

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## Advance C&S registration open

Advance registration for the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show, Feb. 2-7 in New Orleans, remains open. GCSAA members can register online, [www.gcsaa.org/conference](http://www.gcsaa.org/conference), or by calling 800-472-7878.

The deadline for the advance registration rate is Jan. 15, and on-site registration begins Feb. 2 in New Orleans. Media and nonmember registration opened Oct. 30. Registration for the GCSAA National Championship, Feb. 1-3 in Gulf Shores, Ala., presented in partnership with The Toro Co., also is open at [www.gcsaa.org/conference/tour.asp](http://www.gcsaa.org/conference/tour.asp). Hotel and travel arrangements can be made through Golf Industry Travel, either online at <https://wems.worldtek.com/gis2009>, or by calling 800-442-7220.

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**Carlos Burguillo of Malaga, Spain**, is the winner of a \$9,500 two-year grant from Valderrama Golf Club to study turfgrass management at Michigan State University. The scholarship was funded by GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf.

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## GCSAA board hosts Irish counterparts

GCSAA board members and executives hosted officers of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland at Kearney Hills Golf Links in Lexington, Ky., Sept. 19, during Ryder Cup week for a rematch of a round first played in 2006.

“Two years ago we went to Ireland (for the Ryder Cup) as the officers of GCSAA,” said GCSAA president David S. Downing II, CGCS, and were challenged by the Irish officers “to a little Ryder Cup. When they said they were coming (this year), we said, ‘How about a little rematch?’”

“One thing I have learned in all my travels this year,” Downing added, “is that golf is facing the same issues worldwide. Golf is flat, the economies are tough and golf has become more and more of a business everywhere, all around the world. So the more we can work together and learn from each other, the better off we are all going to be.”

“We have built up a solid relationship with the GCSAA in the last couple of years,” said GCSAI president David Behan. “We from Ireland and Europe look to America as the major turfgrass professional people in the world, so we want to learn from them and we will use this event to build relationships. The benefit from meeting with these guys is sharing their knowledge, and in this industry, that is huge for us.”

Participating for GCSAA were Downing; vice president Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS; secretary/treasurer James R. Fitzroy, CGCS; director Sandy G. Queen, CGCS; immediate past president Ricky D. Heine, CGCS; and GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS. Besides Behan, the Irish group consisted of vice president Michael Loughran, educational officer Damian McLaverty and communications manager Alan Mahon. Hosting the group at Kearney Hill was superintendent Jeff Harris, CGCS.

“We have worked hard at GCSAA to build relationships with all of our allied golf associations, and this is a great example of that hard work,” Woodward said. “I think as a worldwide industry, if we collaborate on issues we are going to be stronger in the long run. It is important to build relationships not just domestically, but with our worldwide partners as well.”