

IM GESPRÄCH MIT RHETT EVANS, CEO DER GCSAA

Ähnliche Herausforderungen, positive Einstellung und starkes Wir-Gefühl

Ergänzend zu seinem Erfahrungsbericht führte Hubert Kleiner im Rahmen der GCSAA Conference and Trade Show ein Gespräch mit Rhett Evans, CEO der GCSAA.

Questions Golf Course maintenance and Association quality and benefit

? On a scale from 1 to 10 with 10 as the most perfect, where would you say is the golf course maintenance ranking in the moment in the US?

! Golf course maintenance isn't about perfection. It's about providing an enjoyable playing conditions while using sustainable maintenance practices. With rounds played at record highs and an increased use of best management practices, such as with the development of BMP manuals in all 50 U.S. states, both of those aspects are performing at a high level right now.

? On which main issues do you think the American Superintendents have to work in the coming maybe 10 years?

! Water will continue be a key issue for many parts of the country over the next decade. But the data is clear that the golf industry is reducing its water usage, whether that is by developing grass cultivars that need less water, using reclaimed water or engaging in other maintenance practices that conserve and protect water.

? Do you expect any harder restrictions for the use of fertilizer, irrigation water or pesticides in the US?

! Yes. However, we continue to advocate for the responsible use of the inputs it takes to maintain healthy turfgrass. Healthy turfgrass allows communities to enjoy many benefits including: creation of critical "greenspaces", providing wildlife habitat, and ensuring recreational opportunities. There are many other environment benefits to healthy turfgrass including the capture of run-off pollutants in stormwater, temperature buffer, erosion control and serving as a protective barrier to groundwater.

? Do you think labor is an issue for the future and if yes how is your feeling about autonomous techniques in mowing equipment on the golf courses? Will they take place everywhere or just in some areas?

! Finding workers right now is an issue for most industries in the U.S., not just golf. While autonomous mowers may help some courses with their labor issues, it's really about finding new labor sources and we are working with universities, high school agronomy groups and other channels to bring more awareness of golf course management as a career path.

? What are the goals GCSAA wants to reach for its members in the next decade?

! In 2026 we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary and while so much of the profession and industry has changed in the last 100 years, GCSAA's commitment to providing members with the education, information, recognition and support they need

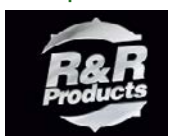
to succeed really hasn't changed.

? What is the number one reason for a GCSAA member to be a proud and long year member in your Association?

! Going back to our history again, GCSAA's founder and first president, Col. John Morley said in 1926, "No life is, or can be, self-existent. We depend on each other." That quote is so central to GCSAA that we have it up on the wall in our headquarters lobby. GCSAA members know that they are a part of something bigger – a family of professionals that they can depend on for help and camaraderie throughout every stage of their careers. I think that knowledge is part of the reason we have many second and even third generation members.

Dear Rhett, I appreciate spending time for this conversation and good luck for the challenges coming up in the next future.

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