

I hope this turns out to be an interactive article. I really, really want to hear other superintendents' thoughts and lines of reasoning about our fund-raising efforts, both FTGA and FGCSA, and related topics.

*Everyone
can
contribute
something*

Specifically, I'd like to know why so many superintendents won't participate in the various programs we've established over the past few years to raise research dollars, no matter how simple we've tried to make them. If it's a simple case of apathy, I'll assume that's the answer if no one takes the time to call or write me. If someone has a strong objection or philosophical difference with the programs we've developed, I'd really

appreciate hearing from you to explain your viewpoint. Shoot, you might convince me!

I have a hard time understanding why superintendents should spend so much time and energy trying to raise money for the basic turf research that benefits the very golfers who often end up firing them. I've just accepted the fact that it needs to be done, and superintendents might as well be the ones at the forefront.

Many superintendents have always been willing to do their part, hoping their example would inspire others to do likewise.

Why then do some superintendents refuse to even sign their name to a rebate program that requires no other effort on their part? Why do some buy generic Orthene to save a few dollars when they know Valent will contribute to turf researched based on sales volume? There have to be very good reasons for non-participation, and I'd like to find out what they are.

If the budget is so tight at your club that the few extra dollars you save on generic Orthene is critical, then, please, I'd like to know that. If you and/or your club contribute to turf research in other ways and this method is redundant, then I'd like

to know that also. I'm sure there are many valid reasons for non-participation that I haven't thought of, and I sincerely want to get a handle on why these programs aren't working so that we can shift our efforts into more productive ventures.

Even if your response is that you just forgot about the programs, I'd like to hear from you. There's only one answer that will truly upset me — the superintendent who just doesn't care, who thinks he commands the salary and prestige he does solely because of his own accomplishments. Someone who doesn't believe he should give something back to the professions that sustains him, or lend a helping hand to fellow superintendents who devote so much of their time and energy on his behalf trying to make this industry and our chosen profession better for all of us.

I understand that not everyone can get involved to the same degree — some of us are blessed with supportive owners and/or management, while others are forbidden from even attending industry functions — but everyone can contribute something, even if it is only moral support to those pulling the wagon.

If you disagree with the direction the wagon is going, then either hitch up to help pull and steer, or take the time to constructively voice your opinion. Throwing rocks at the horses shows an arrogance beyond belief.

Golf may be big business, but only one in ten Americans plays it, leaving 90% of the population who could care less about our problems and, even worse, can be persuaded to view us as non-essential enemies of the environment. Compared to most other professional associations, superintendents and turfgrass associations are small potatoes, making unity and strength in numbers vital to the success of our groups' goals.

Think about these things when examining your personal role as a golf course superintendent performing within your chosen field of endeavor.

Mark My Words



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