



The trailer is actually quite simple. A manual hose reel is mounted above the trailer to store the 3/4 inch hose. Attached to the side of the reel is the incoming water line. This rests on the bed of the trailer with the quick coupler attached when not in use. There is storage space on the bed of the trailer for tools, filters or other items that might be needed.

Paul and his staff have also built some very handy tool storage lockers. The lockers are made of wood and are very roomy. On the side of the locker is a tool storage rack so that hand tools can be secured safely.

There is also room for personal protection equipment and other small equipment. Paul has found that by assigning each employee his/her own tools they take greater pride in them and are less likely to break or lose them. In the long

An employee's individual small tool locker at the Merion Golf Club

run the extra cost up front easily pays for itself.

Conclusion

It is often too easy to become wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of our very demanding jobs and not get out and visit our peers. While playing golf at other courses is one way of achieving this, it is certainly not the only way. I am amazed at what you can learn from your fellow superintendents by taking a riding tour of their courses, or by just walking through their maintenance facilities.

A wise person once told me something that made a lot of sense. He said, "The day you stop learning is the day you die!"

Meetings and Conventions

by Scott Bell

The strength of an organization or association depends on the participation of its members. The same can be said for the meetings and conventions put on by these groups. The need for good participation by superintendents is equal at all levels,

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In-depth one- and two-day seminars with CEU examinations are college-level courses presented by the GCSAA at regional and national conferences.



Whenever superintendents gather together at meetings or golf outings, the talk always turns to sharing ideas and solutions to problems... a surefire benefit to the individual and his club.



Trade shows offer a unique opportunity to do side-by-side comparisons of products and equipment... and maybe even save money by purchasing show specials.

starting at your local chapter right up to the GCSAA Conference and Show.

This participation is beneficial to both the individual and the organization. I've seen meeting sites range from maintenance buildings to civic centers and from restaurant nooks to posh hotel conference rooms. I've heard speakers from local sales reps and superintendents to pro golfers, golf course architects and Ph. D.'s.

No matter what the setting or who the speaker, the important thing is that we learn something from the experience and we participate. If you go to a meeting thinking that you know it all, then you probably won't learn too much. Good input and conversation by superintendents can raise a meeting to new heights and benefit many.

Local Chapter Meetings.

Meet Your Neighbors.

Discuss Local Problems

As a past president of a local chapter, I know the importance of good attendance, especially by superintendents. I am also a busy superintendent and father of four so I am aware of the demands on a busy person's time. Local meetings are a great place to exchange ideas and techniques with fellow turf managers.

They are also ideal spots to cultivate friendships with other superintendents and suppliers. Usually the local chapter meetings have speakers who address local, state or regional topics. Local meetings offer a perfect place to get a speaker that you may specifically want to hear.

Contact your local board members with all your speaker ideas. From past experience I know that a local or state education director is very receptive to and appreciative of any speaker leads that come their way. Good speakers are a real treat and an asset to all meetings.

Remember that usually it's just a handful of people that devote much of their own precious time to make the local meetings successful and informative. Poor attendance puts a bad taste in everyone's mouth. Especially the host superintendent who spends extra manhours and effort to present a perfect golf course to his peers.

I think that with most meetings that I have attended, the superintendent has the course in member-guest shape! Poor attendance is like a slap in the face to the

host! We are very fortunate that we get to play many fine well-groomed courses. Consider that most self-motivated people like to showcase their talents and product, and superintendents are perfect examples of such people.

This pride in product also carries over to the various clubhouse and professional staffs at each club. Please support your local meetings because you are also showing support and appreciation for your fellow superintendents.

Networking with your local turf managers and suppliers is the hidden and unadvertised benefit of attending the local meetings. Exchanging war stories is a great learning experience and acts as an informal support group for those tough times. Those who question the value of the time spent at a local meeting need to consider the value of learning a new idea or solution to an old problem.

A meeting discussion or just a conversation during lunch or golf may provide an idea that saves your club hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Or maybe, it may be an idea that just makes the course and you look better. If you have a com-

plaint about a meeting, more than likely, everyone will benefit if you offer your help or suggestions to correct it.

Finally, don't forget about the new guy. People complain that not enough superintendents attend their own meetings. This is often true and I would venture to say that poor attendance is most chapters' biggest problem.

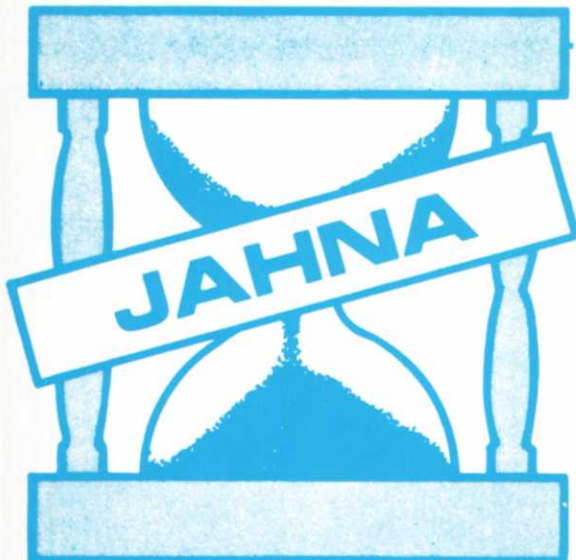
Bringing in new members and keeping them coming back until they feel comfortable is very important. If no one welcomes them to the group or talks to them, chances are they won't be back. Each and every member of a chapter is very important to the success of the whole association.

***The FTGA & GCSAA Conferences:
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The big conventions and trade shows offer the superintendent a side variety of educational and hand-on opportunities. The trade shows are huge often offering everything from computerized golf cart location devices and weather radar to turf equipment and uniforms.

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course to his peers.*

The education is just as diverse ranging from twenty minute research updates to two-day long seminars and field trips. The FTGA and GCSAA spend much time and money to secure top quality educational programs usually in exciting locations.



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These larger conventions usually have many university level speakers and researchers who disseminate the latest information from their current projects. These sessions are usually open to all conference attendees and are grouped by general topics like "southern turf management" or "public golf."

I like that these presentations are only twenty to sixty minutes long so you can see and hear a lot of information in a morning or afternoon session and even talk to the speaker. Since everyone attending these sessions is looking for answers to similar problems the possibility of discussion and idea exchange is very high.

The other type of education at these conferences is specific in-depth one or two-day seminars. These are usually very specific in nature. They are taught in a classroom setting by experts in that particular field. Many of these classes that I have attended are of college level quality.

There is usually a separate charge for these seminars, and in the case of the GCSAA Conference you had better make

your reservations early or they may be sold out.

You always receive supplemental printed matter and course syllabus that can be used for future reference.

Certified superintendents can earn continuing education credits by taking an examination at the end of the GCSAA classes.

Most conferences offer speakers who are motivational as in the case of GCSAA's opening night keynote speaker. Many of the speakers are not related directly to golf, but rather they deliver positive messages about overcoming obstacles, believing in yourself and being successful.

Their role is to get the convention off on a positive note.

The FTGA & GCSAA have done excellent jobs of getting top notch panels to discuss timely topics such as environmental relations and product comparisons.

The GCSAA has brought in national politicians, famous media personalities and top level environmentalist to sit on these various panels.

This year's Environmental General Session on February 8th looks very interesting.

Then there is the Trade Show. The show of shows. The perfect opportunity to see the latest in turf technology and sometimes non-turf technology. I have seen everything from electric triplex greensmowers to chairs with built-in back massagers.

There are two things you need to remember when attending a trade show.

First, wear comfortable shoes for the ten-mile walk you will take.

Second, remember that you are wearing a name tag and that salesman shaking our hand is not your long lost childhood friend but rather a professional at marketing who can read your name tag.

That's part of your education too!

Professionalism and Education

*by Mike Hamilton, CGCS
Grey Oaks Country Club*

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