

The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: Holes #4 and #3, YMCA Par 3, Lakeland, FL. Photo by Joel Jackson

Final Words of Wisdom

I recently commented on the big role Mother Nature plays in our business. "Trust" is a word that also plays a huge role in our profession. If you have ever participated in an employee survey, there are always several questions around trust. Do you trust your leader? Do you trust your employer? Does your leader trust you? I maintain these can be difficult to answer as they are not simple yes-or-no questions. You may trust your leader as a person but, do you trust him or her as a representative of your employer. Your leader may trust you as a person too, but does that person assume that you are following directions 100 percent of the time?

The reality is that trust can affect our ability to perform our duties as much as Mother Nature does. You must trust many people along the way but, there is a fine line between trust and assume.

You have a disease on your greens. You must trust your assessment on the identity and course of treatment. You must trust the salesman that recommends the product to use. You must trust your assistant to carry out your directions on the course of action to take. You must trust the applicator to mix the proper chemical at the proper rate. You must trust the applicator to apply the product correctly. You must trust someone to water in the product if the label calls for it. You must trust that the irrigation system will operate correctly. You must trust that the product applied will control the disease.

In this scenario alone, you put your trust in as many as six or seven people and the products and equipment used. Do you also assume that everyone and everything does what they are supposed to do?

I have used many personal examples in these messages, and I have a one more for you. I was the golf course superintendent at the Desert Inn Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Frequently, in nice weather, the hotel hosted parties on the lawn in front of the pro shop, which I was responsible for.

I always eliminated the start time in the central computer and told my irrigation technician to shut off the clock. One



Gary Myers, CGCS President

night, the satellite was in the SBM mode and sprinklers came on in the middle of the party. I was called at home but, at that point it was too late. The entire event had to be comped by the hotel. The president of the hotel was attending the party and I was told that he made the statement, "If Gary wasn't doing such a great job on the golf course, he would be fired right now."

I trusted the central computer, the satellite controller and my irrigation technician that night and assumed that everything would be okay and almost lost my job. From that point forward, anytime a function was held anywhere I was responsible for, the irrigation system was gated off and the technician was there on stand-by to ensure no sprinklers came on.

We totally trust our staffs, but do we assume everything is being done each and every day as it should be? I have had several conversations on this subject with one of my superintendents and it is a complicated subject. As I said earlier, the trust questions are not always answered with a simple yes or no.

Congratulations to Shane Bass for receiving the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award and to Dr. John Cisar for receiving the Marie Roberts Award. Both are very deserving and true leaders in our profession.

I want to thank everyone for their well wishes concerning my prostate cancer surgery. The surgery went well and I am recovering nicely. The total recovery process can take as long as a year and I feel I am ahead of schedule and it will just be a matter of a few months.