Superintendents weigh in on importance of playing

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Superintendents weigh in on importance of playing

members, pros and customers,” Lyon said. “Playing golf is one way to do that.”

Because of the seasonal nature of many resort courses, it is difficult for superintendents at these facilities to find the free time to tee times to play regularly. Ron Mahaffey, head superintendent at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon, plays as often as possible at his 36-hole complex in Tucson, Ariz. But he also seeks input from his two assistants and the rest of the management staff, all of whom play frequently. “I sit down daily with my assistants and weekly with the rest of the management staff,” Mahaffey said. “What they have to say about the courses is very helpful.”

Mahaffey, Lyon, Passios and Dusch all agree it isn’t necessary to be a single-digit handicap player. It is helpful to enjoy the game and understand the rules in order to better communicate with players. But absolutely necessary? No.

“A good friend of mine, John O’Connell [who died last year], was superintendent at Blue Rock Golf Course [in Yarmouth, Mass.] for 37 years,” Passios said. “It received all kinds of play and John kept it in beautiful shape, even though he didn’t play at all.”

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ATHENS, Ga. — The International Botanical Gardens here have been dedicated to Dr. Glenn Burton of the University of Georgia on behalf of the work in plant development he has done over his lifetime. "The sun never sets on plants developed by Dr. Burton," it was said at the dedication ceremonies. Plants he developed have provided sources of sustenance, both for soul and body, reported Georgia GCSA's "Through the Green" magazine.

Charles Passios

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