New web service for superintendents offers mass buying power

AUSTIN, Texas — Golf course superintendents will soon be able to tap into a new web service called GolfSolutions.com.

GolfSolutions.com was developed by a team of golf-industry professionals for superintendents worldwide. GolfSolutions.com will put dozens of resources at the fingertips of superintendents, reducing the time it takes to accomplish everyday tasks such as obtaining real-time weather information, planning daily schedules and ordering any supply their course requires from vendors offering discounted prices, 24 hours a day.

Additionally, the web service will enable superintendents to research the latest advances in their industry, and communicate online with colleagues and others in the golf course maintenance field.

Prior to the unveiling of GolfSolutions.com at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Show in February, the web service will be tested by 15 superintendents and 15 vendors. At the show, superintendents will have a chance to view a demonstration of GolfSolutions.com's Basic Services. Subscribers to GolfSolutions.com Basic Services, available at no charge, will receive an e-mail address, and will be able to purchase online from hundreds of vendors and then track the status of those orders.

Subscribers will also have access to chat rooms and selected news services. GolfSolutions.com is structuring agreements to partner with a variety of companies that will provide additional benefits to members. One partnership will be with GCSAA chapters throughout the country. The chapters will be able to post their newsletters at no charge on GolfSolutions.com, and free access to the newsletters will be offered to subscribers of the web service.

GolfSolutions.com's Premium Services, offered for a fee, will be available in July. They will include all of the basic services, plus added abilities to create targeted vendor lists (personal catalog), create and distribute requests for proposals, participate in auctions, peruse industry trade publications, manage annual budgets, and use a convenient scheduling database. Additional features are currently being developed.

GolfSolutions.com was developed with the input of superintendents to enable them to harness the internet to create new ways of doing what they do best — keeping their courses in top form," said John Mueller, president of the web service. "GolfSolutions.com can't cut greens, but it can help superintendents do a hundred other equally important jobs."

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February 1999