

Feedback

Whetted his appetite

Regarding the articles on golf course irrigation in your October issue, I would, firstly, say they are probably the best articles I've seen on the subject in a 'trade' publication. The articles are a vast improvement over what has appeared in publications of this type in the past. They are better because they are more specific and more truly informational and informative.

I would like to offer a couple of thoughts on how such articles might become even better and more beneficial to all phases of the golf irrigation industry.

What is desperately needed is more information on the economic factors relating to course irrigation. Why should an existing manual system be converted to automatic? What is the contemplated rate of amortization of the new system? How expensive to operate was the old manual system? The main consideration will always be financial; so, what were the financial factors considered?

Other features of new and recently converted to automatic systems that I'm sure would prove helpful would be: How is the system valved? How is the system controlled? How are the various components installed, and why were they used and installed that way? Are the greens and tees controlled separate from the fairways? Why? How was this accomplished? Who prepared the design—why? What were the major factors relating to the final selection of equipment?

These are just a few comments on what I hope come across as constructive criticism/comments. My experience is that many people associated with golf courses would like these several questions answered.

Jack Donis
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Eugene, Ore.

GCSAA none of the way

Recently, I had to make a decision regarding my continued participation in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. I was forced to decide on whether I should remain a member of that association or allow my membership to expire in order to concentrate my energies outside the GCSAA. I decided that for me to remain a member of a pseudo professional association compromises my own professionalism. Therefore, I allowed my membership to expire. I have done so in the hope that I can do more to further the professional golf course superintendent outside the association. Often, a reaction can be intensified or expedited by an outside, independent catalyst.

It is my opinion the GCSAA has lost the

impetus established by Colonel John Morley. Inherent ideals established at Sylvania in 1926 by farsighted leaders have, apparently, been lost. The present leadership seems content with attempting to maintain the status quo. The GCSAA is, seemingly, more interested in the number of members than with the quality and professionalism of its members.

In order to establish the GCSAA as a viable professional association, several criteria must be established:

1. The establishment of a more stringent Code of Ethics.
2. The establishment of an Ethics Review Board empowered to censure and to recommend expulsion of members to the Executive Committee.
3. The establishment of a mandatory certification examination which must be passed prior to acceptance into membership.
4. The establishment of requirements for membership which set up a time table to eventually require a Bachelors Degree, or equivalency, in an applicable major, for future entrance into the association.
5. The elimination of "commercial" members.

Only when the above standards are incorporated into the GCSAA bylaws can the GCSAA assume the stature of a professional association.

Since my youth I have looked upon the GCSAA with awe and a great respect. The GCSAA encouraged and supported me through college with a scholarship award. I have made the decision to play the 'devil's advocate' after much tribulation. However, in recent years I have been provided with a great deal of incentive.

I am weary of seeing qualified superintendents relinquish high paying, rewarding positions to amateurs promoted to their highest level of incompetence. I have seen members of the GCSAA ranging from simple incompetents to felons. These ignorant and unethical persons are dragging all of our reputations and salaries into the mire. Something must be done to protect the vast majority of reputable, professional golf course superintendents.

James Graham
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Do you have a gripe with the industry? Or praise for some facet of it? Voice it in *Feedback*: a forum for your ideas on topics we have or haven't covered in GOLF BUSINESS. Readers interested in expressing their views can write to *Feedback*, GOLF BUSINESS, 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102.

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