

# Reader forum

## More on certification

Hats off to Dave Harmon, golf course superintendent, and the expressive article "Should certified golf course superintendents get job preference and better pay?" (GB, August, "Viewpoint," p. 26). Let me be the first to congratulate Dave for this fine article and the outspoken manner in which he expressed himself and the mutual feelings among many superintendents about the GCSAA certification program.

Dave has put in straightforward words that the certification program is surely a step in the right direction but is not the answer for a qualified superintendent. Surely the golf professional has to pass a test and attend school, but he has to score in the game of golf to secure his "A" card. The superintendent should pass a written test and also score in the merited system of a committee or person visiting the applicant and grading the course condition, employee relations, maintenance facility, and evaluation of the man.

I know of many qualified superintendents who came up through the ranks that could not finish high school due to family finances and had to go to work on golf courses in their teens. An inspection of their courses and facilities would be convincing of their qualifications to be a true golf course superintendent and not a paper mind.

I have been informed that one of the first superintendents to become certified works as a druggist, and his sideline is maintaining a nine-hole course. Now here's the question: Who would you hire — the certified druggist/superintendent or the fellow with no formal education and the area's outstanding and best-conditioned golf course, who shakes with fright when it comes to exams?

More emphasis should be placed on reaching out for better public relations among the golfing public, enhancing the image of the golf course superintendent and the vital role he plays every day, and not just for tournaments and awards for a few superintendents whose clubs host the big ones. Some of the finances can be obtained by ceasing the free rides by the education committee of college professors air freighting around the country when this could be handled by the mails.

I have worked for the Golf Course Superintendents Association programs, promoted certification and everything that GCSAA stands for, recruited many members by organizing new chapters, and promoted the golf course superintendent. I have discussed the article by Dave Harmon with many superintendents who are in complete agreement that the certification program has got to reach out further to certify others to reach a majority.

So write to GOLF BUSINESS and give your views on improving a certification program for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

**William P. Mooney**  
**Superintendent**  
**Green Springs Golf Course**  
**Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

I agree with David Harmon's "Viewpoint." He failed to point out, however, that a superintendent may be certified in one area and not know how to maintain a golf course in another area of the country. Climate, soil, and other conditions are different in all areas.

**Irwin L. Hearsh**  
**Owner**  
**Rancho California Golf Resort**  
**Temecula, Calif.**

Mr. Harmon has the attitude of many so-called self-educated people — negative toward university professors — and yet the source of much of the research and information upon which he became self-educated came from and was through the efforts of these very same professors! Professors hiding behind "ivy walls" shouldn't be expected to "handle the frontline attack" on a golf course — that's not their job. If they had that interest, they would be golf superintendents, not professors.

A university professor's job is to perform research and interpret his findings in a way useful to the layman and field people. Also he should and does act as liaison with the field people, learning their problems and taking them inside the "ivy walls" to study on a scientific basis — not a hit and miss basis — with results being returned to the field in the form of short courses, seminars, and turf conferences.

Mr. Harmon should set up a research project on his course in cooperation with a university professor and find out first hand how these people tick. They're really not all that bad!

**G. D. Chaster**  
**Assistant Parks Administrator**  
**& Landscape Architect**  
**Victoria, B.C., Canada**

*To voice your opinion on the above and other issues, please use the Reader Forum Card bound into the back of this magazine or write to Editor, GOLF BUSINESS, 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102.*

# Idea file

## Water and air clean pull carts and shoes

Greenacres Golf Course in Richmond, B.C., Canada, has a unique system for cleaning leaves and grass off pull carts and golfers' shoes.

"To clean carts," says president Jack Bell, "we pull them through a water bath which is



simply a concave depression in concrete with water in it (shallow enough that it does not wet the golf bag).

"To clean shoes we use air guns. The golfer stands over a grill, below which is water, and most of the debris falls into this water."

Water from both basins is pumped out at intervals set on a timer, usually every ½ hour, and taps are automatically opened to let fresh water in. Dirty water is pumped into a steel mesh box which traps all the debris and allows the water to drain.

Bell adds: "With all the rain we get in Vancouver, it makes a big difference in keeping our premises clean."

## First aid for turf herbicide burns

If any of your course workers over-apply herbicides to your turfgrass, do these steps in order and as rapidly as possible:

1. Apply activated charcoal (200 pounds per acre) to the surface.
2. Irrigate heavily (2 inches) to leach out free herbicide.
3. Hole-punch if possible.
4. Topdress heavily (¼ inch).
5. Stop mowing and fertilizing.
6. Apply fungicide at regular intervals.
7. Mow new growth only when necessary.

Begin fertilizing lightly at this time. If step 3 was not done, aerify now and follow with a light topdressing.

8. Keep traffic off until recovery is assured.

(Courtesy of Heart Beat, newsletter of the Heart of America GCSA.)