

THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Golf around the world has increased at a tremendous rate and it appears this trend will continue. New golf courses are being constructed to meet the needs of this popular form of recreation. Most golf facilities employ one individual directly responsible for the entire area where the game of golf will be played. This individual is known as the GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), has defined the Golf Course Superintendent as one who is entrusted with the maintenance, operation, and management of the tract of land defined as a golf course. It is this person's responsibility, under general direction, to supervise the construction and maintenance of the golf course; to supervise the maintenance and repair of construction and maintenance equipment; and to do related work as required.

This definition demonstrates that the Golf Course Superintendent must be familiar with the many facets of golf courses and then relate them to the game of golf. To grow and maintain the specialized turfgrass required, the Superintendent must have a knowledge of the available types and varieties of turfgrass required, the Superintendent must have a knowledge of the available types and varieties of turfgrass, and how they interrelate with various soils, fertilizers, irrigation, drainage, insects, insecticides, turf diseases, fungicides, weeds, herbicides, and equipment ranging from hand tools to complex hydraulic operated mowing units.

In addition, the Golf Course Superintendents areas of responsibility would include:

1. Landscaping-planning, planting and maintaining.
2. Maintain entrance roads, parking lots and cart paths.
3. Maintain buildings, fences, bridges and shelters.
4. Purchase, store, and maintain equipment.
5. Purchase, store, and supply materials required for turf growth.
6. Hire, train, and supervise employees.
7. Prepare, present, and work within an operating budget.
8. Keep accurate records-expenses, labor, weather, and inventory.
9. Understand the game of golf.
10. Communicate with the club members, the club house manager, and the golf professional.

On most golf courses, there will be committees which establish policy as it pertains to each segment of the total facility operation. The golf course Superintendent should work closely with the committees he is assigned to, attend all their meetings, and make reports to keep committee members informed.

The Golf Course Superintendent should be knowledgeable in agronomy, horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, landscape architecture, construction, accounting, meteorology, and mechanics, as well as public and labor relations. To gain or maintain this knowledge, it is important for the Golf Course Superintendent to attend national, regional, and local conferences, where the results of current research findings are reported and explained. The Superintendent should join the national and local Golf Course Superintendent Associations and should attend their meetings. Membership in these professional organizations is becoming more valuable to the Golf Course Superintendent because experiences and problem solving methods are exchanged for the betterment of both the individual and the golf course.

The Golf Course Superintendent is a dedicated individual, striving to provide the finest possible playing conditions and surroundings, while staying within the operating budget. Thus, the game of golf can continue to progress, providing high quality recreation at a reasonable price for more and more people.

Article submitted by Randy Gai, CGCS, Claremont Country Club.

NEW GCSAA PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PROTECT GOLF'S ENVIRONMENT

The association, together with Hall-Kimbrell, is now offering the first comprehensive compliance assistance service ever designed for golf course operations. The purpose is to foster a higher level of environmental awareness and promote regulatory compliance of golf facilities. The format is an environmental self-audit package-including an instructional video, printed materials and compliance booklet-that superintendents use to gather information about their courses. The kit offers users a way to anticipate potential regulatory and legal liabilities and to respond professionally. The cost is \$725 for GCSAA members; \$900 for non-members. Contact the GCSAA Membership services, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66046; 800-GSA-S for further information.