

REAL GOLFERS*Continued from page 3*

4. play in the rain, but leave the course when lightning threatens their safety.
5. have a dream of playing Augusta National before they die. Video golf doesn't cut it either.
6. never drop their cigarette butts and other trash on the course.
7. know that Jack Nicklaus is the greatest golfer of all time. They can also tell you how many U.S. Opens, British Opens, PGA Championships, and Masters Tournaments he has won. By the way, he has also won both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Senior Open twice. If that isn't great golf, what is?
8. don't need yardage markers on all the sprinkler heads. They also don't need red, white and blue flags, and whiffle balls on the flagpoles.
9. don't drag their feet across the greens and leave spike markers all over the place.
10. always expect the course to be properly marked so they can play by the Rules of Golf.
11. always report their score and maintain an index, not a handicap.
12. really, really, really like golf.
13. play whenever time allows. Real golfers play in less than four hours!
14. use wooden tees and always remove them from the ground after they hit the ball.
15. don't have license plates that read, "I'm a real golfer."

If you're not listening to a real golfer, do yourself a favor and don't pay serious attention to their complaints. If they keep bothering you, give them this article and tell them not to come back until they have become a "real" golfer. Imagine, if you will, just how pleasant life would be if "real" superintendents worked for only "real" golfers.

An Open Letter to GCSANC and our Board of Directors

Dear fellow GCSANC members:

I want to thank you for the Merit Award and recognition bestowed on me last month. It was quite a pleasant surprise. To be singled out for an award from your peers is the most gratifying recognition one could receive. It will inspire me to live up to this honor.

To be honest, I find it hard to feel truly deserving of an award for turf excellence. Like most, the course or turf I maintain can be described as excellent only periodically throughout the year. But, I am not giving the award back, I cherish it too much. What I can honestly say is that I, again like most of us, deserve an award for the consistent effort and pride taken in my job and chosen career. Golf Course Superintendents play an integral part of this game. We produce a product that provides benefits ranging from recreation to the environment. We are entrusted with the opportunity to create a better world in which to live. Through our knowledge and hard work, people are provided with a healthy, enjoyable place to conduct business, support an active social lives, and develop friendships that last a lifetime. A claim few other industries can make.

I am proud to be a golf course superintendent and honored by this award. Thank you.

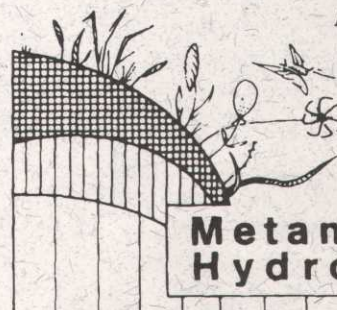
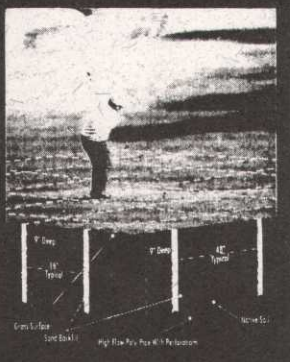
Sincerely,

Mike Phillips

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