

Register Now for Professional Education and Amalgamation at the GCSAA National Championship and Classic!

Amalgamation—now there is a word you don't hear everyday. I chose it because I think the word "networking" is too often associated by our employers as an excuse to swill beer at company expense with your buddies. I chose amalgamation because I thought that my first experience at the GCSAA tournament held just before the GIS was one of the most beneficial professional experiences I have had. I feel strongly that you will too, whether you have never gone, haven't gone in a while, or are a yearly frequent. Do not underestimate the power a few rounds of golf with other superintendents can have to you, your facility and your employer. I encourage everyone to take full advantage of the opportunity of the tournament and its benefits.

Times are tough. We all know that. However, in a tough economy you need to have that extra edge. Hobknobbing with your peers during a round of golf might allow you to glean that bit of real-world knowledge that you need to handle that pesky personality, that employee issue that is plaguing you, or that extra "out of the box" idea that solves that tricky agronomic issue. The way I figure it, if you hang around smart people some of that just has to rub off on you.

First, I am not ashamed to admit that I am a lousy golfer and was terrified at the thought of playing 18 holes with someone that took the game too seriously and was much more skilled than I was. That turned out not to be the case. I met people from all over the country- great people. It helped me come out of my normally reclusive shell and converse with the many smart people I had contact with at the tournament and all the related activities that went along both before and after the tournament itself.

That's not to say that I didn't have a libation or two (at my own expense) with my partners. But whenever you get two superintendents together, they will inevitably talk shop. The experience of talking with guys that face both similar and different challenges and how they met, conquered or failed in those challenges is an education you can't get in any classroom.

As you can see, I feel strongly about the event. I encourage you all to go, play the wonderful venues, amalgamate and experience the GCSAA staff hospitality. Whether you're a regular, a fence sitter or a newbie like me you need to get registered! Take the plunge!



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