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Mike Bavier — President

### *The President's Message*

Golf Course Superintendent — keeper of the green — property manager — greenkeeper. These are just a few of the names we have been called and will be called in the future. Many times a group of us get together, the question comes up, "What do you think we should be called?" Do you think we really need to change our title again? To my thinking, this would be ludicrous. Some of the people still call us greenskeepers, which, of course, should be greenkeepers because we take care of more than just the greens. Some call us golf course superintendents, and the rest probably don't even know who we are or what we do.

No matter what the name, I firmly believe the professionalism with which we carry out our duties will have more to do for us than any change in name. There are many aggressive superintendents, young as well as old, that will not rest until we are elevated to the stature of the other department heads of the club, such as the golf professional. This is the great American way of life—that everyone has an equal opportunity and thus we should, and rightfully so, pursue this goal. Those aggressive individuals have set their goals on the superintendent being recognized as an important "profession". This is not a one shot deal or pay-off. By becoming professional in every possible way, we will expand our opportunities to show the golfing people what the game is all about. We are the ones that give them that beautiful course that they can relax on while forgetting some of their worries. But we must realize one basic thing—crawling always comes before walking. Being recognized as a profession will take time and a lot of hard work. We should continue to be aggressive and pursue our goals of being recognized as a vital artery of the club operation.

What does "professionalism" mean? Attitude, appearance, public relations, how well we get the job done—all go into being a professional, not merely having a specific title. (Having plenty of green grass sure does help, too!) This doesn't necessarily mean we need to wear a sport coat most of the time—to the contrary, I firmly believe in helping where help is needed, not making a habit of any one job but not worrying about getting my hands or shoes dirty. More than ever today, employees like a helping hand and sincere concern and understanding from the boss. The change of hats from employee to supervisor, and then changing clothes to have lunch with the members is, to

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The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

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my thinking, the epitome of professionalism. This is a drastic change from our days of isolation, when many of us would not visit the clubhouse or have any desire to meet the members.

So, again you might ask what really is the best name for us to be called? I doubt very much anyone can answer that question and possibly they never will. But the name itself is not important. We should get paid for what we do and how we go about it. Thus, in our endeavor to become more professional at our jobs, we will enhance our stature at the clubs at which we work and the title we have will be symbolic of our professionalism.

### MAKE WINTER USEFUL

by Carl G. Hopphan  
G.C. Supt., Aurora C.C.

The many long cold days from December through March, when our golf course turf is dormant and usually covered with a great blanket of snow, can provide valuable hours for creating; creating new and better things for future growing seasons. A number of winters ago I made a promise to myself or maybe the word challenge would be better suited, that each and every Winter season would produce something new and better for my golf course.

I strive to add some form of beauty to an area of the course and also to create a *something* that will make maintaining the golf course better, easier, and faster.

Perfect turf is not always the complete answer. Too many of our members or golfers take the beautiful turf surface of #1 tee for granted, it's supposed to be that way, but design a nice looking arrangement of flowering containers to the tee post and all of a sudden you're a genius. If this is what it takes, why fight it, most golfers can not appreciate a complete fertilization and pesticide program, but they surely go wild over petunias. I have added different stone and floral arrangements to just about every tee on the course and keeping them simple and easily maintained eliminates adding a costly item to my budget.

My *something* for this year involves consolidating a small Onan generator, a Speedaire air compressor, and a 3.5 H.P. Briggs and Stratton gas engine on a small homemade trailer. The trailer is very easily pulled around the golf course by a truckster and in just one month has made it one of my most valuable items. The generator gives us electrical power to operate trimming equipment that is far lighter to handle, making the edging of sand traps and trimming around trees etc. a much quicker and far easier task. The air compressor which is run by the Briggs engine will enable us to spray paint tee posts, fences, gates, and curbing around the clubhouse area. In previous years these painting jobs all had to be done by hand with a brush and quite frankly did not get done as often as they should.

At a time when it seems to be quite popular to upgrade our profession, I would think that a little creativeness or call it upgrading ourselves, can't do anything but help this cause.

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