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Dear Ray,

When I attended the past GCSAA conference in St. Louis, I took the certification examination and passed. I thought some of the MAGCS members might be interested in my recent experiences with the certification program.

I took the certification examination at the earliest possible date. I was interested in becoming certified purely for reasons of personal satisfaction. I had no elusions that certification was the ticket to solving all my problems in the technical aspects of turf management or in the public relations end of my job. I participated in the program to refresh myself of the immense amount of knowledge and technique available to me to do my job. The certification program does this very nicely. The preparation one must do for the exam is not overwhelming but does tend to jar loose the cobwebs and get the gears turning. I enjoyed this aspect of the program and if for no other reason will continue to participate. We all must strive to improve ourselves as professionals and we all can benefit from this type of endeavor. If everyone looked at the certification program as a means of sharpening one's ability to perform his job we would have many more Certified Golf Course Superintendent's today.

A very gratifying experience accompanied my certification. The letter from the GCSAA was received by my Green Committee alerting them to the fact that I had passed the certification examination. My Green Committee informed the Board of Directors and many of the members. The GCSAA letter was posted in the locker room. The response from the members of my club has been great. This was an added bonus as I had not promoted the subject at all. It therefore turned out to be an excellent public relations tool when I never had intended it to be.

In conclusion, I fully support this program and recommend that all GCSAA members participate. Not all people will get the same reaction from their club members but the personal satisfaction and recognition by your peers makes it worth effort, just ask a certified superintendent.

Roger A. Stewart, Jr. CGCS
Superintendent, Riverside G.C.