

C.G.C.S. - THE POSITIVE APPROACH

Certified Golf Course Superintendents and the program is growing. The certification program is designed for the purpose of recognition for the turfgrass industry. A lot of Superintendents have chosen to belittle the program for reasons only known to themselves. For the most part, I see two reasons why superintendents will not challenge the certification exam: (1) afraid of failure or (2) just too lazy to put some time aside every night to study for the exam. The second reason is probably what fits the majority of us.

Many Superintendents (our peers and/or leaders in the profession) have been trying to define certification in their own words only to conclude with negative results. Many professional groups have tests of educational knowledge. To name a few, there is the Bar exam for Attorneys, the CPA exam for accounting firms and the PGA Schooling to be a Class A Golf Professional. G.C.S.A.A. is our professional national organization and every member should strive to achieve the satisfaction of knowing that one can become certified by passing the exam. By preparing yourself for the certification exam, this will give you a better understanding of this organization and a better perspective of the profession in which you chose to be a part of.

Every member of G.C.S.A.A. should do everything in their power to support what comes out of the headquarters office. If there is something that comes out of the headquarters office that you dislike, write the President of G.C.S.A.A. or communicate directly to Mr. James McLaughlin, Executive Director, and express your concerns. It appears that some of our national and local members will not get off the dead horse, but will continue to speak out negatively on all issues. My only comment to that is "all good organizations have to have their quota of spoils". The worst thing we as members can do is write articles to national turf industry magazine firms expressing negative feelings about a program developed for the best interest of G.C.S.A.A. We will always have those individuals who will do anything to get their name in a national magazine even though some embarrassment will come to our professional as a whole. We have to work hard as a solid organization continuing to upgrade the Golf Course Superintendent's professional abilities for greater esteem.

The G.C.S.A.A. Certification program is not designed for the purpose of evaluating you as a superintendent. Think of it as an educational tool broadening one's scope of mind toward better understanding of the practical knowledge and theory used for establishing quality turfgrass. Once you become certified, the program does not just end there. Points have to be achieved by attending national conferences and educational seminars for recertification in five years. The more we get involved with our programs means the G.C.S.A.A. Staff will be working harder for greater Public Relations which will assist the superintendent in being the forefront in the Golf Course - Turfgrass Industry. Only you as a Golf Course Superintendent can help yourself to help your profession.

The G.C.S.A.A. Certification program has no correlation towards getting involved in making inspection of member's golf courses. If that was the case then every golf course would have the same number of putting surfaces, same turfgrass and soil structure, same amount of equipment and best of all the same budget dollars based on per acre of maintained turfgrass. Our professional organization's goal is to increase the image and professionalism through one of the objectives - CERTIFICATION. It is very easy for us to sit back and make up excuses for not getting involved with

the programs coming from the national. That is fine for one to do that, but do not try and take the rest of the ship down with you. The time has come, and it has been here for the past ten years, to speak out positively on the strong points of our industry and at the same time keep the dirt in the barn where it belongs.

Become recognized by your peers, friends, club officials, and most of all recognize yourself. Are you giving 100% toward your profession? If not you should start today to be a part of the turfgrass team because in the end you will be the one to merit. A goal to strive for would be to have all Class A Golf Course Superintendents in our local association become certified by 1985. Only you can make this a reality and you can start by taking the certification exam offered for your convenience at the 53rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show in New Orleans.

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