

THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Bob Williams *Retired*


Applied philosophy is a prerequisite for all successful golf course superintendents. Thus, we present here selections from a collection of philosophical opinions that I have found to be useful in my past career and that I feel are well worth passing along to the present generation of our profession.



This subject matter has previously been approached in print by Leo Feser in his column "Feser's Philosophies" when he was editing the GCSAA magazine during the war years. In addition, Fred Behnke also composed a fine article on philosophy for the October 2000 issue of *On Course*. Both Leo's column and Fred's article were very well done.

Let's get started.

- The main backbone of all successful management in all of industry is the application of prudent management philosophy.
- The primary professional objective of golf course superintendents is the maintenance and development of golf courses for the active and passive recreation of all people.

- Herb Graffis, one of golf's greatest journalists and editor of *Golfdom* magazine, stated at our annual conference in 1958 that one of the golf course superintendent's professional problems was that, at that time, we were speaking out to ourselves too much instead of to the public. (Perhaps this was a prompting for the changes we have seen initiated by GCSAA in recent years.) Also at the 1958 conference, in the same speech, Herb said, "About the only time some superintendents see the club's financial statement is when they are cleaning out the club manager's wastebasket." (Forty-four years has sure made a difference, Herb!) 

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