

The Florida Municipal Golf Course Association

By ALAN WEITZEL
President

Why form an association? I was not around back in the 1930's when the South Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association was formed, but I was in 1978 when the Florida Municipal Golf Course Association was, and I bet the reasons were very similar, "Education". Just as in the 1930's when members of the various golf courses started comparing their courses to one another, a need arose where the superintendents of these courses found it beneficial to meet to exchange ideas. Thus, in the late 1970's a similar concern arose from the managers of municipal golf courses when taxpayers became increasingly concerned on what government was spending its tax dollars. Thus, in 1978, the Florida Municipal Golf Course Association was formed.

There are 60 municipal golf courses in the state of Florida run by 42 municipalities/counties. 26 of these municipalities have become members of the Florida Municipal Golf Course Association which accounts for 73% of the municipal golf courses in the state. This high percentage of membership is even more impressive when one considers that the majority of those municipalities who are not members

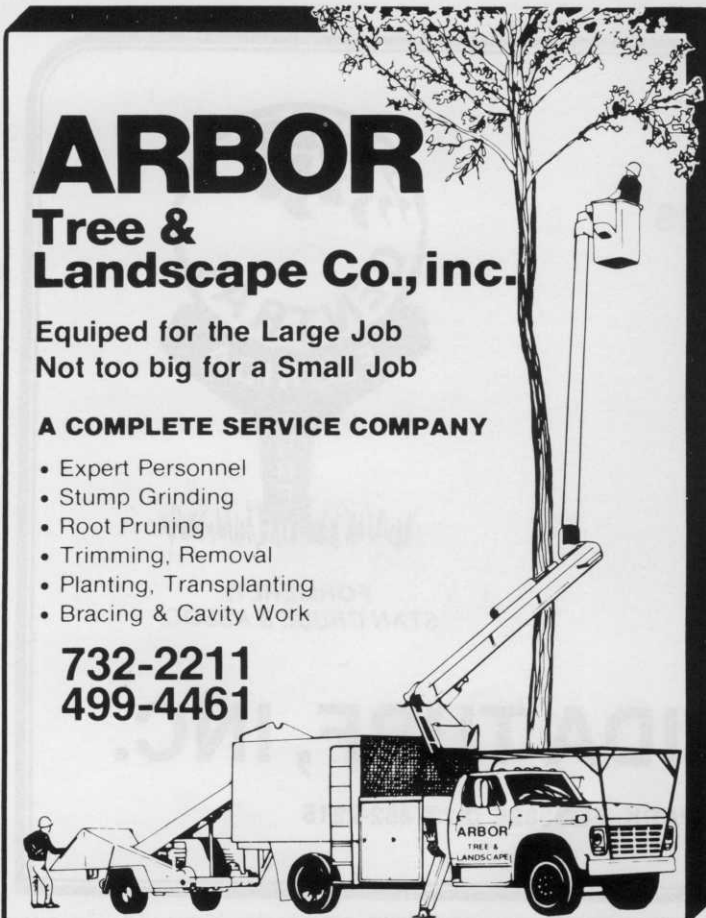
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do not actually manage their golf facilities, but lease them to outside private concerns.

Membership in the Florida Municipal Golf Course Association is open to any municipality or organization interested in the operation of a municipal golf course. Annual dues are \$30 per year. The association meets 4 times a year with meetings held either at a municipal golf course or in conjunction with an allied association trade show. The meetings usually last 2 hours in which 1 hour is usually reserved for a round table discussion. This discussion allows each member present a chance to voice a problem they are facing at their facility or enlighten the group on something new they are doing at their golf course.

One of the most important things that the association does each year is publish an annual survey. Each regular member is sent a 10 page survey form to complete. The responses of these surveys are then compiled in a book and distributed to the members. This year we had 21 municipalities take part in the survey. This survey has become a source of pride to the association as well as a valuable tool.

Anyone wanting any further information on the Florida Municipal Golf Course Association can write or call one of the following officers.

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