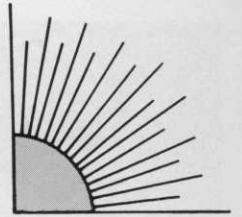


South Florida Sunshine



By: Alan Weitzel

What do we get from the F.G.C.S.A. and G.C.S.A.A. and what do we want? Before one attempts to answer this question, one must first realize what the F.G.C.S.A. and the G.C.S.A.A. are. They are professional trade associations comprised and funded primarily by golf course superintendents with the goal of promoting turf management. Several years ago, there was concern by the golf course superintendents in Florida that the G.C.S.A.A. was not promoting turf maintenance in the southern states, particularly Florida. Thus, the F.G.C.S.A. was reborn with the goal of unifying the Florida golf course superintendents and promoting turf maintenance within the state of Florida.

Every person has certain wants or needs. One of the basic human needs is to provide food and shelter for ourselves and our families. This need is filled through our employment as golf course superintendents. So how can these associations meet these needs? I believe the answer is to provide us with the tools to do our job more efficiently. The main tool is continued education. The G.C.S.A.A. fills this need through its magazine, newsletter, regional seminars, research grants and its annual trade show and conference. The FGCSA fills this need through the Florida Green, the Greensheet, research funding, golf tournaments, and its management seminars. In South Florida, we feel these fine efforts need to be continued.

With the new legislation on the restriction of water use and chemicals becoming more common, we feel the need for a rumor control or "hot line" where updated information on Federal legislation affecting our profession can be received first hand. The G.C.S.A.A. and the F.G.C.S.A. should establish these information centers. We feel that there is always room for more research. We would like to see the G.C.S.A.A. continue on its past trend to provide more educational sessions on southern turf management.

We all have the need to better ourselves not only financially but also our professional image. This enhances our self esteem. The G.C.S.A.A. has done a good job in helping promote the Superintendent's image through its T.V. commercials and its recently completed Public Relations Manual. The F.G.C.S.A. has also done a fine job promoting the Florida Golf course superintendent's image through the Florida Green, golf tournaments, and the public relations committee. In South Florida we feel these programs should not be discontinued but aggressively expanded.

So what do you say to those who still ask the question, what do we get from these associations? I believe, as with any association, be it your church, or your son's baseball team, you get what you put in. Those who are active and participate will naturally receive more from their associations than those who do not. ■

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