



Suncoast Sails

By: William "Mike" Miles

River Wilderness Yacht & CC

CONSULTANTS: A Handy Tool During Construction

As a Golf Course Superintendent one tends to find out that during the course of a normal work day you may find yourself making decisions on solving problems that may not have anything to do with a golf course at all. Certain situations seem to arise (especially in a development type course) that may pertain to anything from requiring knowledge as a plumber, electrician, a mechanic or even a doctor. Unfortunately the need for immediate first aid has and does arise.

Whenever a problem arises in an area that I don't have quite the expertise to handle, I generally try to rely on someone who specializes in this particular field. The point I am trying to make is that anyone you may have to contact for any type of information could be considered a consultant.

Finally, getting back to the subject of being a Golf Course Superintendent I have utilized the services of an actual golf course consultant on two different occasions and for different reasons.

My first job after graduating from school was as an Assistant Superintendent at a 36 hole golf course development that had just begun construction.

The Superintendent I was working under had acquired the services of a well known consultant who specialized in turf and related problems having to do with the growing in of new courses.

Having a consultant on our "team" at this point of construction was very helpful in several different ways.

Our consultant acted as a liaison between the Superintendent, the Owner and the Golf Course Architect. He was instrumental in helping to create a design that was easily maintained when the hole was finished, which made life easier for us as Superintendents. By doing so this made the Golf Course Architect look good and made the owner happy by making maintenance of his course more reasonably efficient, thus saving money.

I feel the services of a consultant while setting up a brand new program can be most helpful not only with his knowledge of agronomics, but also in helping the Superintendent to obtain the equipment he will need to properly maintain his course. Last, but not least, the biggest help was in setting up a budget for the upcoming year.

Nothing could be worse than working on an inadequate budget the first year, especially when you tend to have more problems than not. My belief is that a consultant can help you a great deal in getting off on the right foot at a new course, especially if you are working for a developer who might not have built a course before.

In order to have a successful relationship between a Golf Course Superintendent and a consultant of any type, I believe you must be able to communicate with each other and most importantly the two of you must work as a "team" in order to successfully produce the finished product your club is looking for. ■



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