



South Florida Sunshine



By: Loy Faulk
Emerald Hills Country Club

Support Your Local Golf Course Superintendents Association

A concern of many active golf course superintendents in a local chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is how to convince non-members to join their organization. Another problem is how to encourage inactive members to attend the monthly meetings. I personally cannot think of one valid reason why golf course superintendents do not want to participate in their local golf course superintendents association. I would venture to say that most superintendents are members of a local association. However, the percentage of superintendents present at the meetings is often poor. But why? There is a great deal to be gained and absolutely nothing to lose by being an active member in your local chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The cost of attending a meeting of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is usually in the range of 20 to 25 dollars. This price includes coffee and danish, a delicious lunch and an enjoyable round of golf. If you play well you may win a gift certificate so you can load your bag with new golf balls for next months challenge. You also get a day off work from your course with the opportunity to learn new ideas from the host golf course. But most important is the opportunity to learn valuable information about the golf course industry through entertaining lectures and discussions concerning our profession. All this for \$25 bucks? Only at your local golf course superintendents association monthly meeting!

Many superintendents have their club pick up the tab. This is a good fringe benefit for the superintendent. This is also a good indication that the club wants their superintendent to attend the meetings so he can learn more about the profession of golf course maintenance. Both the superintendent and the club benefit. Currently, my club pays the yearly dues while I pay for the monthly meetings and I think that this hard earned money out of my own pocket is money well spent for my future as a golf course superintendent. If you feel that you cannot afford being a member of your local association, ask your club to pay your yearly and monthly dues. At least ask your club to pay your yearly dues. Bring to your club's attention the importance of being an active member in a golf course superintendents association. Tell your club about the infinite amount of golf course related knowledge that can be obtained from spending a day with people in your profes-

sion with similar problems and concerns. I am sure that your club would require you to attend monthly superintendent meetings if they knew the potential for improvements on their golf course that could result from these monthly gatherings.

A wealth of knowledge is available at a superintendents meeting. Mingling with fellow superintendents and sale representatives can reveal many new ideas to solve your problems. Maybe another superintendent has successfully eradicated all weed infestation on his golf course. The chemicals and rates he used could possibly help you with your weed problems. And I am sure there will be a technical representative from a chemical company closest at hand that will be more than happy to help you with prices and ordering. If you are lucky enough to be granted the funds for new equipment you still have to decide which manufacturer and type of equipment to purchase. There is a good chance that someone at a superintendents meeting either sells or has already purchased the type of equipment you are considering.

Throughout the meeting there are several opportunities to acquire information that will make your job easier and more secure. Much can be learned about new laws that have recently gone into effect or are about to be approved. Early knowledge of these laws can keep you out of big trouble. I probably would have never learned about the new Broward County well field zoning ordinance for potable water wells, the anti-syphoning requirements for my liquid fertilizer injected irrigation system, the permit requirements for chemical storage, or the latest regulations concerning the new Florida Right-To Know law until it was too late had it not been for my correspondences with the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association... Superintendents can learn from one another and guest speakers to fully understand these new laws and regulations.

The potential for knowledge, increased professionalism and a tremendously good time is surpassed at a golf course superintendents monthly meeting. Support your local chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. You'll become a better golf course superintendent. Guaranteed!!! ■