

At some of our local and state meetings I keep hearing about people not having enough time to support all the events and seminars we have these days. I began thinking about when I started at Winter Pines and the events we had to choose from in 1979. Besides the

annual GCSAA Conference and Show, there was the FTGA Conference and Show, the Poa Annuia Classic, the Crowfoot Open, our monthly chapter meetings and not much else. If you attended all these, you could be gone from work about 20 days. Even if you

added in vacation and comp days for personal use, it still wasn't too bad.

At our recent strategic planning session we held in conjunction with our fall Board meeting, the issue of member support and attendance of the various educational and fund-raising events came under discussion. We discussed better chapter communications and promoting each others' events to help increase participation.

After lunch, Joel Jackson took a page off one of the big flip charts and started listing all the conferences, trade shows, seminars, meetings,

tournaments and fund-raisers that are available to attend. If you took advantage of every opportunity, you could be gone close to 40 days. By now adding in your vacation time and personal days, you find it hard to justify being away from work so much.

I think every chapter now has some type of tournament or fund-raiser that provides moneys for turf research, scholarships, Audubon programs for schools, and other worthwhile causes. Every chapter does a great job and should be proud of its accomplishments and contributions. They all need to keep up the good work. I only know that nowadays I have to be careful about what I choose to attend and I plan accordingly.

I failed to mention what all this costs each year. Fees and registration varies by event. Some of the costs are picked up by the club and some are paid by the superintendent himself, but it is a factor nevertheless.

Time for family and job come first. Education is next at local, state, and national levels. If you can combine education and golf, then the time spent is sometimes easier to justify. Please try to support what you can, when you can, and we will all benefit for years to come.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season and continued success in the new year!

Where Does the Time Go?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joe Ondo, CGCS
President
FGCSA

No one realizes better than ourselves that the increasing demands of our profession require that we be present at our place of employment as much as possible.

At the recent fall FGCSA Board meeting we were privileged to have a strategic planning session facilitated by Joe O'Brien of the GCSAA. This session was an internal look at how your association conducts itself. After listing and discussing the strengths and weaknesses of our current operation, suggestions were made on areas we can improve or want to improve. Look for

exciting news and discussions with your chapter external vice presidents in the months ahead as the FGCSA officers and directors strive to implement new methods of conducting our association affairs.

One area that our discussions touched on was the dwindling participation at external functions: Crowfoot Open , Poa Annua Classic, educational seminars, golf outings, fund-raisers, etc. At lunch time, several participants took it upon themselves to list all such external functions that the group was aware of. A count was taken to determine the total number of days required to attend all of these functions. To the

group's amazement, the final tally was a staggering 40 days.

No one realizes better than ourselves that the increasing demands of our profession require that we be present at our place of employment as much as possible. However, it is also incumbent upon us to remain educated and up to date on new procedures and technology that is constantly coming into our marketplace.

The proliferation of many of these external functions has grown out of the need for golf course superintendents to do their own fund raising . There are many outstanding fund-raisers that generate much-needed money to support and promote the industry, our profession and our association. Without our support, these functions will not be able to continue generating the money necessary to fund our chapter and state endeavors.

Let's all evaluate our individual situations and decide what is best geared to meet our specific needs. I know I always gain something useful from the opportunity to visit with my peers or from a round of golf at a different facility. Unfortunately, I also learn that my golf game stinks, but that's a another story!

Things to do and places to go

PERHAM'S PAGE



Michael Perham, CGCS
Vice President
FGCSA