

## Guest Editorial

# Open letter to Florida Golf Course Superintendents

By TIM HIERS



Tim Hiers

Florida has the second largest golf course industry in the nation, ranking only behind California. Recent growth and construction statistics indicate that within five years Florida may surpass California in total number of golf courses.

Yet when it comes to representation within the GCSAA the Sunshine state hovers near the bottom of the totem pole. Only one president of the GCSAA in the last 51 years has been from Florida and the board of directors representation fits in the same category. As a result of this past poor representation a great majority of research funds and national programs have not been directed toward problems concerning Florida's golf courses and their respective superintendents.

The state of Florida is not out to gain control of the GCSAA but merely to obtain equal representation and recognition. This situation cannot be fully corrected by Florida superintendents joining the GCSAA individually. In order for a meaningful and productive change to come about it is necessary for us to unify and support the GCSAA in the form of a strong and well-organized statewide association.

This can be accomplished without effecting the operation or identity of the individual local superintendents associations.

In essence the purpose of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is to improve communications among the local associations and to form a strong unified group of associations that have common goals in mind. This will directly benefit the individual superintendent who is shackled with such imposing problems as the possible energy crisis, precious chemicals being taken off the market by the EPA, lack of communications and service between superintendents and their suppliers.

In October of 1978 the four presidents of the original Florida State Golf Course Superintendents Association met in Orlando to nominate and elect me as your statewide president. Since that time we have had two meetings. An attorney, Bob Hoffman, was hired to lay the groundwork for articles of incorporation and by-laws. At our first meeting on Dec. 8, 1978, in Orlando, several amendments were made to the original articles of incorporation. Included in these were Amendment 1, to change the name from Florida State Golf Course Superintendents Association to Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association and Amendment 3, to include all existing associations and future associations in the FGCSA. The president of your association has a copy of the articles and amendments.

Due to the organization becoming inactive in 1973, we had to re-file through the state to become an active corporation. When these proceedings have been accomplished, the new articles of incorporation will be printed and distributed. At the December meeting we asked the presidents of the local associations to collect \$2 from each superintendent. Dr. Harry Meyers, professor from the University of Florida, was the first to contribute his \$2.

These limited funds have assisted in the reorganization of our association. In our last meeting at the Holiday Inn Central in Tampa March 8 we reviewed the amendments and laid groundwork for the future. Bill Wager was appointed head of the by-laws committee and hopefully they will be submitted and approved in our August 26 meeting in Melbourne.

On Monday Aug. 27 the third annual Crowfoot Open will be held at Suntree CC in Melbourne. Consult your local association and plan to attend this tournament as we hope to use this as our annual state meeting. We also hope for the possibility in the future of changing the South Florida Green to the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Ass'n magazine. In the eventual formulation of membership fees we hope to include a weekly subscription to Florida Golfweek to each superintendent as a tool for ongoing communication across the state. This could include articles on a weekly basis from local associations.

Some people may be quick to point out previous failures of the state association even though competent and hard-working people were involved. Unfortunately support they received, if any at all, from across the state was not unified. We believe that because of the growth of Florida, a better means of communication and more concerned individuals the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association will be a useful tool and an outstanding success.

In closing I would like to emphasize that our association is not affiliated with Florida Turfgrass Association. The FTGA is simply interested in our future success and is willing to lend a helping hand. It is my hope that each superintendent across the state will extend his cooperation to his local association in their support of the statewide organization.

I want to personally thank Charley Stine, publisher of Golfweek, for contributing his time and interest in the progress of our association. He has agreed to provide a free subscription to each individual member until such time as the Florida Golf Superintendent's Association can incorporate a subscription into the membership fees. I request the president or secretary of each association to send Golfweek a mailing list of their respective members.



# Open letter to Florida Golf Course Superintendents

BY TOM HIGGS

## Editorial

Over the past ten years Golf Course Superintendents have evolved from grass growers to professional turf managers. They are asked to grow grass under the worst possible conditions, and are required to maintain it at tournament condition on a daily basis. Golf Course Superintendents are managers entrusted with dispensing over a third of a million dollars annually.

Let's look at the facts. A golf course generates a lot of revenue. Often a course is the selling fact for housing units, it provides jobs for restaurant workers, pro shop employees, office workers, club managers and any number of grounds and golf course maintenance employees. The golf course is the necessary factor in this chain. Without "the great green golf course" this whole cycle of enterprise would not exist... this very fact makes the professional Golf Course Superintendent's position one that earns a high degree of financial compensation. Unfortunately some clubs still look at their superintendents as only grass growers and not as total managers.

People management requires superintendents to motivate employees to perform any number of labor positions in a day when generally people are no longer willing to do these type of jobs. They must help to instill a sense of pride in the way their employees view the course. We can not simply hand out tools and demand that workers rake traps, edge cart paths, trim trees, etc.... without appreciating them and educating them in such a way that they develop a sense of pride in the "over all success of the total operation."

Golf Course Superintendents are true professionals dedicated to the betterment of golf. Salaries of \$45,000. to \$55,000. are becoming common in Florida. Benefits for good superintendents include \$2,000. a year for IRA, one months vacation, a car for business and personal use, meals at the club, golf privileges for peers and so on.

Golf is a game which should be enjoyed. So... when was the last time you hugged you Golf Course Superintendent?

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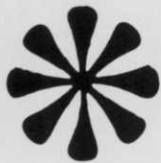


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This month we show you answers to some water problems . . . "TOO MUCH" at Inverrary Country Club and "TOO LITTLE" at Coral Ridge Country Club.



1. Brad Kocher and Rick Hammond are shown with inexpensive "Catch Basins" their crew made from concrete pipe "culls." In picture 2. we see Brad inspecting drainage ditches dug by his workmen. Even the paved parking lots collect water . . . in picture 3. you can see drainage swales installed by Inverrary's crew. Picture 4. is "mosquito control rig" made by Brad's mechanics. These shots show graphically that our members do more than GROW GRASS!



At Coral Ridge the problem was low water pressure as 3 turbine pumps drew water from small lake. Inefficient system had evolved from many add-ons over the past years. In picture 5. you can see the workmen starting to "untangle" the pipes. In picture 6. you see the 14" "header-pipe" being tailor-made to couple the pumps. In picture 7. you can see the finished product looking much better and working great!

*If you or your crew have any ideas to share with others give us a call and we'll be glad to photograph your "super ideas."*

*— Harry McCartha*

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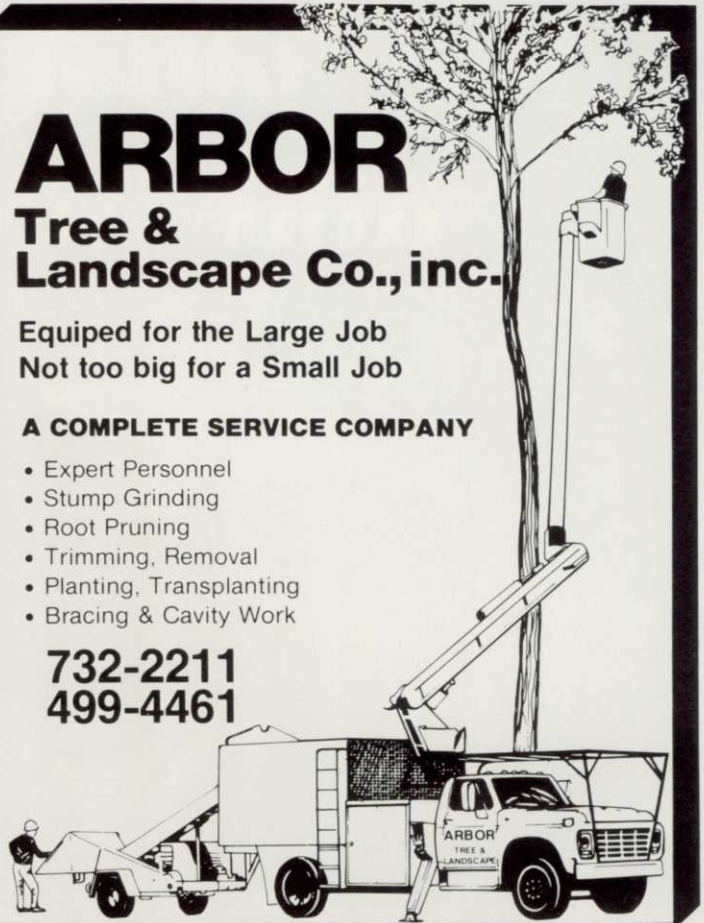
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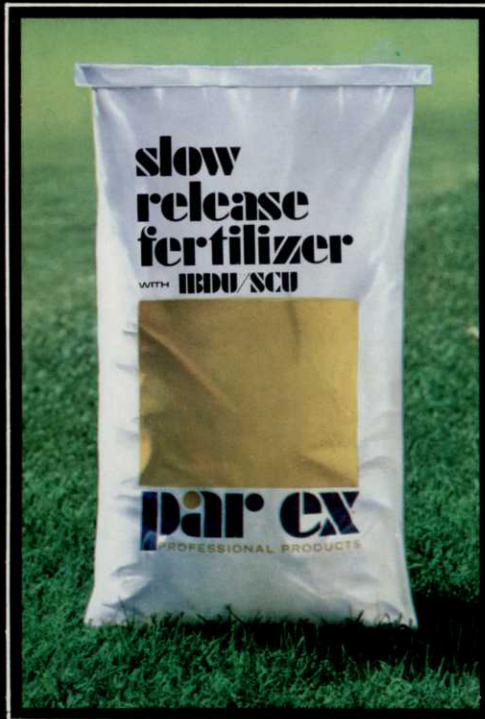
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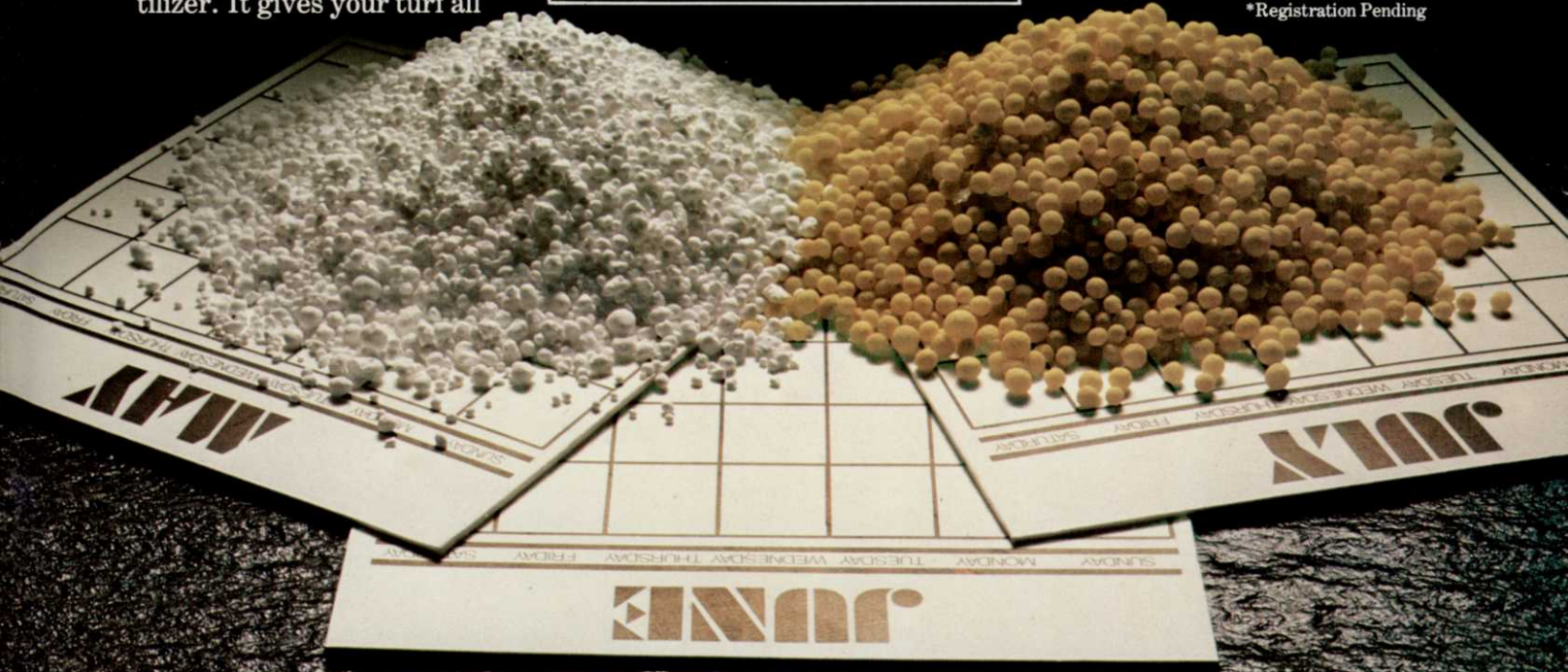
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