

Setting priorities allows supers time to 'give back to the game'

By TERRY BUCHEN

Many superintendents give back much of their valuable time to the game of golf, by performing extra-curricular activities above and beyond their normal job duties, with some pretty amazing results. There are hundreds and hundreds of great examples of supers giving back

unselfishly to this great game and you wonder, with the busy schedules in mind, how does anyone have time to accomplish these remarkable feats?

Being organized and putting priorities in proper perspective is the best way to put it. Nothing more, nothing less.

Look at all the supers who, as

part of being a member of Audubon International, give tours of their golf course to school children in their communities; perform speaking engagements on golf and the environment to many commu-

SAVVY SUPERINTENDENT



nity organizations; and host community members as part of a resource committee — to reinforce all of the great work that is being done at their re-

spective courses. It doesn't stop there. Countless supers give their time and energy to giving speeches at university, U.S. Golf Association Regional, Golf Course Superintendent Association of America (GCSAA) national chapter meetings and turfgrass association conferences year in and year out — even though giving speeches is always rated as one of the most frightening experiences anyone goes through in life.

Further sharing of information with peers is accomplished by writing magazine and technical articles, and many, many times by just talking on the telephone with fellow superintendents to help each other out.

It goes even further to the men and women who volunteer their time to serve as officers and on the board of directors of chapters, turfgrass associations/foundations, USGA and other committees and the GCSAA. These groups of individuals spend more time and energy on serving their members and constituents than is almost humanly possible. Their schedule is extremely busy just reading and preparing all of the correspondence, let alone handling speaking engagements, meetings and the telephone communication that goes along with these important responsibilities.

Teaching agronomic and golf course management classes at local colleges during night school and giving presentations to turf students at universities is also a common occurrence. The teachings at the many GCSAA seminars is also a dedicated endeavor.

Last, but certainly not least, is the writing of agronomic and golf course maintenance/management books that preserve the supers heritage while expanding new ideas and technologies for the future. Legendary superintendents, such as Stan Metsker, CGCS, of Colorado Springs, have written books recently that took a lot of time and effort — and sure were worth it judging from the feedback.

Other legends in turfgrass, such as Gordon Witteveen of Toronto, and Mike Bavier, CGCS, of Chicago, have teamed up and written a soon-to-be-released classic, which is modeled after their seminar, entitled "The Magic of Greenkeeping," that they teach together all over the world. With these fine superintendents setting the stage, it is encouraging and exciting that many other superintendents will be writing additional books in the future.

In closing, it is best understood and simply stated that you should all pat yourselves on the back for a job well done for everything you have done for the game of golf, during the past, present and for the future. Thank you very much.

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