

# Shades Of Green

■ OPINION

**I**n a letter to *Golfdom*, I was accused by an Ohio golf professional of widening the gap between superintendents and golfers with my April “Sausage Eaters” column. I’d like to take a moment to address his concerns.

First of all, the gap between golfer expectations and what superintendents face every day will continue to grow, with or without my column. I’m not sure enough golfers read this magazine for my April column to have a worsening effect on relations between golfers and superintendents as he alleges.

My message was intended to nudge golfers to get more involved in the nitty-gritty of our business to help us fight undue restrictions on our livelihood instead of merrily rolling along oblivious to the changing landscape around them. Maybe I should have used honey instead of vinegar or solicitation instead of sarcasm. But hey, if the Foot Joy fits, wear it.

Green is good, but maybe golfers will learn that brown is also beautiful. They can have a significant role to play in our ongoing battles with local governments who want to issue unrealistic regulations if they would get involved. It’s amazing what a few hundred phone calls and letters can do.

Meanwhile, back at the barn ... oops, I mean “environmental resource center,” we have our own laundry to clean when it comes to whining about things. Have you ever heard any of these before?

## From crew members:

**Q:** How come I’m always on the Flymow detail?

**A:** Because you ran the Groundskeeper into the lake. You can’t mow a straight line, and you make such sharp turns with the mower they are mistaken for alien crop circles seen from space. If you can manage to drag that Flymow around without cutting down the wildflowers, I may keep you on the payroll.

**Q:** When do I get to mow fairways?

**A:** When you have been here 10 years, show up on time every day (especially mow days), and when you learn how to take care of a \$30,000 piece of equipment.

# Whining Isn’t A Winning Strategy

BY JOEL JACKSON



WE HAVE OUR OWN  
LAUNDRY TO CLEAN  
WHEN IT COMES TO  
COMPLAINING  
ABOUT THINGS

**Q:** How come I have to tuck in my shirt tail and can’t wear my cap backwards?

**A:** Because this isn’t a rap party or the X-Games. It’s a place of business. Besides, I can’t tell if you’re coming or going half the time, even without the hat confusion. Asking questions like that also keeps you off the fairway mower.

## From superintendents:

**Q:** Why does the same clique always run everything?

**A:** Associations are run by those who show up. Did you ever volunteer to serve on a committee or the board of directors? Those same eight to 10 guys just love spending their free time at planning meetings; lining up speakers and meeting sites; calling vendors to sponsor events; manning the registration table at meetings; and stuffing or stapling newsletters.

**Q:** How come nobody told me GCSAA President Mike Wallace was coming to speak at our chapter meeting?

**A:** Obviously, the chapter needs to do a better job of communicating to those who don’t attend the monthly meetings or read the chapter newsletter.

**Q:** Hey, I don’t have time to go to monthly chapter meetings or read all those magazines and newsletters.

**A:** You must be a hard-working superintendent, but you may have a time-management deficiency.

In an age where taking personal responsibility for our state of affairs is at a premium, it does no good to only whine about things — and that includes column writers.

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