## **Running the Show**

Continued from page 67 know who you are or think you're hiding something that you can get into trouble."

## "Help them win"

Ken Blanchard, chief spiritual officer of the Ken Blanchard Cos., a management and leadership training and consulting firm, gave an uplifting speech to superintendents Friday during the show's general session. Blanchard, described as "insightful"

and "compassionate" in his biography, basically told superintendents that the secret to success is to adhere to the good of Golden Rule.



"You want to create memories," spiritual speaker Ken Blanchard told attendees during the general session.

Superintendents need to treat the people they come

in contact with — from players and members to their crew members — with respect and dignity.

Blanchard said superintendents shouldn't just stop with satisfying customers.

"You want to blow them away," he said. "You want to create memories."

Regarding their workers, Blanchard said superintendents should help them "win" at their jobs.

## "win" at their jobs. Roll(er) With It

Milt Engelke, turfgrass professor at Texas A&M Turf Research Program, knows a few things about unreasonable golfer demands. In his spare time, he moonlights as a consultant and has worked on many golf courses with demanding clienteles.

Engelke, who spoke on Bentgrass Management and Root Zone Maintenance, said he is not a fan of rolling greens because of the damage it can do to the root zone. He told the superintendents at the seminar about how one creative superintendent dealt with his membership's demands that he roll greens that were already too fast.

"Every few days, he would put a roller into the back of a utility vehicle and make a couple of passes around the course where the golfers could see him," Engelke said. "Then he'd take the roller back to the shop and put it away — without ever using it once."

Engelke smiled at the group.

"He never got questions about rolling again," Engelke said. "The membership never knew the difference."

Engelke used the anecdote to illustrate a larger point – superintendents are often asked to perform tasks by golfers that don't make agronomic sense. He said superintendents need to be creative in finding ways to deal with those demands so they don't destroy turf.

- Frank H Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

