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***The toughest golf cart you can sell.***

# Trees on Golf Courses

by Geoffrey S. Cornish & William G. Robinson

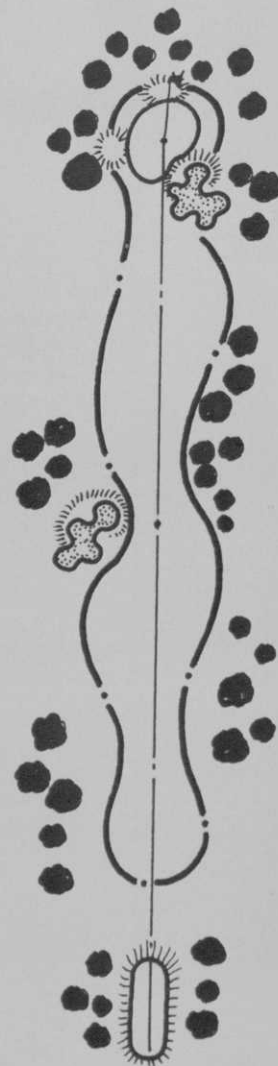
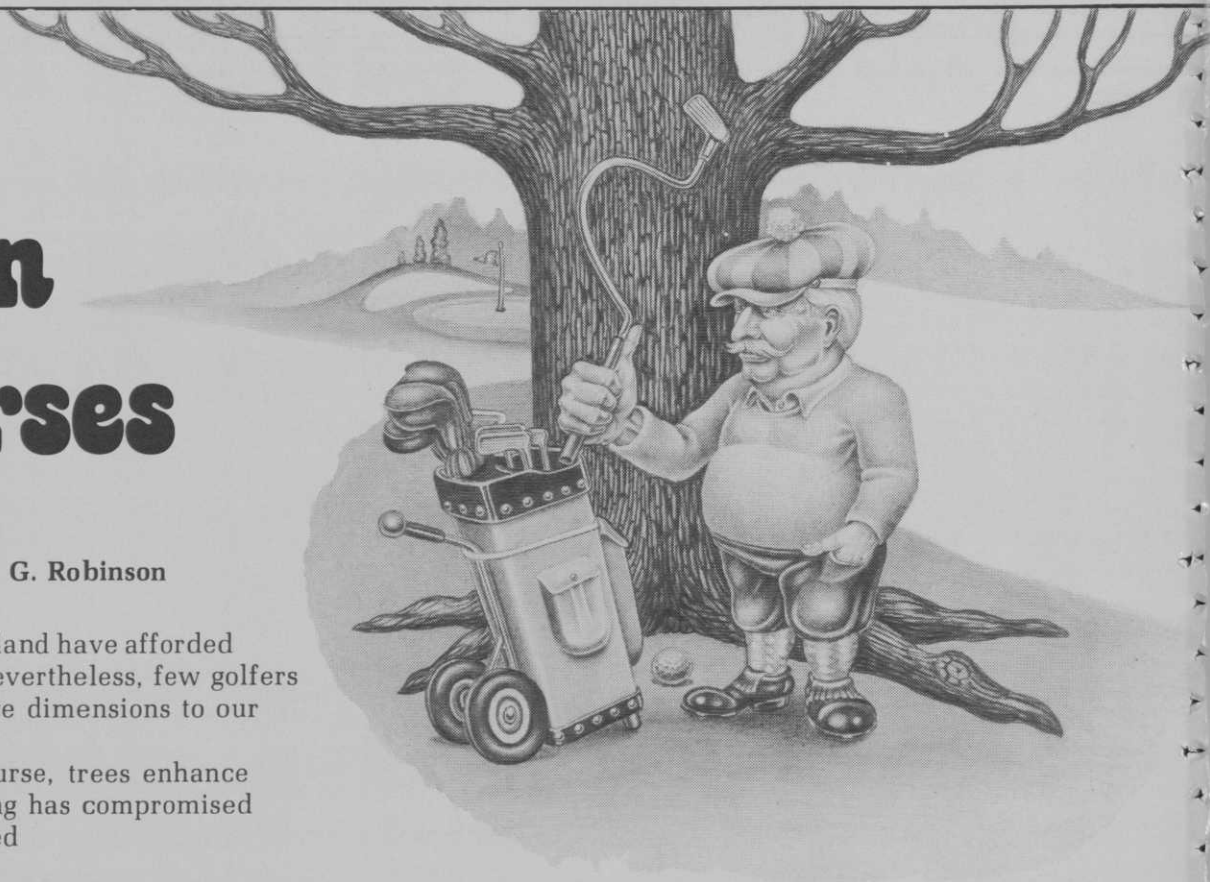
For centuries the open links of Scotland have afforded the ultimate in golfing interest. Nevertheless, few golfers will deny that trees add impressive dimensions to our North American inland layouts.

Planted anywhere on a golf course, trees enhance eye appeal. But haphazard planting has compromised many a great hole and compounded the superintendent's problems in maintaining his greenswards. To be an asset, rather than a liability, each tree must be critically positioned in accordance with the overall considerations of course architecture — namely the game itself, aesthetics, and future maintenance.

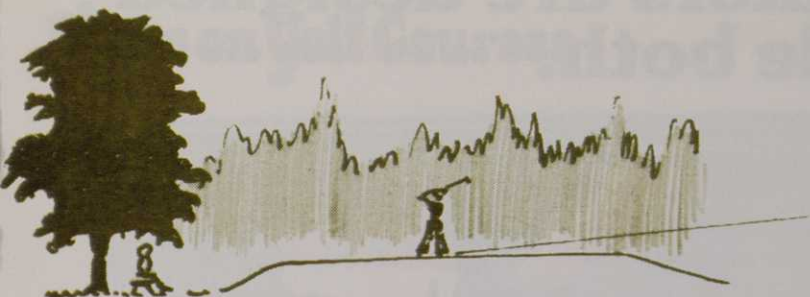
Established clubs and daily fee courses should take a close and critical look at their trees from time to time. Additional trees may be needed, or rearrangement of existing ones. In regard to the latter, transplanting of larger trees is more likely to be successful today than formerly, since the advent of giant tree spades.

The important but sometimes overlooked subject of siting trees on a golf course is introduced in accompanying sketches that illustrate several considerations necessary in planting new trees, transplanting established ones, or initial clearing.

*Geoffrey S. Cornish and William G. Robinson of Fiddlers Green, Amherst, Mass., are members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Robinson is also a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.*

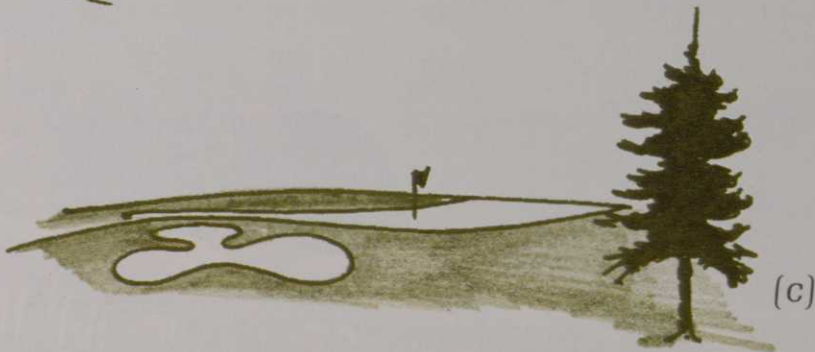


**1.** Potential playing interest may never be realized on a hole devoid of trees (left). Planted haphazardly (center) trees create a "freak hole". Positioned correctly (right) they enhance strategy and eye appeal without adding maintenance problems.



(a)

**2.** In addition to beauty and mass between fairways trees exercise many functions. A few of these are (a) shade at tees, (b) shot definition, (c) strategy, (d) wind break, (e) depth perception, (f) safety along boundaries.



(c)



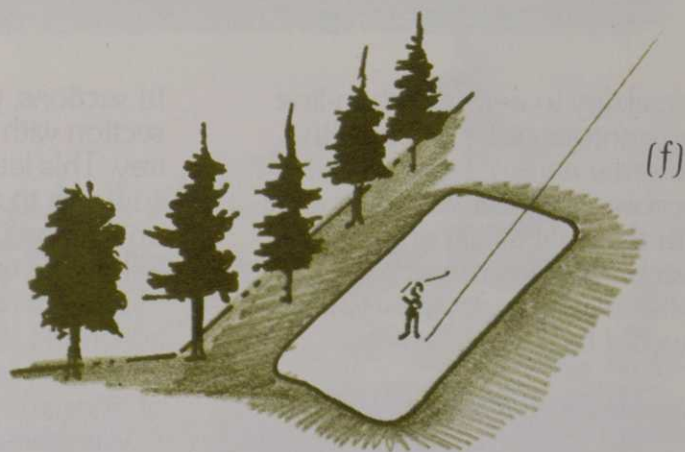
(b)



(d)



(e)



(f)

**3.** In selecting and siting a species consider silhouette in relation to function. These are silhouettes of trees often seen on golf courses north of the palm areas.





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Jacobsen's patented frame design makes even penetration of uneven ground possible. Because the aerator is built

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With these you can aerate, core, spike, slice, cultivate and renovate compacted earth.

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*Notice how each section rides close to uneven contours of ground to provide even aeration. Individual weight trays provide pressure.*

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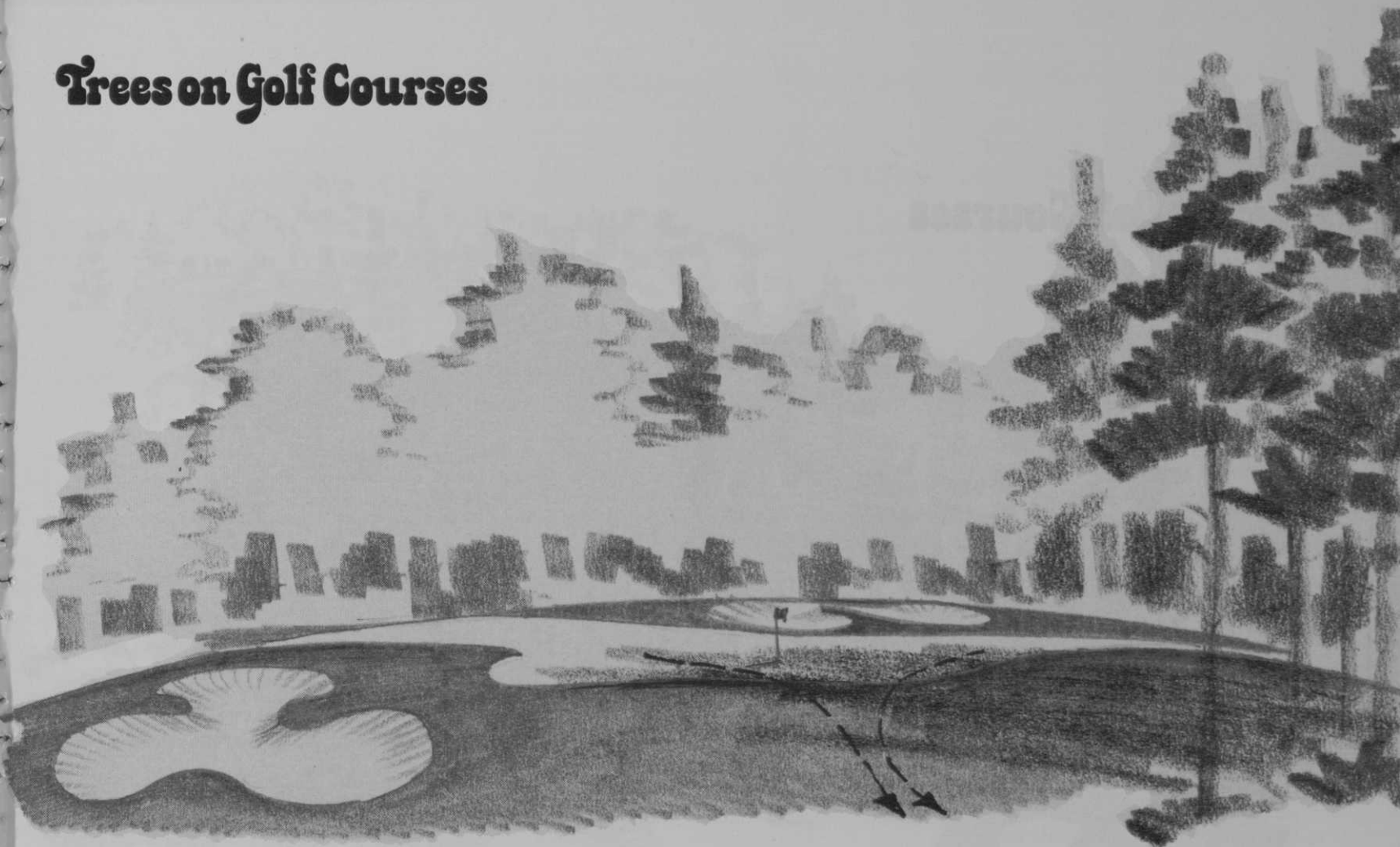
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## Trees on Golf Courses

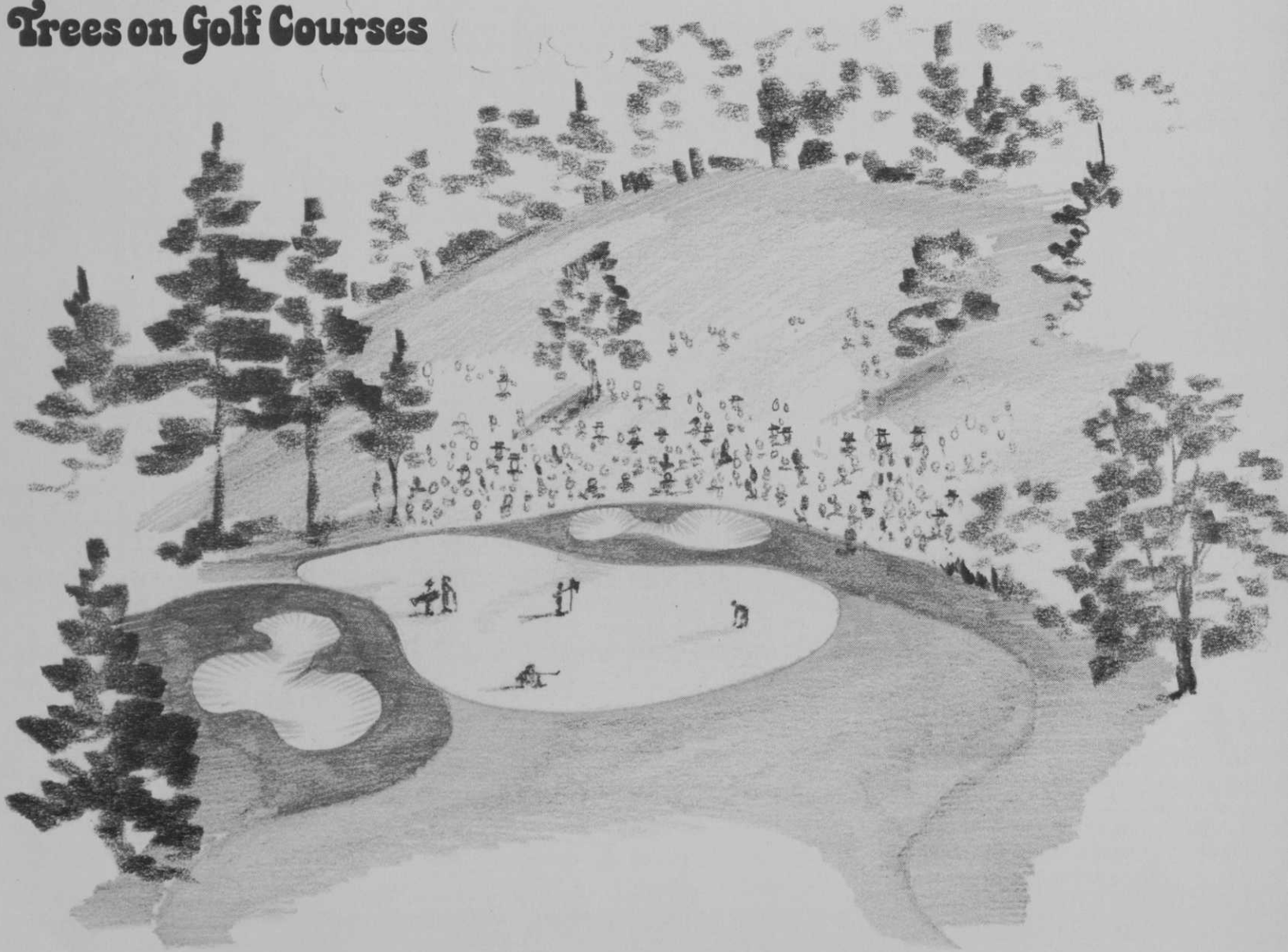


**4.** Trees closer than 60 to 80 feet from the putting surface aggravate turfgrass problems by reducing sunlight and air circulation. Here arrows indicate an area where water surface drains from the green. If shaded for even a few hours a day severe problems arise in humid periods or when ice lingers in spring.

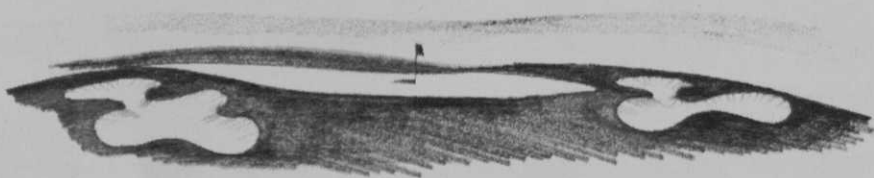
**5.** Trees are associated with safety. On the other hand they can cause accidents. Here a ball ricochets from a tree trunk near a tee.



## Trees on Golf Courses



**6.** Choice gallery space for major tournaments is increased or decreased thru tree positioning.



**7.** Trees behind a green aid depth perception making the approach easier to judge and more exciting.



**8.** Contour mowing of fairways to create curving rather than straight lines between fairways and roughs adds to playing interest, eye appeal and may reduce maintenance outlays. Trees can be worked dramatically into contour mowing patterns.



**9.** A breathtaking view of a finishing green with harbor in background is reduced and then eliminated in less than a decade by siting trees between green and clubhouse with no thought to mature height.



# Certification proves superintendents' professionalism



by David C. Holler, CGCS

When a club needs a good accountant, it finds a CPA. When looking for a good manager, those candidates with MBAs and other business degrees often are best. When legal help is needed, most people turn to a member of the bar. But what should a club look for when it needs a golf course superintendent? The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) considers "CGCS" to be a reliable credential that should not be overlooked. It stands for "Certified Golf Course Superintendent."

The profession of turf management is becoming increasingly complex, and it is difficult for the CPAs, lawyers, and other professionals who hire superintendents to know exactly what the turf professional should be able to do.

Among the many things a superintendent must understand are fertilizers, maintenance products, government regulations, pesticide usage, ecology, plant physiology, and weather. He also needs to understand things like personnel management, equipment maintenance, budgeting and, of course, the game of golf.

The CGCS after a superintendent's name is an indication that his peers consider him to have the knowledge to handle this complex job well.

#### What does it mean?

Another reason GCSAA feels that CGCS is a valuable credential is that equally good golf course superintendents often have different backgrounds, which makes measuring their golf course management skills difficult. Some superintendents have backgrounds in civil engineering,

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*David C. Holler, CGCS, is golf course superintendent at Gulph Mills Golf Club, King of Prussia, Pa. He received an associate degree in turf management from Pennsylvania State University and a degree in business management from La Salle Extension University.*

*Holler has been a member of GCSAA for 11 years and a director since 1976. He is also a member of the Central Pennsylvania GCSA and has served as director, secretary, and newsletter editor of the Philadelphia Association of GCS.*



**“Productivity is up  
10% to 20%”**

**“Lower absenteeism”**

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**“The certification program provides a credential laymen can use when evaluating golf course superintendents.”**

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physics, horticulture, agronomy, or simply long years of experience. The certification program consolidates all backgrounds and abilities and provides a standardized measure of knowledge in the field.

According to GCSSA President Ted W. Woehrle, CGCS, it is “another way of improving the quality of the superintendent. By becoming certified, he has proven to himself, his peers, and the golf world that he has achieved the specified level of knowledge required of his profession.”

The certification program is now in its sixth year. So far, it has not received broad recognition within the golf industry, but GCSSA feels that the recognition level is rising. Woehrle has said that golf clubs shortchange themselves by not knowing about and encouraging turf managers to join their professional organization and earn its highest credential. The golf course superintendent is the one responsible for one of the largest parts of most club budgets and the most valuable asset — the golf course itself. This kind of responsibility requires a high level of expertise.

#### **Who is certified?**

Some 2,000 of GCSAA's nearly 4,200 members are eligible to become certified. So far about 17 percent of that number, or 350, have satisfied the requirements, and 31 more are in the process. Those who are certified are now working in 40 states, Canada and Guam. Moreover, the number of certified members is increasing steadily, along with GCSSA membership and the number of those eligible to be certified.

GCSSA anticipates that in 1977, about 75 more superintendents will earn certification. To become certified, a superintendent has to follow these steps:

1. Be a Class A member of GCSAA for two years. This means having the responsibility for the maintenance of a golf course for at least 5 years. (He must be in charge of a golf course for 3 years before he can become a Class A member.)

2. Through appropriate channels, make application, which is verified for accuracy.

3. Take and pass, with a score of 80 percent or higher, a comprehensive, 6-hour, written examination on the following topics:

- Practical Turf Management
- Business Administration
- Rules of Golf
- Plant Protectant Chemicals
- Leadership
- History, Ethics, Procedures, Purposes of GCSAA

Those who meet all these requirements are qualified to use “CGCS” after their names.

In order to protect the integrity of the title and program, a superintendent must, after 5 years, show evidence that he has continued his education, if he wants to renew his certification for another 5 years.

Continuing education sufficient for certification renewal may take several forms. Partial credit can be earned by participating in the annual GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show (which this year offered more than 50 hours of educational opportunities). More credit can be earned by taking part in GCSAA-sponsored seminars on subjects like pesticide usage, landscaping, turf nutrition, etc., and still more by undergoing additional high-level testing. At the end of the first 5-year certification period, 85 percent of those originally certified have renewed their credentials.

#### **In summation**

The certification program not only allows the golf course superintendent to be measured; it also provides a credential laymen can use when evaluating golf course superintendents. GCSAA Director of Education Palmer Maples, Jr., summed up the program when he said, “Certification itself is no absolute guarantee of performance. It is however, a demonstration that the certified person has been measured by his peers against a predetermined set of standards and has the required body of knowledge to perform well.”

CGCS is being considered a meaningful and respected credential of many golf courses. You may want to consider this credential the next time you are looking for a superintendent for your golf course. □