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**"Service is Not Our Motto, It's Our Business"**

The following article was written by Mr. Brent Wadsworth, in collaboration with his staff at the Wadsworth Golf Construction Company of the Midwest. The Wadsworth Company is engaged in golf course construction nationwide and is responsible for many fine golf facilities throughout the country. Their reputation for excellence is well known in Wisconsin as they have been involved in the construction of Bull's Eye Country Club, Stevens Point Country Club and Wausau Country Club to name a few.

**What a Golf Course Builder  
Expects of a  
Golf Course Superintendent**

Every golf course improvement project begins with an objective. Included with the basic goal of facility development are certain design, construction and maintenance objectives which each ownership wishes to be expressed. It then becomes the work of the owner's representatives in the form of the golf course architect, the golf course builder, and the golf course superinten-

dent to carry out the objectives and place a project into reality. The most successful projects generally always reflect a level of performance which includes cooperation and understanding among the several professions and occupations required to develop a new golf course facility.

A reasonable and general objective which can be applied to most every new golf course facility, be it a new eighteen hole championship golf course or remodeling a small portion of an existing golf course, would be the development of a facility which offered the highest level of competence within the ownership's budget. In order to attain this type of objective, the superintendent has an opportunity as an owner's key representative to assist the golf course architect and builder in their respective efforts. And further, such assistance should be in the form of applying the superintendent's knowledge concerning his respective field toward producing a well finished facility. This type of approach can help produce a team effort, which is always necessary to fully achieve the desired objective. The responsibilities of the architect, the builder and the superintendent should be well defined and

What a Golf Course Builder expects cont.

understood; but obviously there must be some overlap. On some occasions this overlap may cause doubt: and unfortunately sometimes, even criticism of one another's work can arise. These judgements, if not justly founded, can be the destruction of the team effort which may ultimately result in the unsatisfactory completion of a project. Therefore, it is imperative that everyone carefully analyze the circumstances before expressing an opinion; and certainly, this can be aided by openly discussing the reasoning behind any decisions in question with the appropriate parties involved.

The quality of communication between the working parties will prove to be a very important part in the facility development process. Consequently, it is extremely important that the goals of the project be understood and supported by everyone, thereby allowing the resulting design concepts, construction methods and maintenance practices to compliment each other. True, this is an idealistic situation; and it is difficult to have complete approval by everyone concerned with all phases of the project when, in reality, the budget and the individual priorities will necessitate compromise. However, once again, the quality of communication will determine the successful balance among the needs of the design, the construction, the maintenance and the budget.

Beyond these generalities, how can the golf course superintendent specifically be prepared to contribute to the project? First, he must carefully evaluate the volume of work necessary to take the golf course from a completed construction project to a playable golf course. It will require having the correct amount of equipment, personnel and materials available at

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the proper time. This may seem like an easy task, however, many times the planning is delayed to a point that it is difficult to meet the requirements or to be flexible enough to overcome any adversity. Naturally, the best source of knowledge concerning the requirements for maturing a newly planted golf course is experience. If the superintendent has not had this experience, he should actively search out this information from people who have had the opportunity to work on a newly constructed golf course.



Secondly, since it is impossible to predict what the weather will be following the construction, it is essential that the superintendent be flexible and able to quickly react to the changing needs of maturing turf. The major areas of concern are generally: fertilizing, watering, mowing, protection from insects and disease, and repair of erosion. The ability to properly execute these maintenance functions is only truly effective if the work is done at the exact time it is needed. This does not mean the superintendent should purchase everything needed for all maintenance operations in advance. However, he should, prior to completion of construction, locate reliable sources to accommodate the fluctuating needs for such items as fertilizer, sod, equipment rental, top soil and labor.

Another important task that rests within the responsibilities of the superintendent is a thorough understanding of the operation and maintenance of all components installed in the project. This would include items such as irrigation, pumping, drainage systems and soil mixtures. All of which must operate and be maintained properly in order to receive their intended value. Consequently, the educational process concerning these items should begin before construction is completed and not after.

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What a Golf Course Builder expects cont.

The superintendent must be equally responsible to the ownership, as is the architect and the builder, to the overall goals of the project and must work within a controlled budget to achieve those goals. In summary, the builder expects the superintendent to be a competent representative of any ownership by offering assistance and cooperation without unjust criticism, by participating in supportive communications for the team effort, by carefully evaluating the necessary compromises to achieve a balanced facility, by being prepared to execute the required maintenance functions at the correct time, and by acquiring the essential knowledge to properly operate and maintain the newly installed utilities. By the same token, it is of equal importance that the builder also understand and apply these identical requirements and concepts in his own work as well.



By, Wadsworth Golf Construction Company

## Golf Around the State

With the opening of golf season in Wisconsin, the tournament season will soon be upon us. The following is a partial listing of golf tournaments scheduled for May and June.

May 1 - Annual Tournament of Champions - Riverdale Golf Club.

May 15 - Pro. -Pres. -Supt. - Manager - Blackhawk Country Club.

May 22 - NEWGA Clinic - Pine Hills Country Club.

May 22 - USGA Open Qualifying - West Bend Country Club

June 2, 3, 4 - WSGA Best Ball Championship - West Bend Country Club

June 8, 9,10 - NEWGA Best Ball Championship - Stevens Point C.C.

June 12 thru 15 - WSGA Match Play Championship

June 15 thru 18 - USGA Open Championship - Cherry Hills C.C., Denver, Colorado.

June 23, 24 - Lombardi Memorial Tournament - North Hills Country Club

June 26, 27 - Governor's Cup - LaCrosse Country Club

July 6 thru 9 - Greater Milwaukee Open - Tuckaway Country Club

Further listings will appear in subsequent issues of "THE GRASS ROOTS"

EDITOR

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Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

We, the members of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, depend upon the unity, as well as the professionalism of our membership, to cultivate and maintain superior golf turf as well as golf atmosphere.

The knowledge that is gained through continued education and experience in turfgrass maintenance should be openly shared with mutual trust and comradarie among fellow members. To strive for further and continued knowledge and excellence in all phases of golf course maintenance is our ambition. The Proud legacy of our profession depends upon the pride and integrity which each individual takes within himself.