



New Initiative to Offer Help

By Gordon Waddington, Golf Course Superintendent, Country Club of Wisconsin

As your public relations director, I would be honored to help implement the GCSAA's new initiative, the Limited Budget Outreach Program. The fun in starting this program in our state chapter is that I get to ask our members for their help and assistance. As a reward, you get satisfaction that you have given something back to the profession and from the opportunity to enhance a neighbor's golf course.

The GCSAA Limited Budget Outreach Program has a Mission Statement that reads, "To help fellow superintendents enhance course conditions in order to help grow the game of golf." I'm thinking this is what's called a no-brainer for us here in Wisconsin, known across the land as good, neighborly, down-to-earth people. Well, that sounds like a description of a lot of golf course superintendents I know, doesn't it? This program is simple, involves little time but can make a huge impact on our identity, profession, and the golf industry as a whole. All I need is a few volunteers and a little time.

The program is designed to provide advice and assistance to golf facilities with limited resources. The facilities that will be targeted by this program are those with extremely low budgets, which may or may not employ a full-time "superintendent." The goal of this program is to match experienced superintendents to those charged with the maintenance at these limited budget facilities, in order to provide technical advice and support as requested.

GCSAA chapters are being asked to do the following:

1. Develop a list of limited budget facilities in their areas, along with locations and contact numbers.
2. Develop a list of volunteer superintendents within their chapter.
3. Develop and maintain an inventory list of low-cost used equipment that can be purchased by limited budget facilities.
4. Publicize the program at monthly meetings and encourage participation of volunteers.
5. Encourage monthly meeting attendance by those superintendents employed by limited budget facilities.

GCSAA will then provide:

1. Necessary forms and information to get the program started.
2. Complementary information packets on golf course programs that can be ordered for limited budget facilities to assist in running their golf

course maintenance program.

3. One free GCSAA membership for limited budget superintendents after July 2001.
4. Publicity about the program and tracking/recognition of the program success.

This program is not intended to be a "I'm here to fix your problems," but rather an "I'm available to assist you." It should also be understood that this program can provide a learning experience for both the volunteer and the limited budget superintendent. While we anticipate that most superintendents at limited budget facilities will be receptive to the idea of seeking advice, others may be less inclined until some level of understanding of this program is achieved. Just following your own instincts should prove to be the best route in developing a working relationship.

So if this sounds like it feels good to your soul, then please assist in the implementation of this program. I will not be at the spring business meeting but Kris Pinkerton will speak briefly on its merit. I can be reached via e-mail at gordowadd@aol.com or you can find me in the directory. I'm looking for superintendents who want to volunteer a little of their time for some great satisfaction. I wish to begin this program as soon as possible and plan to ask GCSAA to send out a representative to present the program at one of our monthly meetings. ♣



THOMAS J. EMMERICH
CERTIFIED IRRIGATION DESIGNER

*GOLF COURSE

*COMMERCIAL

*RESIDENTIAL

*MASTER PLANNING

*SYSTEM EVALUATIONS

TOTAL PACKAGE DESIGN SERVICES

T.J. EMMERICH ASSOCIATES, INC.
IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

N68W W30986 CLUB CIRCLE EAST
HARTLAND, WISCONSIN 53029

414-966-1051