

Norma O'Leary, Now CGCS, Leads Active Life While Managing Silver Bay CC

Norma M. O'Leary obviously approaches her life and her career with enthusiasm.

For example, she has a private pilot's license and a Cessna 150 "that is just large enough for myself, my husband and our golf clubs."

She once jumped out of an airplane at 10,000 feet with a parachute and landed on the first fairway at Gunflint Hills Golf Course while she was employed at that Grand Marais course.

She has been manager and superintendent of Silver Bay Country Club since 1990.

And now she has become the seventh woman to be designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

O'Leary, has eight years of experience as a superintendent—two years at Silver Bay, two at Gunflint Hills and four at Dahlgren Golf Course in Chaska, and four years as an assistant superintendent at Dahlgren and Elk River.

Born in Chaska, she grew up right across the street from Dahlgren, began playing the course as a youngster and developed her interest in grounds work by doing odd jobs at the course.

She also studied business and turf management at the University of Minnesota where she played on the women's golf team.

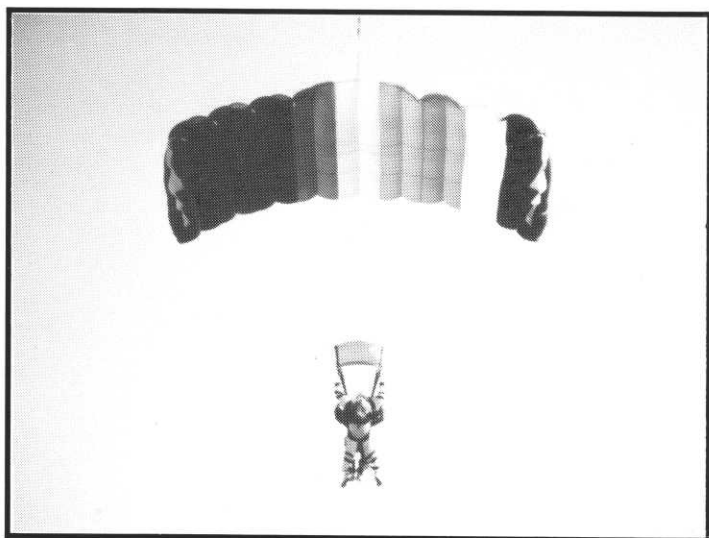


Norma O'Leary

O'Leary passed her examination at the GCSAA Conference in Las Vegas last February and had her course attested in May.

"It's important to commit oneself to staying informed and keeping up with advancements in the profession," she said.

Officially Norma achieved her certified status on June 5 and became one of 1,201 active GCSAA members who hold CGCS status.



Norma skydiving at Gunflint Hills Golf Course

Certification by the GCSAA requires the candidate to be a golf course superintendent a minimum of five years and to pass a rigorous, six-hour examination covering the rules of golf, turfgrass management, financial and organizational management and the history, ethics, purpose and procedures of GCSAA.

In addition, an on-site inspection of the candidate's golf course is conducted. At Silver Bay the review was done by two currently certified superintendents—Rick Fredericksen, head superintendent at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata and vice-president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, and Dale Parske, CGCS from Lesco Corporation.

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