## Economy -

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Nichols says GCSAA business takes some 120 days a year, much of that on weekends. And Cherokee Country Club is a private, highly maintained facility that sees heavy play from its 2,000 members.

"Member demands are high, but I have had tremendous support for participation in GCSAA. Fortunately, most of our meetings are scheduled

for spring, fall and winter. We don't do much during the summer when our course demands the most work. We have bentgrass greens and summer is the most stressful time for them."

Nichols has been on the GCSAA board of directors since 1987 and was active with the Georgia Superintendents Association for 10 years before that. He's accustomed to extra work and balancing the demands of two or more jobs.

But he's convinced that the sacrifice

is justified. "I've gained a lot personally from GCSAA responsibility," he said. "I've met a lot of people: superintendents, folks from USGA, PGA, the Club Managers Association and some from other parts of the industry.

"I've traveled to other parts of the country and to other nations. I understand golf from a broader perspective because I have sat down and talked with superintendents from all over the world. The more I understand the problems they face, the better I can do my job here.

"The worst thing a superintendent can do is spend too much time looking at his own course. Visiting other courses teaches us a lot."

But he adds that working for GCSAA is more than a personal goal. "I'm doing this for the industry," he said. "It's important that we get involved."

That involvement may take him away from his course a good many days a year, but the things he learns, the perspective he gains and the people he meets will make him a better superintendent and will benefit his members.

## When Interviewing Someone for a Job, Ask Proper Questions

When interviewing prospective employees, always remember that you can't legally ask some questions:

- What is your religion?
- Do you have any school-age children?
  - Are you married?
  - Have you ever been arrested?
     You are permitted to ask:
- Will there be any problems if you are asked to work late, or on a weekend?
- Are there any reasons why you might not be able to make an overnight business trip?
- Skip any questions on marital status until a candidate has been hired. Then, you may ask only such questions necessary for insurance and other legitimate purposes.
- Have you ever been convicted of a felony? (Ask only if job-related.)

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