From Azaleas to Zoysia, Golf Course Supers are Experts

There is a person in your community who can help with lawn care troubles, give tips on composting projects, provide information on the safe application of fertilizers and educate youth about environmental stewardship.

If you're a golfer or live near a golf course, you already know this professional as the golf course superintendent. The superintendent is the person responsible for the physical management of the facility and is equipped with science, business and communication skills. An overwhelming majority of these professionals grew up around the game of golf, and therefore also understand how the game is meant to be played.

"Since the golf course superintendent deals with a variety of issues,

you typically find him or her involved in numerous community projects outside of normal job responsibilities," says Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President Paul McGinnis.

"Many superintendents serve as consultants to schools and recreation departments in the maintenance of athletic playing fields. Others are regular guests on outdoor-type radio shows or provide a periodic column in a newspaper. Still some host field trips for civic and education groups at their local course. This professional is truly a community asset."

A recent *Golf Digest* survey revealed that the superintendent was the most important golf course employee.

"I believe the public looks to the superintendent for expertise and leadership," McGinnis says. "We are entrusted by golfers to provide optimum playing conditions, while owners of the facilities are quite cognizant that the value of their investment rests in our abilities to maintain and improve conditions.

"But we are morally and ethically responsible for performing our work in the most environmentally sensitive manner possible. The golf course superintendent is an educated professional who is attuned to the environment. Anyone who spends time with a superintendent recognizes that golf courses are valuable sanctuaries for numerous animal and plant species."

If the superintendent is regarded as the most important person on the golf course, just imagine what he/she can do for your community. — News USA

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