

# GCSAA Celebrates 30th Year of Certification Program

Thirty years ago the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) began a certification program to help superintendents substantiate their work experience and level of continuing education. The Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation was designed to recognize these accomplishments as well as the superintendent's expanding knowledge of the golf industry.

In June 1971, the certification program opened for applications from GCSAA members. Since its inception, the program has certified nearly 2,600 superintendents, maintains an average of 100 applicants a year and is now approaching 1,800 active certified superintendents.

"We are very proud of our certification program and what it has meant to our members," said Mark Woodward,

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CGCS and chairman of GCSAA's certification committee. "Those who choose to become certified are widely recognized leaders in our profession. Although the intent of the program has not changed dramatically in 30 years, we are continually looking for ways to improve the program and increase its value to our members, their employers and the game of golf."

GCSAA's certification committee is challenged with a continual review and update of the certification program in order to keep the established standards current with the industry. It is currently undertaking an initiative to restructure the certification program to validate superintendent competencies based on those defined through GCSAA's professional development initiative. The target date for restructuring completion is July 2003.

Two golf course superintendents entered the program in its infancy stage. They too, will celebrate their 30th anniversary as certified golf course superintendents. For continuing their CGCS status, Garold M. Murphy, CGCS, and Palmer Maples Jr., CGCS, will be presented with certification plaques by Woodward at the association's 75th Anniversary reception and grand gala on Sept. 13, in at Union Station, Kansas City, Mo.

Murphy is a 41-year GCSAA member. He is the golf course superintendent at the Somerset Country Club in Mendota Heights, Minn. He stands alone as the only CGCS to be recognized for maintaining certified status through the completion of six renewal periods and still be actively employed as a golf course superintendent.

Maples is a retired 42-year GCSAA member from Lawrenceville, Ga. Since his retirement, Maples opted to continue meeting the requirements of certification renewal and completed six five-year renewal periods. Maples is a past GCSAA president, serving in 1975. In addition, he received a USGA Green Section Award in 2000.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide.

Visit the GCSAA online at [www.GCSAA.org](http://www.GCSAA.org) or [www.GolfSuper.com](http://www.GolfSuper.com).

*Playing golf doesn't  
take time away  
from your life...it puts  
life into your time.*