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**National News**

New GCSAA Conference date in Anaheim, California. The date of the Conference was moved up from Feb. 17-22 to Feb. 10-15 This change was made to improve on the facilities available at this earlier date.

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It isn't enough to ask intelligent questions; you have to listen intelligently to the answers.

**COMMUNICATION**

Any Superintendent of a golf course operation realizes that communications with his club are difficult. We do not operate out of a central office in the club and often times we are not even able to get up to the club to get our lunch or mail. With no answering service, no secretary, or assistant to "always be available" we repeatedly loose contact with the club and its members and staff. This I consider is a major downfall of our profession. When nobody knows where we are or what we are doing people often assume we are not even on the job. As long as this situation exists we loose ground on our professional static.

Other than the greens committee chairman, the golf pro, and the club manager we should strive to improve communications with our members - eat lunch with them when you can, play an occasional round of golf on your course with your members, attend club golf functions that the ladies and men golfers often have during the year.

One of the most useful means of communication a superintendent has is the monthly publication, "newsletter", that most clubs put out each month. Each month the superintendent should write a couple paragraphs for his club's newsletter informing his members on the activities his greens crew is involved in or jobs they have completed that are worth mentioning. Following is the short, informative article I wrote for this month's *Newsette* at Manor Country Club.

Early this past fall our greens crew began to tackle the largest job we have ever faced on our golf course - that of leaf removal without burning.

Prior to 1972 we were permitted to burn leaves in the fall so long as no complaints were coming in about the smoke. Each year we burned the majority of our leaves in the general area where they fell which enabled our crew to minimize the hours required for leaf clean-up.

This past fall however we were faced with absolutly no permission to burn any leaves at any time. Consequently we had to haul every load of leaves off the course to the back parking lot.

We converted our dump truck and other vehicles to haul our leaves, and at one point we even used a rental moving van to haul out some of our larger loads. Unfortunately though proper leaf removal equipment is not yet available and we spent many long man hours in collecting and moving leaves off the course.

From early October through this past February we spent a total of 2,137 hours on just leaf clean-up. Hopefully new mechanical equipment will be available in the near future that will enable us to reduce the hours required to remove the leaves from our golf course each fall.

Craig Spottswood  
 Golf Course Superintendent

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Inflation is when the thing you bought a few years ago now costs more to repair than you paid for it.

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Conversation is the slowest form of human communication.

Don Herold