

Get Involved Wherever You Are

By: *Andrea C. Bokolyar, Superintendent
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As a golf course management professional, I have played many roles: laborer, student, chapter member, GCSAA member, GCSAA committee member, conference and show participant, conference speaker, author, assistant superintendent and now superintendent. Yet the first time I stepped on a golf course was three years ago.

However, after accepting my first assistant superintendent position in November 1998, I recognized early how important it was to get involved, network and educate myself as I met new people in the industry. Getting involved in my local and national associations has already brought new opportunities, recognition and success.

With the demands of my new position, I found I had very little time or energy left for career advancement. I decided that my professional life was made of two entities: my job duties and my career goals. I no longer let my duties interfere with my career goals and my goals with my job duties. I created boundaries and set personal goals that I would work on away from the job. I budget a certain amount of hours a month for meetings and educational opportunities. I try to schedule my work so I am able to attend as many events as possible, and found other ways to network that don't involve my work schedule, such as writing articles for industry publications. When I became a superintendent earlier this year, I continued to follow the same path to further advance my career.

Working on your career goals is important for any individual, no matter what stage you are at in the industry. Don't allow the daily responsibilities of your job to hold you back from furthering your career. Go to work every day and give 100 percent, learn and develop skills that will make you a successful leader and agronomist. Then also find ways to advance your career. Some career advancement guidelines I follow:

1. Attend the GCSAA conference and show.
2. Go to at least five local meetings a year, if possible, go to one a month.
3. Write an article for your chapter or GCSAA publications.
4. Communicate with GCSAA on a regular basis.
5. Serve on a committee within your local association.
6. Write letters and make phone calls.
7. Try to give at least one hour a week to your local and national associations.
8. Volunteer your time, ideas and services as much as you can.

By following these guidelines, I have managed to advance my place in the profession, but I am continuously setting new goals for myself. New opportunities help me enjoy my job and let me look forward to work each day. I am a superintendent in training, but it's up to me to continue my progression in the industry. I urge everyone in the golf course management profession to network, get involved and make things happen for you. /

Environmental Certification for Carls

Gary K. Carls, CGCS at Santa Teresa Golf Club has earned an environmental management specialist certificate from the GCSAA. Gary recently completed the specialization program for Storage, Disposal and Recycling. Carls had previously completed the GCSAA specialization programs for USTs and IPM. Earning these credentials demonstrates a personal commitment to environmental preservation and protection. Congratulations Gary! /

Terry's Tournament Tips For August

by *Terry Grasso*

The format for the Scholarship and Research event at Rossmoor August 16 is a two-person team competition.

AFFILIATES, this is **your** tournament! So pick up the phone and invite your favorite superintendent, or one with a suspect handicap, to be your partner. These events are planned to promote relationships among GCSANC members. Sign up early, and join in on all the fun at Rossmoor Monday August 16.

PS Will somebody please make sure that Blake Swint shows up for the raffle/auction!