

CHAPTERS PROVIDE A SAFETY NET FOR THEIR MEMBERS IN TIMES OF NEED

Word spread quickly amongst the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association members. One of their own needed help. The maintenance facility at Spring Lakes Golf Club in Fort Madison, Iowa had burned down. So, the chapter did what most of us would expect – they lent a hand, or in this case many hands! With the help of chapter members, Brad Wade's facility was rebuilt. Members lent equipment until Wade could get back on his feet.

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, executive director of the Iowa GCSA said, "We had a great turnout. The guys really came through. Iowa GCSA has no official 'member help' fund, or policy, but I wouldn't say I was surprised by members' behavior. This is what we do," Wendel said.

Chapters are often a safety net for their members. Although members may not expect to turn to their chapter for support, it is something that most GCSAA-affiliated chapters will tell you is available when needed.

Chapters offer a sense of community

The Finger Lakes Association of GCS is a tight knit group of superintendents located in the Rochester area of New York. Chapter members were shocked last year when they learned of the death of Matthew J. Hahn, Superintendent at Blue Heron Hills Country Club and Chapter Treasurer. The Finger Lakes Association of GCS members immediately came to the assistance of Hahn's family - through the benevolence fund, and later through a tournament that raised \$14,000 to establish a trust fund for Hahn's children.

The chapter extended its sense of community, not only to Matthew Hahn's family, but to his golf course as well. Greg Klem, Finger Lakes Association of GCS president said, "As a board, we informed the club that they didn't need to rush into any decision on hiring a new superintendent. We wanted to honor Matt's memory by taking care of his golf course, until a suitable candidate was presented." The Finger Lakes members took turns checking in on the crew at Blue Heron Hills and lending a hand when needed. Six months after Hahn passed away, the club hired a new superintendent. All agree that it is a good fit.

Communication is often key

The stories above reflect how chapter members reach out to each other in extraordinary circumstances. When a fellow member is struggling with the aftermath of a natural disaster, or sadly, if a colleague passes away, the path we take to help seems simple. What happens when we know of someone who is stricken by illness? While chapters often step in to offer support, GCSAA, if informed of the situation, can take steps to help as well. If members are unable to work due to illness, GCSAA can place their membership in an inactive status. This would allow them to stay in touch with GCSAA, and enjoy the same benefits as before, while not having to keep up with their renewal requirements. Chapters can help their members by notifying GCSAA when a member needs assistance.

Members matter most. Together, GCSAA and chapters can ensure that members' best interests are top priority.

2006 PACE TURFGRASS RESEARCH SEMINAR RESULTS

Turf Precision Management is the 21st Century's IPM

Turf precision management helps turf managers gain greater control and better results. This approach, which is based on the concept of managing turf on the smallest reasonable scale, was the central theme of the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute's 10th Annual Turfgrass Research Seminar held April 7th in San Diego and attended by 145 managers of turf. Findings, presentations and handouts from the seminar are available on the PACE Member Edition's website. Non-members may sample the website through a free three-week trial membership available at www.paceturf.org.

GPS (global positioning systems) and GIS (geographic information systems) can and should be used in conjunction with sensors that monitor soil moisture and turf quality, said PACE Research Director Dr. Larry Stowell. The precision tools used in combination move turf management programs beyond IPM and beyond best management practices. They have proven effective in helping resolve problems that include irrigation distribution, soil moisture variability and white grub infestations.

A camera is an often forgotten, but invaluable precision tool for documenting problems, techniques and progress toward turf management goals, Stowell said. In addition, the rise of digital photography makes it possible for turf managers to communicate easily with one another via photographic images. Techniques for taking photos, formatting them for digital use and for uploading them onto PACE website's Photo Gallery (a resource of more than 500 turfgrass photos available on the PACE Public website) were reviewed and are available at www.paceturf.org.

Achieving firmer greens has always been a dilemma and is a problem tackled by PACE Research Director Dr. Wendy Gelernter. Though

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CELL PHONE ETIQUETTE – HOW PROPER ARE YOU?

Cell phones are everywhere in this day and age. People talk on their cell phones in the car, in grocery stores, in airports – anywhere they can get a signal. However, there are times when it is appropriate to turn cell phones completely off and concentrate your full attention on the task at hand. This is especially true for business meetings.

Golf course management is a fast-paced industry with many different components. Cell phones are a vital tool to keep on top of the details of running a golf course. However, when you are meeting with members, the green committee, or community leaders, it is important to make them feel that your whole attention is focused on that meeting. Text messaging, checking messages, and especially answering a cell phone, sends the message that there are more important things happening than what is going on in that room.

Even if a cell phone is turned to vibrate, the temptation to check the caller ID and see who is calling can be too strong to resist. The best way to stay polite and focused is to turn the cell phone completely off and leave it in a purse or briefcase. Unless you are expecting urgent medical news, there is no reason to answer a call during a meeting. And, if you are waiting for a very important call, tell the members of your meeting before it starts.

Scott Ginsberg, professional speaker and author of “The Power of Approachability,” says that answering a cell phone during a meeting “violates the golden rule of interpersonal communication, which is to make the other person feel like the most important person in the world.” The rules of cell phone etiquette apply not only to official boardroom-type meetings, but lunch and dinner meetings as well. A more casual atmosphere does not mean rudeness is more acceptable. If you walk into a meeting and immediately set

your phone on the table in front of you (whether it is a table at a restaurant or in a meeting room), you are telling the other person that they may not be as important as whoever might call. Or, as Jerry Seinfeld says, “I have 62 other people on speed dial that I could call if I wanted to; so you’d better be interesting.”

Text messaging can also lead to rudeness, however unintentional. If you need to check in with your superintendent or assistant superintendent, say so and excuse yourself to make a quick call. Keeping your head down and hiding the phone in your lap while you text fools no one. Joseph Sommerville, president of Peak Communication Performance, points out that text messaging “forces you to lose eye contact and sends the message that you’re not fully engaged.” Even if you’re in a large gathering or attending a presentation, text messaging will draw attention to the fact that you aren’t paying attention.

Unless there is a pending emergency, it is better to be safe than sorry when dealing with cell phones and business etiquette. According to “Six Gadget Etiquette Dos and Don’ts for the Workplace” by Allan Hoffman, “etiquette experts caution that whatever efficiency you gain, you will likely lose in respect when your attention shifts from the meeting agenda to your gadget of choice.” Show your fellow meeting participants that they are the most important and turn the cell phone off.

You can always check your voicemail later.

Sources: “Cell Phone Etiquette,” Scott Ginsberg, “The Sideroad;” “Business Encourage Mobile Manners,” Amy C. Sims, www.etiquetteexpert.com; “Six Gadget Etiquette Dos and Don’ts for the Workplace,” Allan Hoffman, www.monster.com.

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the goal of firmer greens is common, Gelernter said there are no guidelines for measuring firmness or for management practices that lead to firmness in conjunction with optimum turf health. Gelernter proposed guidelines of 70 to 125 gravities of firmness (as measured with the precision tool the Clegg Impact meter) for cool-season greens and a soil moisture range of 15 percent to 25 percent.

An update on rapid blight, *Labyrinthula terrestris*, was offered by Dr. Mary Olsen of the University of Arizona. Olsen’s findings included:

--On overseeded fairways, fungicide programs that were triggered preventively (timed as soon as the overseed was up) and were based on the high labeled rates of products, such as Insignia, Compass or Fore, were most effective.

--The disease has long been linked with high soil salinity, but Olsen’s data shows it is probably sodium, rather than salinity in general, that is responsible for increased disease incidence. Other salts, such as potassium chloride, did not increase the incidence of rapid blight.

Other information presented at the seminar, and posted at the PACE website, include a disease update by Dr. Frank Wong of the University of California, the effects of water quality and quantity on bermudagrass physiology by Dr. Shoumo Mitra of Cal Poly Pomona, and new data on white grub management and poa management by Gelernter.

PACE Turfgrass Research Institute (PACE) is a membership organization that provides research, education and information services to the turf management community. Founded in 1993 by its research directors Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. and Larry Stowell, Ph.D., the PACE mission is to generate and share independent and objective agronomic information among turf professionals so they may develop management programs that are effective, practical and scientifically sound.

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