

Credibility, what we all need on the job.



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Credibility is a topic rarely discussed at golf course superintendents meetings. Credibility is trust and faith in another's ability. Credibility is a reason to give the benefit of the doubt. Lack of credibility is a life of frustration.

I cannot ask for credibility; I have to earn it. My success begins and ends with my credibility.

Organizational skills contribute to being perceived as a credible person. I need to correctly write a letter or report, return phone calls in a timely manner, and develop and follow policies and procedures.

Leadership is not telling people what to do. I need to ask the right questions to fully understand the conditions our membership expects. I need to take a good suggestion for improvement and explain it so everyone can understand. I need to make everyone feel part of the finished product. I need to yield to a better idea.

Like most golf course superintendents I want to be respected. I want members of the Birmingham Country Club to perceive me as a professional with a passion for managing their golf course.

I want to sit in a meeting and feel they want my ideas and vision for their golf course. I want to feel I am part of the club's history. I want to feel I am effectively representing the interest and well being of our golf course maintenance staff. I want our membership to have confidence in my representing their club.

As a superintendent in today's world, I must constantly improve myself. I attend turf conferences to improve my agronomic skills. Experience has shown me that I should spend an equal amount of time trying to better understand and improve my interpersonal skills.

It's important for professionals to periodically think about what our actions and words say to

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Judy Bell tops with ASGCA

our bosses and members.

How am I perceived? Do we speak the same language? Do they understand the terminology I use in my daily life? I realize that I should periodically take some time to see things from a member's perspective.

-----[SUPERS ON COURSE]-----

Bickler's dream course came true

The 18-hole Encinitas Ranch Golf Course in Southern California opens this month. It was designed by Gary Bickler, ASGCA, San Diego. More than 20 years ago Bickler lived on a country road across from the Ecke flower fields and dreamed of designing a course on the property. The City of Encinitas made his dream come true by hiring him to do just that.

Falcon Dunes finished months early

Superintendent **Pete DiMaggio**, CGCS handled the grow-in at The Falcon Dunes Golf Course at Luke Air Force Base, Glendale, AZ. Falcon Dunes opened this winter. Valley Crest was the prime contractor on the \$9 million project. Construction began in March 1997 and finished three months ahead of schedule. Gary Panks designed Falcon Dunes, which was built without the use of taxpayer dollars.