Reality Bites: The Learning Never Ends

If you can’t anticipate, communicate, appreciate and participate in the big picture, you will have wasted much of your education.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “The things taught in schools and colleges are not an education, but the means of education.”

We can argue till the cows come home about the pro’s and con’s of learning your basic skills in a two-year specialty program, or a traditional four-year program, or from the school-of-hard-knocks at a master craftsman’s side.

No matter the varied paths we take to become a superintendent, it is how well we learn the important lessons along the way that matters most.

If you can’t anticipate, communicate, appreciate and participate in the big picture, you will have wasted much of your education.

I have met outstanding superintendents from all walks of life and educational backgrounds. The one thing they all have in common is that they never stop learning or educating themselves. That education takes many forms. Reading. Traveling. Listening. Questioning. Conversing. Experimenting. Failing. Succeeding. Sharing.

These same successful superintendents can be found religiously attending their local chapter meetings, regional and national seminars, national and international conferences and trade shows.

It is in these venues that the best minds gather. It is here that the good superintendent gleans the knowledge to feed his hungry mind. The good superintendent then takes new ideas and information back to his job and applies it for the betterment of his/her golf course.

We are obviously in the midst of an communication/information revolution. The wise will participate either for the adventure or at least for self defense and survival.

Those with closed minds, superintendents, owners and operators alike, will be swept away in time by the winds of change. It is education in all its forms that prepares us for the challenges of success.

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Disney’s Magnolia G.C.

Mockery is The Best Form of Flattery

by Darren J. Davis

I once had a fellow superintendent tell me, “My success is not attributed solely to my knowledge and training.” He added, “A large part of what I have done is based on things I have seen other superintendents do.” He felt he was one of the best “copiers” in the business. If you knew who made that comment, I think you