We are never too old to learn, and one of the best ways to learn is to ask questions!

In my eighteen-plus years of working in Florida, the one thing I’ve learned is to always ask questions.

I have listened to and talked with a lot of people over the years who have said, “I wonder how he or she did this or that to their course, or why they did it.” I have played a lot of golf courses in Florida and around the country. I also see things I might like to try at my club or at least learn more about.

When I have a question, I try to make it a point to ask that person after I play the course at a chapter meeting or to call later to find out about whatever caught my eye.

It could be a maintenance practice, a landscape planting or anything unusual that stood out while I played the course. I have been fortunate to work for and get to know a lot of superintendents in our profession who have helped me in my career by sharing answers to my questions.

A word of caution. Be careful about what you say if you see a fertilizer burn or sprayer mistake. Some people are reluctant to discuss the bad things that happen. If you mention you have had a similar problem at your club, then it might be easier to bring up the subject in conversation.

There’s another wrinkle to asking questions. I play a lot of tournament golf and I am often paired with members of various clubs. When they find out I’m a superintendent, they start asking why their superintendent does this or that.

If it is a simple question about grass types or weed identification, then I’ll answer. But, I always tell them to ask their superintendent why he maintains the course a certain way, or why an area is a problem.

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