



return, it helps your professional image when asking to purchase a \$40,000 piece of equipment. And members are getting that professional appearance that they pay for and deserve on an upscale golf course.

We have recently started cleaning the shop on Monday mornings. It sets a positive atmosphere for the week. Each day all trash is emptied throughout the buildings, shop and fuel island. Every Friday we scrub the floors in the lunchroom, hallways and the shop floor.

Most people reading this article may think, "Man, I don't have that much time" or, "My job is to keep the golf courses clean." From experience, it takes less time to clean each day and week, rather than a massive spring-cleaning or rainy-day cleanup. Like the outside of the building, we made the inside as maintenance-free as possible. Ceramic tile was installed instead of linoleum. This saves money and time each year from waxing the linoleum.

For these reasons and many more, it is important to keep the "hub" well-designed, spotless and extremely organized. It is everyone's responsibility to keep the building in good condition. It portrays a professional image for everyone.

*MATTHEW R. TAYLOR
Bonita Bay East*

Superintendents with Blue Collars Aren't Invisible

I am a working superintendent at a daily fee course. Part of my day is spent preparing the course for play, mowing or applying chemicals.

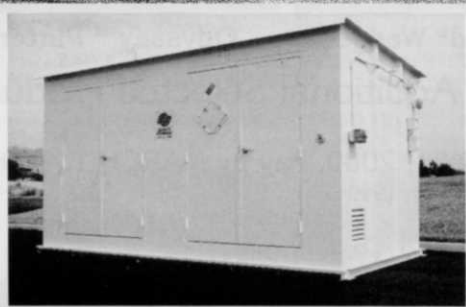
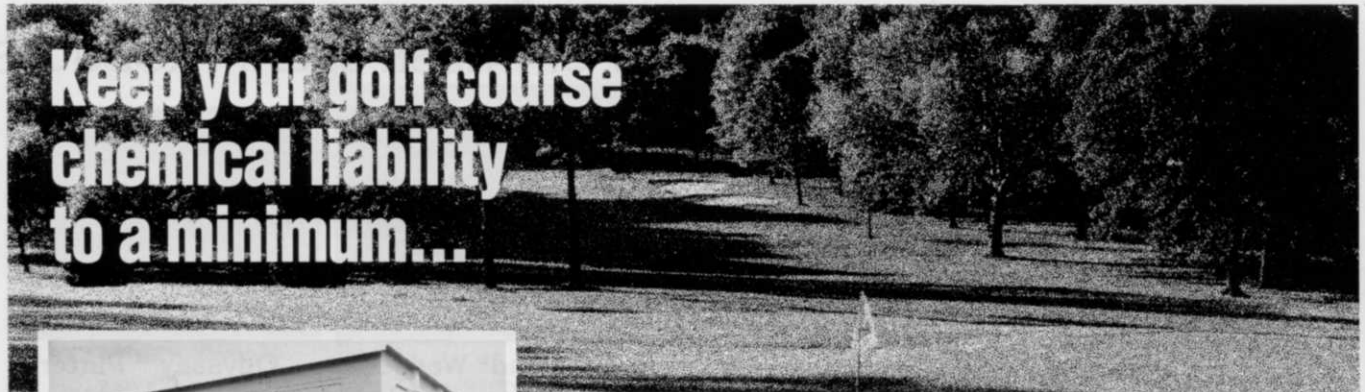
A normal work day at Winter Pines Golf Club is 6 a.m. to 2:30 p. m. with a break at 8:30 a.m. and a half hour for lunch. I usually work three hours on Sunday morning unless a seminar, meeting or golf tournament has been planned in advance.

Since I am a supervisor and also part of the working staff, I have a uni-

form to wear like the rest of the crew while on the clock. Wearing a golf shirt and slacks isn't very practical since I may have to perform any of the jobs on the course. The company provides and pays for the cleaning of everyone's uniform.

Winter Pines is a family-owned and -operated club. Projects, problems and even normal maintenance are normal daily topics of conversation with the owner, Ed McMillin and his son, Jon, who is the president and club manager. They are very hands-on people and are often out in the field working side by side with us on capital projects. So my image and visibility with them are born out of mutual respect for our abilities and commitment to the common success of the course.

Communicating and being visible to members and guests is just as important at a public course as they are at a private club. I usually stop by the clubhouse for either breaks or lunch



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daily and I am available to answer questions from our regular members and daily-fee players. We also keep a clubhouse bulletin board with basic information on repairing ball marks and divots and course etiquette posted to educate our guests. I also promptly return phone calls from homeowners who live around the course.

I touch base frequently with the head pro John Pohira or his assistants Mike Hess and Becky Kaye. They keep me informed of the good and bad comments from the customers and tell me about any special events that are being planned. Our maintenance schedule is pretty flexible, so any cultural practices only need a minimum of a week's notice to plan tee times for closing nine holes for a half day.

Our maintenance shop is located behind the ninth green and near the first tee. It is also visible from the clubhouse and parking lot so keeping the shop and the surrounding area clean

and neat is a top priority. Fertilizer and chemical rooms are kept cleaned and locked. All equipment is cleaned daily as it returns to the shop.

The employee bulletin board at the shop has all the required federal, state and local notices posted including wage and hour, worker's compensation, OSHA and Hazardous Materials/MSDS information. The FCCI person does a safety inspection of our shop every two or three months and the Florida Department of Agriculture inspector checks our pesticide records and does fertilizer and seed analysis when requested.

The planned work schedule for the crew is posted daily by the time clock. I talk with my mechanic, spray tech, landscape specialist and other key persons daily to give them a chance to ask any questions or report their observations on any course problems.

I maintain a very active role with my professional associations. I usually attend local monthly chapter meetings,

state association meetings, educational seminars and the annual GCSAA Conference and Show. My spray technician and other key crew members usually attend the Mid-Florida Turf Conference. All education is usually paid for or reimbursed by the owner and we are encouraged to attend as our schedule permits.

I think I have been very visible in the industry by playing other golf courses, attending meetings and seminars, and serving in local and state associations. No matter what the activity, I always learn new ideas and information. Every operation needs a little tweaking now and then so I'm always listening and learning to do my job better.

A positive image is something every type of superintendent can achieve at their individual courses no matter how big or small the budgets are.

JOE ONDO, CGCS
Winter Pines GC



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