Un-retired superintendents decide not to go fishing

Continued from previous page

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And others, like Fleming, may use their knowledge to expand into other careers.

Besides course architecture, Fleming designs landscaping and water features as well as wetlands for mitigation banking. “When you come down to it,” he said, “the presentation of a golf course is always in the hands of the superintendent. It’s been good for me because I’ve been able to apply my field experience back to the concepts of design. How many designers are certified golf course superintendents or certified pesticide applicators?”

Lucas thinks this continued involvement is a generational phenomena that will disappear with the younger superintendents. “We, in my time, had blinders on and didn’t know much but work,” Valentine said. “Get up at the crack of dawn and get over to the club. We became creatures of habit. Work was our way of life. I didn’t know what to do if I did take a week off. Today, I see superintendents vacationing in July. If we had done that, we would have returned only to find our desk and chair out in the parking lot. Twenty years from now, guys will retire and stay retired.”

But many may follow Ebel’s example. “If I wanted to stay put, I could have,” he said. “I simply decided it was time to retire.”

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Seminar focuses on tree care

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Artistic Arborist, Inc.'s Equipment & Supply Division will conduct a seminar here on tree health management on March 14.

The 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seminar will be conducted by Dr. Terry A. Tattar, a professor of plant pathology at the University of Massachusetts' Shade Tree Laboratory.

Tattar will speak on the tree as a system; important pathogens of trees and the diseases and other problems they cause; the nature of fungi, over- and under-cary by humans; preventive maintenance; methodology and standards; spraying and pruning foliage; surface and subsurface roots; microinjections of the stem or trunk; and how to promote tree health.

More information is available from Artistic Arborist at 706 W. Montecito, Phoenix, Ariz. 85013; telephone 602-263-8889.