



Insight **One Superintendent's Perspective**

By Randy Pankonen
Little Falls Country Club



The Course

Little Falls Country Club is an 18 hole, Par 72 course designed by Jim Dahl located on the south edge of town at the corner of Hwy. 76 and Hilton Road nestled in majestic oaks along the Mississippi River.

Years in Business

I've been in the business for 18 years, 15 as Superintendent. My schooling was at Anoka Hennepin Technical College.

Why and how did I enter the turf management industry?

For the love of the game and the dream of one day managing a golf course.

Who was my professional mentor and why?

Morris Tedd Evans III. Ted runs a beautiful 18-hole course on Lake Campbell in Brookings, SD. He transformed the course into one of the nicest in the state of South Dakota.

Highest Point

Getting my first opportunity to help re-design and build a course, Pipestone Country Club.

Lowest Point

Leaving the course you assisted in the re-design and building of, as it was growing in.

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

I would say politics. I work for a municipal golf course with a very tight budget.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course and how do you?

Anthracnose, the fairways are bluegrass; by cutting them as short as golfers like them it opens them up to the disease, along with warm temperatures and poor soil.

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

Good help is always hard to come by but I am fortunate to have a very good assistant along with good seasonal people.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

No, we do not. But are looking at it very strongly. The geese that live on the Mississippi River love our fairways.

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

The hybrids in the turf grasses will be a great asset in lowering the use on chemicals, along with state and federal regulation, maintenance will be better managed do to them.

Where do I plan to be in 10 years?

Retired???

What is my perspective of our state association and what would you change?

One of the most active in the nation, great assistance with data collected.

Name your foursome...

Greg Norman, Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia. It would be a great way to spend an afternoon.



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