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 GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
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How to Become a Shutterbug

A camera in the hands of a superintendent becomes a vital tool of turf management. Your results become valuable permanent records which will serve you through out all your years on the golf course.

The camera reproduces an image of anything we see, quickly, effortlessly, and with today's cameras, automatically. Quickly if you use a Polaroid, effortlessly if you habitually carry your camera in your maintenance vehicle, and automatically is self explanatory with today's cameras; even a child can pop a film cartridge in a camera and produce acceptable results.

The cameras formost value to the superintendent is a visual record of his golf course activities. Pictures should be taken through the seasons, of all maintenance operations, renovation projects, irrigation and drainage installation, landscaping, new construction projects, and virtually anything you preform, or supervise the performance of, for your country club and golf course. The full value of the visual records can only be compared to how frequently the camera is utilized. The more pictures you have the more valuable they will become to you in the following years.

One of the best uses I've had for slides is to educate new committee members, chairman, or club officials. They change each year or two so this becomes a never ending process of education. What better way is there to show new members the evolution of their golf course?

Editors Note

Dr. Douglas Hawes corrected me at the meeting on the statement I made in last month's newsletter month's newsletter pertaining to the turf textbook he was currently writing. His text is to be a 30 page grass identification manual of the State of Maryland and not a whole textbook. Needless to say he was quite surprised to read of his impending book! Fortunately I had Dr. Hawes as my turf instructor at the University of Maryland and he knows I am prone to mistakes.

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They will immediately appreciate your job difficulties and quickly learn the huge scope of your total operations after viewing their golf course through your slides. They see the course through "Your eyes" and not those of the golfer.

Another good use of pictures is to include them where possible within any report you submit to committee or club officials. "A picture is worth a thousand words." Trite but meaningful. As you well know few people will take the time to digest a written report, read it yes, comprehend it, no. The use of supplementary pictures with any report is always of value to the reader. Human nature is such that all of us prefer looking at a picture instead of reading. Especially if the picture would save some effort and time for the reader. A second advantage is that pictures included within a report illustrate a greater degree of concern on your part to submit a useful and valuable report.

Other valuable pictures we should have of our golf course are listed below. The pictures you take can become a life long record of your accomplishments which would be identified with you and your abilities.

1. Picture of before, after, and during any new project of alteration of the course or club grounds.
2. Picture any underground installation of irrigation pipe, wires, drains, valves, (location of valves for winterizing system), septic tanks, etc.
3. Flooded or storm damaged areas; extremes in high and low pond levels. Plus one showing the pond at normal water level. (Members soon forget what happened yesterday).
4. Pictures of your equipment and maintance building for inventory purposes. To be kept at the club house or

home, and pictures of equipment in need of replacement.

5. Flower beds at peak season, and before and after creating beds. These pictures will help you plan for the following years.

6. Picture each hole, from tee to green, from green to tee, and again from the best overall vantage point of the hole. These pictures are of educational value and help you watch the course maturity. Supplement this file of pictures with an aerial view.

7. Picture your troublesome greens during summer stress on the same day for several consecutive years, and on the same day each week for one year or month. If these pictures are taken from exactly the same spot you can flip or "rifle" through them rapidly and see great changes. Pictures each week of one green work best.

8. Picture areas in need of renovation or improvement during the "areas" period of worst appearance. Use these slides in the fall to remind club officials of what has to be done to avoid a re-occurrence of a summer problem area.

9. Picture winter activities, justify your manpower.

10. Picture prominent members, committee members "doing what they were selected for on the committee." Also photograph the pro, manager, and of course all your men actively engaged in what they do best. These pictures are helpful not only as recorded history, but also as an occasional ego booster when you want to have them see themselves on film; for some reason they then think more of you and of themselves.

11. Pictures of your men at work are also very useful training aids on rainy days.

12. Photograph all vandalism. You will never again have to say "You should of seen" or "you should see."

13. Photograph any original ideas, inventions, or items of interest.

14. Picture other golf course areas that would be of possible help to your operation at some latter date; example: trap designs, shelters, maintenance buildings, fences, etc.

15. Take black and white pictures to accompany a written report.

16. Photograph diseases, weed problems, and insect or animal, lightning, machine damage.

17. Photograph landscaping projects. Don't be reluctant to photograph all plant injuries and note the injury so you won't have a "Tom Mascarro" picture to identify at some later date. Such injury could be chemical, gas, pollution, lightning, mechanical, fungus, insects, etc.

18. Try to take pictures of every maintenance operation; they may seem day to day operations to you but what's normal today might be old fashioned tomorrow. Just look back over the past ten years as evidence of this fact. Include yourself in pictures.

19. Photograph a few soil profiles of each green from a measured distance from two irrigation heads so that you can retake the same profile in years to come from exactly the same spot on the green.

The pictures you take can become a lifelong record of your accomplishments which would be identified with you and your abilities.

In next months newsletter, I'll expound a bit on how to take pictures, what cameras are good for golf course pictures, and various ways to simplify picture taking.

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