

Combined Golf Day at Short Hills C.C. & Rock Island Arsenal G.C.

by John Meyer



My Mechanic Has Quit

Have you ever had this nightmare, and woke up in a sweat only to find it was not true? This is, however, a reality many superintendents do face. Mechanics, recently referred to as technicians; retire, quit the field or move to another course. Some Superintendents have done their own mechanical work, expand their courses, and then can't find a full-time technician.

"Being a mechanic is not my forte" says Paul Voykin, Briarwood Country Club. "I'll be lost without my mechanic." Most superintendents are not strong mechanically.

"As an instructor of Golf Course Management at Kishwaukee College", says Larry Marty, "I've had several calls in the last three years from superintendents asking for help. Some are in a panic."

To fill this void, Kishwaukee College has developed a 2-year Horticulture Technology Degree Program to fine tune and direct a mechanical repair interest into a career. "Students take some horticulture as it relates to turf as well as mechanical repair courses such as hydraulics, diesels, electrical, etc. They will be well informed about the total golf course", says Carol Quenett, Associate Dean for Agriculture/Horticulture/Automotive.

"At Kishwaukee College we're finding students don't just flock into the program though", Marty says. "After all, being a Golf Course Technician is not a household word at high schools, trade schools or even community colleges".

Marty feels that people with training or an interest in Agricultural Technology, Automotive Technology, and Diesel Technology need to be recruited by all of us working with the Golf Course industry.

Butch Griswold, Power Equipment Technology Instructor at Kishwaukee College, challenges all superintendents to, "Look at the interests of your summer help and go visit your local high school horticulture or trade classes and discuss a career as a Golf Course Technician. Direct them to school for two years and we'll send them back to you so you can sleep nights knowing you have a competent technician on staff."