

Director's Column

by Kevin Czerkies

As I write this article, the weather outside is nasty. Minus 10 degrees with a wind chill of 40 below. We've had plenty of cold days this winter so I've been spending a lot of time in the office. As we all know, there's only so much to do in the office in the wintertime. This article is one of the few things on my agenda.



I've had time to reflect on the past few years as well as look to the future. Being a Golf Course Superintendent is something I truly enjoy. I decided to write this article on the things I like and dislike about my job.

Because our profession is so unique, I'm sure that not everyone will agree with my views. Anyway, here's a few thoughts about being a Golf Course Superintendent at a park district facility. I'm sure many of you can relate to what I'm saying.

It's always better to begin with the positive things first, so here they are:

1. Golf course construction.
2. Planting trees.
3. GCSAA convention.
4. Free golf since high school.
5. Watching irrigation sprinklers at dusk.
6. Being outside on nice days and inside on bad ones.
7. Recharging myself during the winter season.
8. The smell of fresh cut grass.
9. The many friends I've made in the business.
10. Watching the sun rise every day.

Now the flipside. Some negative aspects of my chosen profession:

1. Having to go to bed on a warm summer evening while the sun is still shining.
2. Continually having to explain to new board members why a fairway mower costs more than their new car.
3. Pressure to keep the golf course open during inclement weather conditions.
4. Park district safety committees.
5. No summer vacations.
6. Nuts and bolts salesmen.
7. Finding course vandalism at the crack of dawn.
8. Conducting surveys.
9. Irrigation leaks.
10. Getting up at 3:30 a.m. for six months and **watching the sun rise every day.**

After all is said and done, we've really got it pretty good. I could be stuck in this office year round!

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