

From a Student To a Teacher

by Jim Keith, St. Charles Country Club

As I make the transition from being the assistant superintendent to the head groundskeeper here at St. Charles Country Club, I think daily about the things that were taught to me by my former mentor, Peter Leuzinger. The irony of the whole situation is that I did not realize how much I learned until after Peter left for his new position. I feel this is probably a general consensus among most assistants until they attain their first superintendents position. More times than not, assistants are so "into" their job and at pleasing their boss, they often overlook the "big picture" and at what is trying to be accomplished and for what reason. In doing so, careless and silly mistakes are sometimes the end result. The most important aspect of all this, is to be humble and learn from those experiences.

Probably the most important thing I learned from Peter and which I admire him most for, is what it takes to become a Chicagoland Superintendent and be successful. When I think of the MAGCS and what it stands for, I think of him. Innovation and attitude are synonymous in Peter's vocabulary. A person cannot have one and not the other and be successful. A pioneer in bringing the Audubon program to golf courses worldwide, he has stressed the importance of communication between the green industry and public opinion. He has helped to deter negative opinions of golf courses and proven our industry promotes and utilizes IPM and programs such as the Audubon's to protect our environment. All of his accomplishments have proven to me that being a superintendent is more than just growing grass; we must be responsible to our industry, peers, and most importantly, ourselves.

Thinking I'll be able to fill Peter's shoes at St. Charles would be a mistake on my part. I am, however, going to use the same standards that he used for twenty years to make St. Charles Country Club the class act that it is today. In regards to being the new superintendent, I feel this is a real tribute to Peter. Aside many contributing factors, I think the club felt that it had twenty great years under Peter's reign, so why not give this kid a chance, he learned from one of the best. In closing, I just want to say Thanks to Peter for the time and effort in which he invested in me.

Peter had a copy of a saying which I keep on my desk. I would like to share it with the membership; it reads as the following:

Attitude

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our Attitudes."

PENN STATE TURFGRASS ALUMNI DINNER CRUISE

WHEN: Friday, February 24, 1995
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE: Commodore Dining Cruises
Pier 40 - South Beach Harbor of San Francisco

INVITEES: Penn State Turfgrass Alumni, spouses and special guests

INCLUDES:

- One hour boarding and dockside party
- Three hour dinner cruise of San Francisco Bay
- Buffet dinner with Caesar salad, prime rib of beef, champagne chicken, vegetables and dessert
- Four hours of musical entertainment by a dee jay with Karaoke
- Four hours open bar

COST: Only \$50/person--UNBELIEVABLE!!! It is unlikely you'll match this value anywhere in San Francisco.

This will be an excellent way to enjoy the evening with fellow alumni while viewing the sights of San Francisco from the Bay. For those of you who have been unable to make our early morning breakfast meetings, this provides another opportunity for you to join us.

A very favorable response is expected. To make certain a space is reserved for you, please send your monies, along with the directory database and reservation form to Ed Fischer by February 10, 1995.



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