



I have already started to make a list and check it twice! No, not the one that we all have for that fat guy in a red suit. This list is more of a good/bad list. We all have had that thought in our heads as we go through each day to write down the things that go right and the things that go wrong, the products that work and those that do not. A lot of these thoughts can produce better results all around in 1998.

Start off by stocking some of those parts that you will “never use.” The recent UPS strike turned out to be a nightmare for many of us. I thought I would make it through the strike when everything seemed to break down at once. Next year, I will stock a few more items. By the way, a big “Thank You” to all of those commercial members who went out of their way to get the parts through to us.

I use simple round tee markers. I made a note the other day not to use simple round tee markers anymore. While moving markers the other day, I noticed a trend. I would have the round marker in my hand and the metal spike would remain in the turf. Put it on the list.

I did have a few “good” items to put on my list. I had a lot of problems with localized dry areas early in the spring. I applied a granular wetting agent as recommended and had tremendous results. No more LDS! Need to mark that down. Other good points included cutting areas at a higher height of cut. Why scalp the heck out of a area when leaving it grow longer not only looks better but also allows it to stay green into August.

One of the other good things I wrote down was the need to take an extra ride around the golf course at the end of the day or on the weekends just after the crew leaves. This gives you the chance to see the work that has been done for the day and allows you to “pick up” after the crew. I also take along a rake to check for those pesky clippings.

One other item I scribbled down the other day was to see more golf courses in the area. We have so many good golf courses in the MAGCS, it’s a shame that we cannot play them all. I am so impressed with the shape of all of the courses that we play. Thanks to all who host our monthly meetings. Everyone should consider hosting a meeting in the future. Write that down on your list.

While biking the other day with my family, I thought of another item. I need to do this more often. I also thought about taking more time out for my family. Several fellow superintendents that I have talked to this past year took—can I say two bad words—*summer vacations*. Train your people right, and take the time off for those you care for.

As I thought about becoming president of the Midwest around a year ago or so, one of the items that I put on a list was to have a food donation at one of our monthly meetings. **At this month’s meeting at the gorgeous Eagle Brook Country Club, please bring along a couple of cans of non-perishable food.** This would look good on any one’s list of good things. We will be handing out tickets to those who contribute for a chance at a few MAGCS golf prizes. The food will be taken to the Batavia Food Pantry. Let’s hope we can have this opportunity on our list again in 1998.

Take out a notepad this week, and jot down those things that were good or bad. A few minutes now will pay off for a better year in 1998. Thanks to all for their food donations at Eagle Brook!

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