



*Luke Strojny*

**A**pril showers bring May flowers. I am writing my column during the last week of the rainiest April I've ever seen. It seems that all my staff has done in the last three weeks is push the sand in the bunkers and pump water. The turf suddenly developed a mind of its own and wants to be mowed every hour that it's not under water. In addition, my staff and I have many capital projects to finish, plus learn how to operate our new irrigation system that was installed last fall. Needless to say, we all have had a very busy spring.

So what am I getting at? TIME. The commodity that no one ever has enough of. How many of us have ever said, "I wish I had time to do this or that." I know I have. As turfgrass managers, our time is as valuable as a sunny 70° day with low humidity and a quarter-inch of precipitation forecast every third day and a staff of 300 trained employees. I am constantly fighting a battle of not having enough time. There are 24 hours in a day and between work, family and anything else you may be into, that time is used up very quickly.

I attended Bruce Williams' "Time Management" seminar in Orlando this year. Bruce has many ideas on how we can be better time managers. Although I don't agree with all of his ideas, I have tried to implement some of them, such as the use of technology like two-way radios, cell phones and fax machines to save time. Develop written goals and prioritize them. This will give you a game plan to follow. Write goals for the season; involve the pro, manager, green chairman or board when writing your goals. It may save you time and aggravation if everyone knows and understands the game plan. Learn how to say "no." There are tactful ways to do this, like, "I would be happy to unload your truckload of range balls, Mr. Golf Pro, but I will not be able to mow the range tee before your next lesson." Chances are, Mr. Golf Pro will want you to do both at the same time, but at least he now

knows that if he wants the balls unloaded, he might not get the range tee mowed. Learn how to say "no" tactfully and it will save you time. The point to all of this is that while you cannot add more hours to a day, you can use the hours you have more productively and wisely.

Speaking of time: it is time you hosted a MAGCS meeting. We are looking for sites for the year 2000. The months of July, August, September and October are still open. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

As arrangement chairman, I would like to personally thank all of the 1999 host superintendents for volunteering their courses. As always, the commercial sponsors are appreciated. Their generosity helps defray the cost of our meetings. 




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