

Why Do I Do This?!

When I sat down to write this, I reflected back on my last six years as an assistant golf course superintendent. I thought about the 3:30 a.m. alarm on a Saturday in July during our annual invitational tournament. I thought about the same 3:30 a.m. alarm in January when it was snowing 2" an hour and 200 people were coming for Sunday brunch later that morning! I thought about aerating fairways at 2:30 a.m. just so we wouldn't disturb the ladies too much on Tuesday morning. I thought about cleaning those same aeration cores the following afternoon when it was raining so hard you could barely see. I thought about hand-watering greens all day on a Sunday in August when you could actually see Poa annua wilting before your eyes. As I sit here and ponder those memories briefly, I must ask myself one simple question. "Why do I do this?!" I guess the only answer I can come up with is . . . because I love my job. Well, sometimes I do!

This is not a career one chooses to:

- 1) get rich;*
- 2) EVER sleep in more than one Sunday a month (even in the winter); and*
- 3) ever feel entirely appreciated by those we work for.*

So, I ask myself again, "Why do I do this?!"

Isn't this the reason why we are all a part of this business? Why else would we crawl out of bed two-three hours before most of the world to come to work, and more times than not stay at work two-three hours after the average person gets home from his or her eight-hour day? Is it because we really love our jobs, or are we just CRAZY?

Although I've been in this business by some other members' standards only a short time, I have realized that in order to be successful in this industry it takes a unique kind of person with an equally unique personality. We must also take into consideration the following. This is not a career one chooses to: 1) get rich; 2) EVER sleep in more than one Sunday a month (even in the winter); and 3) ever feel entirely appreciated by those we work for. So, I ask myself again, "Why do I do this?!"

Doesn't the position sound wonderful? Our friends tell us, "You've got it made!" "It must be great to be out on a golf course all day in the fresh air." The response I usually have is, "Well, it has its moments." Just as is the case with any profession, our industry has its ups and downs. The golfing public needs to realize that there is far more to maintaining quality golf courses than just mowing the grass. Turf management is nothing less than a science. If more people realized this, then perhaps we, as turfgrass managers, would finally get the recognition that we deserve.

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Yearly resolutions are often a promise we make to ourselves, usually of a self-improvement nature. Come on now, we all know what I'm talking about here. How many times have we promised to lose 10 pounds this next year? In our business, my favorite is the perennial, "I promise to play more golf next season. Well, this year for sure!" On my part, this year's resolutions will be to file extensions on last year's resolutions. It's kind of like requesting an extension on our taxes; eventually, resolutions need to be carried out, taxes need to be done. I am obviously having some fun with you all now, and that is just to make my point, which is simply this: let's have some fun! Life is way too short to be worrying about things that in the whole big picture of our lives are really insignificant! Enjoy!

See you all in Dallas.



and spending it with the family. At our own club, we are researching the history of the golf course. I was extremely impressed by the presentations I saw in November by Dave Ward and John Jennings. I thought pursuing this type of project at Bryn Mawr would be interesting and a way to involve some of our veteran members. On that note, the MAGCS will be putting together a bit of a family tree this year. It will be a history/listing of the golf course superintendents who have served at each course. It's a great idea for our anniversary year and none other than Robert Williams planted the seed. Who says that there is nothing as past as a past president?

On that note—see you all in Dallas!



So, this brings me back to my original question. "Why do I do this?" I'm sure everyone has his or her own way of answering that question. I assume I can speak for most of us when I say it's because we all have a passion for and dedication to what we do. This passion and dedication is what makes our industry thrive.

Well, I'd better hop back into the pickup and keep plowing. It's snowing 2" an hour! "Why do I do this?!"



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