



Winter's Harvest: A New Crop of Resolutions

"All righty then!" As I fire up the computer keyboard during the fading days of December, it is official: winter has finally come. In my mind, avid winter sports enthusiast that I am, it seems that the season just never gets here soon enough. This winter has taken three years to show up. What a wonderful time to be a golf course superintendent! I truly believe that anyone in this glorious business of ours who says he does not enjoy the winter months is either a bit soft in the melon or working in Florida. I myself enjoy the fact that my biggest pressure for the day will be making sure the parking lot is plowed in time for a Christmas party for 100 people at 6 this evening. Naturally, plowing snow is not all we do during the winter season. Equipment and building maintenance is our main priority this time of year. Then there are some of us who are also dealing with pesky deadlines regarding next fiscal year's budget. Now that can be a bit frustrating, but then again, not a whole lot of pressure there either. Oh, how I long for another 7 a.m. Monday double-shotgun start. Yeah, right!

As I gaze out my office window and admire that gorgeous blanket of snow, I look over to the calendar and acknowledge that January is knocking on the door. Wow, what happened to the year 2000? Once again, it is time to reflect on last year's accomplishments, identify our shortcomings and ponder what 2001 will bring. We also begin to set goals and make those annual resolutions for the up-and-coming year.

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Setting goals should not be anything new to us. We do this on a daily basis without even thinking about it. When assigning routine tasks to be completed each day, we set our goals for that day. Without goals, we are just treading water, staying afloat, but not going anywhere fast. Annual goals are usually a bit more complex. Although they can be as specific or as broad as you desire, their final accomplishment is an outcome you want to achieve. These goals can be of a professional or personal nature, or both. They can be whatever you want them to be.

Professionally, one goal of mine is to look at everything from two perspectives. Is the glass half-full or half-empty? Next time I am dealing with a particular complaint, I want to put myself in the shoes of the person sounding off and hopefully get a better understanding of the disgusted attitude that generated the criticism. Let's face it, people, we are very fortunate in that we very rarely have to pay to play golf. If we look at things from a paying customer's perspective, we may find insight into identifying the potential problem. Remember, a problem must be identified before it can be rectified.

(continued on page 29)

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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