



# The Dog Days Are Here . . . And We're Dog-Tired

*We have finally reached the “dog days” of summer. I, for one, am looking forward to an end to this season. What else is new—I always look forward to the end of the season.*

But 2002 has been a year of tests. The weather hasn't been the best, play is down and players' expectations are higher than ever. It's no wonder most superintendents are burned out by July 4.

When I am feeling the effects of burnout, I tend to start procrastinating. I become a pro at putting things off until tomorrow. When this happens, I know it's time to start taking some time off. It has taken me MANY years to realize that the course will still be there if I don't come to work for a day or leave a little early. Although I do not follow my own advice all the time, when I do take time off I usually return with a better attitude towards the job. There is nothing worse than going through a stressful period with a bad attitude. Try to take some time off this summer when the weather permits. I think you will find that it will do you a world of good.

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Enough about the superintendent's burnout. What about your staff? Our staffs are just an extension of the superintendents. When a superintendent begins to feel burnt out, so does his staff. This is the time of year when a thousand little things may go wrong. Collars start to get scalped, cups get cut on a 45-degree angle or Joe doesn't want to work with John anymore. When the problems begin, it is time for action.

My staff, for example, will not take a lot of time off. However, during the World Cup soccer games in June, they often wanted to take an extra-long lunch so they could watch the repeat of certain games, and this was fine with me. If we have an exceptionally busy week, I may let them go a little early with pay on a Friday or on one of those hot, humid days. Once again, a light workload with a little extra-long lunch goes a long way for morale. Also, most of us sponsor some type of staff lunch or outing. I am a firm believer in taking care of the employees so they will not become burnt out.

Let's face it: During the season, most of us spend more time with our staff than with our own families. We all like to think that our courses couldn't survive without us, but if you really think about it, could any course survive without a good maintenance staff?

Some recent tragedies involving golf course maintenance staff members prompted me to take another look at my staff. I know it would be very upset-

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MAGCS and John Buck Scholarship winners Kara Meyer (daughter of Dave and Penny), Brian Healy (son of Tom and Connie) and Zachary Behrman (son of Dave and Chris).



Unsung heroes Phil Zeinert, Luke Cella and Tony Kalina run the registration table in the sweltering heat.



Bob Lively and Paul Yerkes buy some alone-time to discuss Bob's big move.

ting to me if something were to happen to one of them. I am attempting to do a little more for those who make me look good.

In closing, I hope everyone is avoiding burnout and surviving this summer. Just think, a couple of months ago when Eddie Braunsky posted on the message board that it was only 90 days to the 4th of July, a lot of you told him to relax. Well, ladies and gentlemen, only 156 shopping days are left before Christmas!

"Time flies when you are having fun!"



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