



My Beautiful Garden

"Hey," Tim said, "You get to write the president's column this month, and by the way, the article is due tomorrow. But, Luke is really understanding so you can probably have a few days to get it done, in fact you'll see him at the Cougar game and you two can discuss it."

So, what is it like to be married to a golf course superintendent? First, I like to think that I played an integral role in Tim's career choice. You see, I interviewed for a summer position on the grounds crew at Milburn Country Club. Don (Tim's first superintendent) promised me a position on the summer crew as a favor to my parents, who also both worked at the country club. Before the season started, however, I got a job at the local Macy's. Thereby fulfilling destiny—Tim replaced me on the crew at Milburn Country Club and started to work in what ultimately would become his career. I, likewise, would begin my long and illustrious second career—shopping!!

25 years later I am the wife of a superintendent. I am not sure what I expected with Tim's career choice—

1. Beautiful, well manicured lawn and gardens? No, we don't even own a lawnmower.
2. Golf outings together with secret tips on exactly how to read the greens? No, we usually manage one round of golf a year at the hospital staff outing. Really, Scott (Witte), I am so sorry about what we do to your course each year!
3. Family summer vacations to exciting places in both the United States and abroad? Well, our daughters traveled the world this summer. Their pictures were great and our bank account is a little lighter.

On the other hand, things I know about being the wife of Tim, a golf course superintendent—

1. He is a person who is truly dedicated to his profession. Someone who takes challenges head on, who understands how to work with frequently demanding, and often, fickle members. Someone, who after a torrential rain completely washes away six newly seeded and sodded holes, can still be excited and enthusiastic about a course renovation.

2. He is a father who tolerates living in a house of females, including the cat, Furball. A father who will sit for 8 hours at a gymnastics meet to watch his daughters compete for about 12 minutes.
3. He is a father who will dance with his oldest child and will dream about her wedding (see June On Course president's message).
4. He is a boss who realizes that his crew is as important as his leadership, and understands that all people want to be appreciated for the work they do (see July On Course president's message).
5. He is a husband who supports his wife. He tolerates my crazy work hours, the middle of the night phone calls, the fact that I rarely cook meals. And oh yeah, I mentioned it earlier—I really like to shop and our two daughters share this same passion.

What is it like to be married to a golf course superintendent? All of us who have spouses in the golf course industry know the answer to this. All can match or better the above accounts with your own personal stories. It is a tough, trying, and frequently thankless job. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the superintendents for your hard work.

A special thank you goes to Tim, my husband of 20 years. He's a great father, role model, leader, and spouse. I really wouldn't water any gardens at our house, I am a pretty bad golfer who is bored after about 7 holes, and winter vacations are usually less crowded. I wouldn't change a thing—that's what it's like being married to a golf course superintendent. **-OC**