



Good Guys

I recently had a conversation with a former Green Chairman. I have the utmost respect for this individual, not only as a former boss, but also as a friend. He was always level headed and certainly came to understand the nuances not only of the Superintendent's profession, but of the golf industry as a whole. During this conversation he told me about a recent trip to Pebble Beach. He decided to surprise his wife for her 50th birthday, so he, his wife, and another couple played Pebble Beach. The usual was said about how beautiful the course was, and what a great place it was to play, and what a good time they had. But, he also told me about playing at Spyglass Hill. Before his round at Spyglass Hill, he was introduced to the Superintendent there.

He told the Superintendent at Spyglass Hill about his involvement as a Green Chairman and about some of the events he had attended here in the Chicagoland area. At those events he met other Superintendents. The thing he said during this conversation that really made my day was, "you guys are a bunch of good guys." So you have a former Green Chairman who goes out to Pebble Beach and happens to meet the Superintendent at Spyglass Hill. He has also met numerous Superintendents from the Chicago area, and he believes that we are some pretty good guys.

Now, it's important to understand that this individual is also a very good golfer, carrying a plus one handicap. He has also served on the Board of Directors at the club and numerous committees prior to that. The point here is that he understands the Golf business, and the Club business. He has been around it. You don't get to be a plus one handicap without spending some time in and around a Golf facility. After meeting several individuals in our profession, he seems to have a pretty high opinion of the people. Certainly not everyone thinks of us as a bunch of good guys. Not everyone has that high an opinion of the Superintendent. But the individuals who are in the know, the ones who have been around and take the time to listen, the ones who understand the profession, the ones who are important in a successful Golf operation, do.

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Every position within a Golf facility, a Club facility, is important. There is not one part of an operation that could function without the other. Each individual job within that facility needs a dedicated and passionate person, and the Superintendent is no different. We have all made it to where we are today through hard work, commitment, sacrifice, and dedication. At times it may seem as if no one notices. We have all been there. In reality, though, the ones who take the time to listen and to understand, do take notice. **-OC**