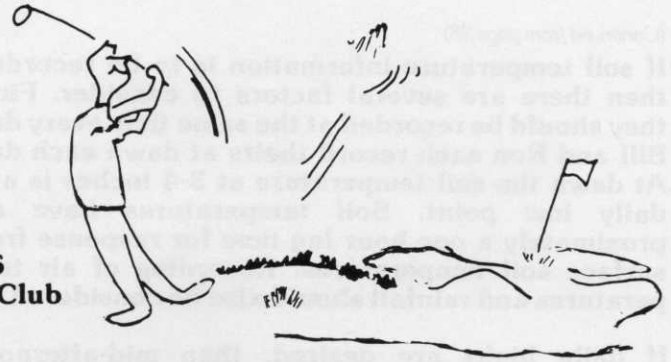


DIVOTS

By EDDIE SNIPES
Selva Marina Country Club



"Superintendent: Take a Good Look At Yourself"

At some point in time we have stood in front of a mirror or a reflective body of water and looking at our own image answered questions about ourselves. Successful professionals have the ability to do just that and understand fully what has brought them to their present success. North Florida Golf Course Superintendents were asked to take a look at themselves and answer these questions.

I. What do you see as your strength in your profession?

1. paying close attention to detail
2. problem solving - quickly and efficiently "Jack of All Trades"

3. handling people, working with people, personnel
4. planning and observation
5. knowing your golf course and hard work
6. surrounding self with competent staff - right people for right job, working together as a team
7. dedication to job

II. What area of your profession do you feel you need to improve upon?

1. hiring of qualified crew members and trying to keep them
2. be more aware of up-to-date research and maintenance practices - continue education
3. understanding labor laws as apply to minors, state and federal regulations
4. better communications, taking too much for granted, expecting crew to know and think as I do
5. better understanding of budget alignment
6. keeping job interesting, overcoming boredom of daily routine

III. What was the most difficult task to overcome as a first time superintendent?


1. management having confidence in my abilities
2. lack of "how to actually get it done" experience
3. money - just to basically operate with
4. superintendent before me syndrome - Trying to "Let it blow over"
5. lack of personal confidence, second questioning myself
6. relying or feeling the need to rely on former boss too much - searching past experiences
7. education of club members to different style of maintenance practices
8. uncertainty of ability to handle mechanical problems - machinery, equipment

The profession of being a golf course superintendent is without a doubt unique. Looking at and being able to evaluate our personal performances within our profession will enable us to keep the integrity of our profession. ■

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