

## Un-retired superintendents decide not to go fishing

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dent of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. "The people who are building or making the monies available to build golf courses ... personify the qualities of wealth and ability to get things done. These [un-retired] golf superintendents live in that arena and it's a nice arena. We don't have the wherewithal to do these projects, but we're a very integral part of it."

"We are invited and involved with so many marvelous functions that go on with golf course developments. It's a rewarding situation to be able to rub elbows with some of the major people in the world. And to travel and live in the rural climates of countries that the general tourist doesn't get to. Plus, we get to meet people and work with their soils, and help build a growing green-keeping profession [abroad]."

Valentine, who with his father led Merion's greenkeeping duties for most of a century, ascribed superintendents' bent on staying involved in golf as "liking the job and loving the outdoors."

"Building golf courses and making them work is always marvelous," Lucas said. "It's still wonderful to shape and mold and work with the soils that create a golf course."

"It's a love of the land, really," said Fleming, the former superintendent at Singing Hills Country Club in El Cajon, Calif., where he now operates Golf Properties Design, combining his agronomic know-how with course design skills. "You can't beat the first 20 or 25 years of my life: Get up every day and meet the sunshine. It doesn't get any better than that."

"A lot of us grow through that and look for other opportunities, challenges and desires. But our roots are still with the ground, golfing operations and the people in golf. Also, golf course superintendents, in particular, are a very close group of people."

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Lucas thinks this continued involvement is a generational phenomena that will disappear with the younger superintendents.

"We, in my time, had blinders on and didn't know much but work," Valentine said. "Get up at the crack of dawn and get over to the club... We became creatures of habit. Work was our way of life. I didn't know what to do if I did take a week off. Today, I see superintendents vacationing in July. If we had done that, we would have returned only to find our desk and chair out in the parking lot. Twenty years from now, guys will retire and stay retired."

But many may follow Ebels' GOLF COURSE NEWS

example. "I didn't want to quit cold, so I phased out," he said. "The club was about to carry out a master plan we had worked on for several years. I told my chairman I was looking forward to retiring but didn't want to miss the exciting things that were to go on. They agreed I could take charge, and it worked out good for both sides."

And others, like Fleming, may use their knowledge to expand into other careers.

Besides course architecture, Fleming designs landscaping and water features as well as wetlands for mitigation banking.

"When you come down to it," he said, "the presentation of a golf course is always in the hands of the superintendent. It's been good for me because I've been able to apply my field experience back to the concepts of design. How many designers are certified golf course superintendents or certified pesticide applicators?"

## Seminar focuses on tree care

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Artistic Arborist, Inc.'s Equipment & Supply Division will conduct a seminar here on tree health management on March 14.

The 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seminar will be conducted by Dr. Terry A. Tattar, a professor of plant pathology at the University of Massachusetts' Shade Tree Laboratory.

Tattar will speak on the tree as a system; important pathogens of trees and the diseases and other problems they cause; the nature of fungi; over- and under-care by humans; preventive maintenance; methodology and standards; spraying and pruning foliage; surface and subsurface roots; micro-injections of the stem or trunk; and how to promote tree health.

More information is available from Artistic Arborist at 706 W. Montecito, Phoenix, Ariz. 85013; telephone 602-263-8889.

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