

By TERRY BUCHEN

Jack of all trades, master of many

While growing grass continues to be the most important priority for a superintendent, it often is the easiest part of the job, and the number of other "hats" he or she wears — their many and diverse roles and responsibilities — seems to grow each year.

The ultimate job description of a modern superintendent? Being an expert in the following areas:

- **Agronomist** — having a knowledge of turfgrass soils and water exacting standards; aspiring to certified golf course superintendent status.

- **Environmentalist** — writing and practicing an IPM plan and being a licensed pesticide applicator, Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary System member and wetlands protector, and complying to pesticide storage regulations.

- **Insurance and Safety Expert** — training and implementing right-to-know rules; operating a hazardous communication plan and training and an emergency



- evacuation plan; obeying OSHA safety rules and fuel- and oil-storage regulations; ensuring a safety committee for all employees, liability and workman's compensation; and being prepared for safety insurance inspections.

- **Meteorologist** — subscribing to the Weather Channel and monitoring irrigation weather stations and computer satellite weather stations; being able to "feel"

the weather; weather prognosticator.

- **Surveyor** — understand and operate a rod, transit and laser technology.

- **Engineer** — designs subsurface drainage systems; additions and modifications to irrigation system; oversees building maintenance; pumphouse and well pump maintenance.

- **Horticulturist** — installs lightning rods in trees; prunes trees and shrubs; fertilization and pesticide applications; tree master plan designer.

- **Floriculturist** — annual, perennial and wildflower expert.

- **Lawyer** — implements and approves complicated maintenance and construction contracts; administers business law.

- **Contractor** — acts as general contractor overseeing sub-contractors.

- **Personnel Manager** — clearly understands and manages complex employee work laws; properly displays employee state and federal work posters; employee time card and overtime documentation; oversees employee personnel files; settles any disputes; keeps employees happy and productive.

- **Accountant** — prepares and oversees maintenance and capital budgets; codes invoices to appropriate budget accounts; maintains petty cash fund; oversees financial statements; capitalizes on early payment discounts.

- **Mechanic** — oversees preventative maintenance and repair of all golf course maintenance equipment; properly disposes of used fluids.

- **Carpenter, Plumber, Electrician** — builds and maintains inhouse projects.

- **Leader** — builds and promotes the team concept; practices total quality management in the maintenance department; is a good listener to employees' ideas and suggestions.

- **Architect** — maintains the course as the architect originally designed it to be played; renovates and restores the course while keeping the original design intact.

- **Scientist, Entomologist, Plant Pathologist** — identifies and controls insects, diseases and weeds; uses biological controls whenever practical; inventories complex identification equipment, tests new grasses and experiments with new compounds.

- **Rules of Golf Official** — maintains and marks the course according to the USGA Rules of Golf and all local rules.

- **Communicator** — writes monthly column for club/course newsletter; meets regularly with other department heads; attends committee and board of directors meetings; keeps their boss informed of what they need to know.

- **Public Relations Person** — telling the media and public about the good things happening on golf courses; joining the GCSAA Speakers Bureau; speaking engagements to schools, Kiwanis-type and Garden Club-type groups about the environmental friendliness of golf courses.

- **Teacher** — instructs turfgrass student interns; teaches weekly turf club meetings; oversees all employee training.

- **CEO** — administers the entire department as Chief Executive Officer. Or, in this case, CAO (Chief Agronomic Officer).

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Golf Course Superintendents:

Row 1 Bottom: (left to right) Tom Fornasar~Forest Greens GC, Kent Dornbrock~Woodford Hills, Gary Buettel~Lost Creek CC, Tim Wilk~Chestnut Ridge GC, Greg Johnson~Eagle Brook, Ed Braunsky~Geneva GC, Luke Strojny~Poplar Creek CC, Dennis L. Bowsher~Spring Valley CC, Larry Wimmers~Sycamore Creek CC
Row 2: Michael Bohenstingl~The Preserve GC, Jim Taylor~Boulder CC, Michael Burns~Valleaire GC, Lou Quick~Anglebrook, Tom Fuller~Rush Creek GC, Joe Wachter~Eagle Springs GC, Robert Panuska~Waseca Lakeside C, Ric Lange~Meadowbrook CC, Tim Kline~Garland Firewheel GP, Mark Wilson~Valhalla GC
Row 3: Bob Figurella~Brookside, Michael Siefken~Woodstock CC, Ted Fist~Wynstone GC, Gary Peters~Highland CC, Steve Numbers~No. C. Westfield CC, Mike Nelson~Rush Creek GC, F. Dan Dinelli~North Shore CC, Gary L. Chambers~Firewheel GP, Matt Shaffer~The Country Club
Row 4: Paul Richter~Spring Lake CC, Jon O'Connor~Gull Lake CC, Wes Flower~Ft. Sam Houston GC, Tom Hamulak~Bear Creek GC, Dan Anderson~Fox Valley GC, Paul Grogan~Harrison Lake CC, Patrick Franklin~Plum Creek CC, Tommy Anderson~Broadmoor Hotel.

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