

The golf course superintendent immediately assessed the damage and took pictures. He sent that info out on a blog to his membership and within minutes they knew the course would be closed that day while drainage and repairs were underway. That blog had pictures and was updated during the day. The info on that blog was also uploaded to a set of talking picture frames in the pro shop and locker rooms. This eliminated the need for the superintendent to spend time communicating his message at the various points of contact. His time was better spent out on the golf course managing the processes necessary to get the course open and functional again. It also allowed the superintendent to work a normal workday and be home with his family at a "normal" time that afternoon.

Cell phones allow us to stay in touch with our office, golf course and team while off the property. Every superintendent should play golf and check out the competition. This is much easier

while golf course crews may work long days that can still be done with 40-hour workweeks for both the staff and management. A scenario that might work is that the assistant superintendent comes in at 5 a.m. and gets the staff started. The superintendent might arrive at 7 a.m. and stay until 4 p.m. while the assistant goes home a few hours earlier. Weekends with days off can be exchanged for a weekday for not only staff but management, as well.

Schedule a vacation and make it work for both your employer and family. I had only taken one summer vacation until I moved to California and then realized that with a well-trained staff I could actually get away almost any time of the year.

As a matter of fact, my employer suggested that I have scheduled days off and periodic vacations. He knew I would be much more productive that way and avoid burnout.



**BE HAPPY.** Take the time to take a step back and evaluate your work and your life. What brings you happiness? Periodic evaluations of how you value your time and how you are spending it may reveal a lot. Be honest with yourself.

**“While random activities are great, sometimes higher priorities with work tend to take precedence.”**

The best summary I have is a quick story that I share in my Time Management seminar. When your career is over and done, and you are near the end of your life, what would you want your epitaph to say?

Many of us would qualify for a headstone that says “He Was One Heck of a Golf Course Superintendent That Wished He Would Have Spent More Time With His Wife and Kids.” I would much rather have lived a life worthy of a tombstone that says: “He Was a Great Father and a Wonderful Husband.” **GCI**

to do when you have the technology to stay in touch. The same is true when attending a baseball game or going on a family camping trip. We can actually check on the weather station at our properties and pump logs to have a greater comfort level that things went well on our days off.

**DEVELOP A PLAN.** Scheduling today is not the typical workweek it was decades ago. Flexible and rotating schedules are the norm,

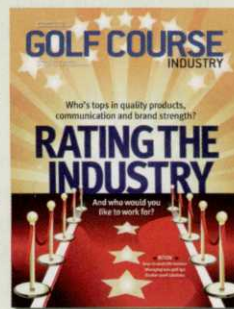
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