

Woman On a Mission

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ing how business competitors willingly give advice and loan supplies or equipment.

I am comfortable calling up colleagues for help, and I have received a few SOS calls myself. Despite the obvious gender difference between most superintendents and me, we are more alike than different.

I look around a group of superintendents and see people just like me — enthusiastic about their jobs, interested in sharing experiences and holding a genuine appreciation for the great outdoors.

Rarely am I reminded of my minority status, but it's a fabulous advantage at large professional gatherings — there are no lines for the bathroom.

Driving along dew-covered fairways at 6 a.m., the sound of mowers humming in the distance, I remember why I picked this business. The frustrations of labor issues, unreasonable supervisors, bad weather and broken equipment are just vague memories.

Great satisfaction comes from orchestrating the people and instruments necessary to groom our playing fields. Each day, we start with a clean slate, challenged to bring the course up to prime condition.

Our practical experiences, a little advice from our friends, (and don't forget the help of our dedicated assistants), gets us through.

We should give thanks daily for being fortunate enough to work in this great industry.



Kathy Antaya is superintendent of the Meadows GC in Alendale, Mich.

Terrific Twosome

Jim and Kim Shine prove superintendent couples can have it all

By Frank H. Andorka Jr., Associate Editor

They work vigorous schedules. Long hours prevent them from returning home for long periods of time. They are always on call. Are we talking about doctors? No, we're talking about superintendents.

So who would want to marry a superintendent? Another superintendent, of course.

Jim and Kim Shine, of Jacksonville, Fla., say superintendents need love and understanding, and no one recognizes the challenges of the profession better than a fellow superintendent. Kim is currently superintendent at the Windsor Parke GC

in Jacksonville. Jim is now a landscape professional with the Jacksonville Electric Authority, but spent more than 20 years at various levels of superintendency at Sawgrass CC and Cimarrone GC in Jacksonville, as well as being director of golf operations for Arvida Corp.

"Being a superintendent can be an emotionally stressful experience for anyone, so it's great to have someone who can always relate to what you're going through," Kim says. "If you're having problems at work, it's always good to have someone you can bounce ideas off of and, in a worst-case scenario, actually come out on to the course with you and help you figure out solutions."

"We still do that, even though I'm not a superintendent anymore," Jim says. "It's nice to have someone who will tell you what they really think and not pull punches about what mistakes you have made. It's refreshing."

Kim worked at the now Oakbridge GC as an operations crew member in 1980 when Arivda Corp., of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., bought the course. Jim was director of golf operations for Arvida at the time. The superintendent at Oakbridge GC had promoted Kim to be his assistant. When the superintendent left in 1980, Jim promoted Kim into the lead job. For five years, Jim was Kim's boss.

"At first, we were just thrown together as a matter of chance, but we got to know each other pretty well during that time," Jim says.

Kim, a widow, liked Jim's sense of humor. Jim, recently divorced, liked Kim's presence and self-confidence. Kim says Jim took the time to train her in all aspects of being a superintendent, and that he still promotes the cause of women in the industry.

"He was one of the first superintendents to hire women on his crews at Sawgrass, and he has done a lot to promote the cause of women in the industry," Kim says. "That's one of the things that makes him so special."

"Like anyone else, we just fell in love," says Jim, who married Kim in 1990. "It's obvious from our choice of careers that we already had a lot in common, and it just seemed a natural fit."

Kim, who served as the president of the Northern Florida chapter of the GCSAA from 1993 to 1996, says Jim's experience in course construction — Jim helped Ed Seay design



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the original Sawgrass CC in Jacksonville in 1973 — helped her immensely when she went through her own construction project at Windsor Parke.

"I only cried once during that whole process," Kim says, laughing. "But it was really helpful to have someone there at home who understood the stress you were under."

When it comes to work schedules, marrying a superintendent diffuses much of the resentment that might threaten another couple. When Kim leaves in the wee hours of the morning to take care of a problem on the course, Jim doesn't raise an eyebrow.

"I've been there," Jim says. "Superintendents have to do a lot of things at all hours that may seem odd to others. For a former superintendent, it's the regularly expected schedule."

To compensate for the long hours, Kim says she and Jim spend the free time they do have together, making sure they never lose touch with each other emotionally. Kim works only every other weekend at Windsor Parke, and since Jim now has every weekend off — a schedule that Kim envies only sometimes — the couple catches up on her off weekends as people instead of professionals. Of course, there are those pesky chores to do, too, but even then, having another superintendent around can be a boon.

"When you have two people who work as hard as superintendents do, it's important to split everything at home — all of the chores must be shared equally," Jim says. "There's just no room for selfishness, and another superintendent understands that fully."

Despite the challenges they faced when both were working as superintendents, both Jim and Kim say they wouldn't have it any other way.

"It was a great decision for us to get married," Jim says. "We feed off each other's energy, and it helps us get over the rough spots professionally. It's a perfect match." ■

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— Jim Shine

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