

My wife Beth is a passionate “to-do” list maker. She has short-term “to-do” lists, long-term “to-do” lists, needs-to-be-done-in-the-next-five-minutes “to-do” lists. Sometimes you can’t walk across my dining room because it’s buried in lists.

I must have learned something from her. As I straightened up the palatial “Tech Talk” offices the other day, I found my own “to-do” list — several topics I’ve been meaning to discuss, but can never find the time or the space to do so. Well, as Beth would say, there’s no better time than the present.

Real technology

In recent conversations with superintendents, I asked them to tell me what their offices might look like in the future.

While they gave me several practical suggestions, I thought about additional technological advances that would *really* help them manage their careers, such as:

■ **Live-action fast-forward:** Since you can now apparently pause live TV (I saw it on a commercial somewhere, I swear), someone needs to devise a live-action fast-forward remote that would allow you to fast-forward through the green chairman’s fatuous speech at the next meeting.

■ **Particle transporters:** Superintendents need particle transporters like those used on the *Starship Enterprise*. You wouldn’t have to worry about the costs of going to the national show. With the particle transporter, you push one button and you’re there.

■ **Hand-held disease diagnostic equipment:** I’d like to see a small device that scans plant tissue as you wave it over the turf and instantly diagnoses diseases and other problems. It would save so much time that you might have an opportunity to play your course occasionally.

Web-site watch

What if they created a Web site, but nobody visited it? I sense that it would look much like www.golfsuper.com, GCSAA’s site designed to teach average golfers about what superintendents do.

Time to Attack My ‘To-Do’ List

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.



WHAT IF THEY
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TO FIND OUT

Don’t get me wrong: I admire what GCSAA is attempting to do. Superintendents often have the lowest profile at the course and anything that can raise it is good. But when I typed “golf course superintendents” into three prominent Web search engines (Google, Yahoo and Ask Jeeves), golfsuper.com didn’t appear on any of them (though many of the state chapter sites did, which I found heartening).

If I’m an average golfer, search engines would be my most likely place to start looking for information. The fact that GCSAA’s site failed to appear makes me wonder how many golfers will actually take the time to find it.

Failure to communicate

I confused at least one reader with my August column on global positioning system (GPS) technology.

The column referred to a superintendent who was taking care of five more acres than he needed to on the course, a disparity he discovered after mapping the course with GPS. One sharp superintendent pointed out that since the ratio of chemicals per acre wouldn’t change, what did it matter if you had 90 acres instead of 100 acres?

My point (which I clearly failed to make) was that without an accurate map, the superintendent would waste chemicals (and chemical dollars) because he’d be taking care of five acres of turf more than he should. I’m sorry for any confusion I caused.

Well, that’s the last item on my “to-do” list for today. My wife’s right: It *does* give you a great sense of accomplishment.

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