

Roger Kisch

Superintendent *of the* Southview Country Club

Roger Kisch recently celebrated his 39th anniversary as superintendent of Southview Country Club in West St. Paul, Minn. So we know Kisch is at least 39 years old, but he won't let on how old he really is. "I do not give out that information," he says.

Kisch is also an inventive superintendent. He likes to gadget and gadget around and fix things. "I'm always looking for a better way to do things," he says.

Recently, Kisch helped invent a quirky-looking mowing system that combines three 21-inch rotary mowers. National Mower, a St. Paul-based mower company, is manufacturing Kisch's invention, called the I-Gang 3 rotary mowing system.

Golfdom: What do you like most about your job?

Creating an awesome golf course.

Golfdom: How have you learned to deal with the pressures of your job?

I'm fortunate to be married to the horticulturist of the club. Kathy and I work together every day and she helps me deal with the day-to-day pressures.

Golfdom: In 50 words or less, describe a good day at work.

A beautiful day in June, the water system worked the night before, my crew shows up on time, and the greens are just the way I want them.

Golfdom: What is the most important issue facing superintendents today?

More and more regulations.

Golfdom: Finish this sentence: "The best thing that could happen to the golf course maintenance industry would be ..."

... someone creates a method to eradicate *Poa annua*.

Golfdom: What's the best advice anybody ever gave you?

Family first, and then the job.

Golfdom: What's the best advice you ever gave someone?

It only takes one "oh, no" to erase all them "attaboys."

Golfdom: Who are the three most influential people or groups in the golf course maintenance industry and why?

Joe Vargas of Michigan State University. He's a good teacher. Jack Butler, my first instructor at the University of Illinois, got me started in the turf world. Last but not least, my fellow superintendents who help me with day-to-day advice.

Golfdom: If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be?

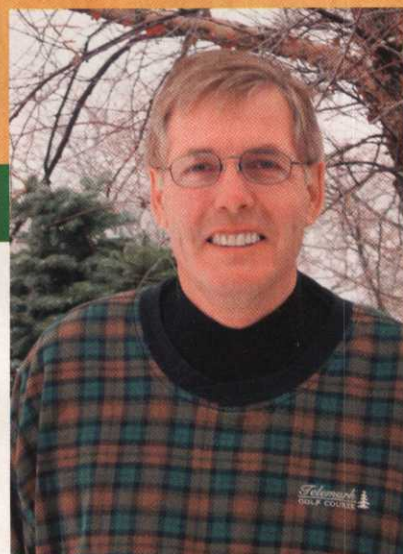
My wife Kathy.

Golfdom: What is your favorite movie?

Witness.

Golfdom: What do you eat for breakfast?

Special K with berries. ■



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