

**W**hy are second chances worth giving? Because so often — more often than not, I'd like to think — the people who receive second chances are sincerely grateful for them.

Take Alan Andreasen, for instance. Just five years ago, he was an over-50, down-and-out and out-of-work superintendent with a bleak future. "I was washed up and over the hill," the burly Andreasen says in his husky voice.

But thanks to a second chance, the 62-year-old is now a successful and award-winning certified superintendent for CourseCo, the Petaluma, Calif.-based golf course management and development company. And Andreasen is more thankful than anyone will ever know for receiving another chance.

Andreasen has Ray Davies to thank for that chance. Davies, director of golf course maintenance and construction for CourseCo, picked Andreasen off the superintendent scrap heap in 2001 and gave him the job as golf course superintendent at Los Lagos Golf Course and Rancho del Pueblo Golf Course & Driving Range in San Jose, Calif.

It would have been understandable if Davies had hired some young hotshot superintendent for the job and left Andreasen's career to the dogs. But the noble Davies took a chance on Andreasen, believing he could succeed.

Andreasen had left his previous job several months before as superintendent of a golf course in the Mohave Desert. But it wasn't an amicable split and Andreasen didn't have another job. Andreasen, who began his golf course maintenance career in the 1970s, couldn't even get a job with the local Kmart's garden nursery. He "bounced" from job to job, even working for the U.S. Census Bureau for \$10 an hour.

Davies, who has known Andreasen for about 25 years, knew of his plight. Ironically, Davies had worked for Andreasen for a few years in the early 1980s as his assistant superintendent at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, Calif.

But Davies didn't just hand the job to his old boss. There were some stipulations. Davies told Andreasen he had to learn new skills if he

## Making the Best of a Second Chance

BY LARRY AYLWARD



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wanted to work for CourseCo. He told him the profession was much more complex than it was when Andreasen had started, and he had to comprehend its new demands. The job wasn't just about growing grass anymore, Davies said. It was also about being a teacher, a communicator, a politician and an environmentalist, not to mention an adequate computer user.

For years, Andreasen had resisted being all these things. But now he knew what was at stake — a chance to get back into the game at a great position. He knew he had to shed his skin and become a "modern" superintendent.

He has done so. And Andreasen has received formal and informal recognition from his peers for his efforts. Earlier this year he was named the overall winner of the 2005 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards and was also the recipient of a Turfgrass Excellence Award from the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association. Recently, Davies promoted him to superintendent of the Green River Golf Club in Corona, Calif. "He's a star right now," Davies says.

The praise is wonderful, but Andreasen will tell you that the life experience of having his career resurrected is what he cherishes most. And he knows it never would have happened if he didn't seize a second chance.

Andreasen isn't of the warm and fuzzy type, but even he admits his is a heartwarming story. But it's not over. Andreasen is now counseling others in the profession who are in the same stale position he once was.

He wants to see them get second chances so they too can try to turn their careers and lives into "modern" success stories.

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