

■ Top Assistants

Golfdom goes one on one with Chris McCutcheon, assistant superintendent of Stonewall Golf Club in Gainesville, Va.

*Editor's note: We've been reporting on superintendents for years. Of course, that's why **Golfdom** exists. But we want to give assistant superintendents more due. That's why we're introducing this new feature, Top Assistants, which will feature a question-and-answer session with an assistant superintendent every month. If you'd like to nominate someone for the feature, please send an e-mail to Larry Aylward at larryward@questex.com.*

Golfdom: What's your favorite part of the job?

McCutcheon: Starting the day before a majority of people get out of bed. I've often said that people in the golf industry get more accomplished before lunch than most people do all day. Another part of the job that is fascinating is that we are faced with challenges every day, from the weather to an employee not showing up, so we always have to be ready for the unexpected.

Golfdom: Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

McCutcheon: Charlie Fultz, the former superintendent of Shenvalee Golf Resort. He showed me the ropes and taught me so much about the industry. He never once left me out of the circle and treated me as an equal from day one. He was always willing to sit down and discuss not only golf course management, but life in general.

Golfdom: What's your favorite product or piece of equipment and why?

McCutcheon: Primo Maxx. I see the product as a seasonal crew member, except that

I don't have to train it to run a piece of equipment or worry if it is going to make it in on time. I just think it's cheaper and more cost-effective [than an employee] in the long run — not to mention it helps with turf density.

Golfdom: How many years have you worked in the golf industry?

McCutcheon: Five.

Golfdom: If you could change something about the industry right now, what would you change?

McCutcheon: The job market is not the best right now for superintendent positions. Everyone seems to be content where they are, which in turn makes it difficult for the assistants to move up. I'm not sure what the solution is, but I know that employers are always looking for experience when hiring, and that is tough when assistants are not given the opportunity to advance.

Golfdom: Describe yourself in one word:

McCutcheon: Ambitious.

Golfdom: What is your favorite hobby and why?

McCutcheon: I don't have a lot of time right now for hobbies since my 21-month-old twin girls take up a lot of my time. But when I do get free time, I enjoy playing summer-league softball. It gets me away from the golf course, but I still get to be outdoors and get some exercise.

Golfdom: What's your favorite vacation spot?

McCutcheon: My wife and I went to Puerto



Vallarta, Mexico, for our honeymoon five years ago. We hope to go back soon.

Golfdom: What's your favorite golf course besides your own?

McCutcheon: I have always enjoyed Augusta National. I would say that Augusta is as close to perfect as they come. We all know that perfection is hard to come by with all the different challenges that we face in this industry.

Golfdom: If a movie were made about your life, what famous actor would play you?

McCutcheon: This is a tough question because I have never thought about a movie being made about me. I guess I would want someone like Mel Gibson. In his roles, I see not only a good family man but also someone who is an excellent leader with a desire to fight for his beliefs.

Golfdom: It's your last day on Earth. What would you do?

McCutcheon: Definitely not drag a hose or sit on a spray rig. I'd spend the entire day with my family and remember all the good times we've had together. I would also track down the people who have been influential in my life and thank them. ■