
A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

—or—

(visions from below)

By Kendall L. Marquardt

Today's Golf Course Superintendent is, by my observation, a unique combination of an artist and a scientist, who carefully cultivates the soil to produce a finished portrait of living beauty. The golf course can be like a painting, viewed and admired by many. But more than that, it is dynamic. The golf course is ever changing to respond to the environment and to its most important purpose, play. To keep such a vast amount of rather temperamental and heavily abused plants in top condition, nay, alive in some cases, is a task which requires of the Superintendent long hours, dedication, ulcers, and knowledge of many diverse subjects, all for the sole purpose of growing grass, which, in the end is walked on, driven on, and hacked up with a glorified sodknife. But that is the fun and challenge of it. Those courageous individuals are you, the Superintendents of today. As a future Superintendent, I try to keep an eye open as to what is happening and why. There is no classroom substitute for this type of on-the-job training because when you do it, you tend to understand the "why" of what is going on. There is also no substitute for the Superintendent himself. He is the ultimate authority on what's happening. A politician, a businessman, a scientist, a teacher, and many more labels fall under the "Course Superintendent" category. This is why the boss should be aware that he is being used as a role model by every one of his employees, and even more so by the person who has an interest in this profession.

As a student, there are times I wonder why we are doing some operation, such as applying fertilizer or fungicide or perhaps a cultural practice, and I'll forget to ask about it. Consequently, my question may not get answered at that time. It sure is helpful when someone can take the time (if they

have the spare time) to explain what is happening, and also encourage me to ask questions, or say "What do you think?"; we love to have our ideas listened to. Sometimes, with the questions I do get answered, I can further figure out other answers on my

own. It all comes down to analyzing what the boss is doing, and why, to keep that vast operation up to snuff and running smoothly. We want to do what you are doing someday. And we, as students, want to keep up your good work.

TURFGRASS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FROM THE UW—MADISON DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE — 1986



Left to right: Mark Van Hierden; Mike Lee; Professor Jim Love, Academic Advisor; Dan Barrett and Randy Slavik.

Four outstanding students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin — Madison turfgrass management program in the Department of Soil Science were winners of scholastic awards from the turf industry. Randy Slavik is a 1985-1986 winner of the Golf Course Superintendents Association Scholarship and travelled to the GCSAA Conference in San Francisco to receive his award. Mike Lee has been awarded the

NOR-AM Scholarship for the year. Dan Barrett received our own WGCSA Scholarship for the academic year and Mark Van Hierden was selected as the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Scholarship winner. All are students of Dr. Jim Love.

Congratulations to these young men and their accomplishments. They will assume major roles in our profession in the years to come.