



# Thanks Staff!

By **David Brandenburg**, Golf Course Superintendent, Rolling Meadows Golf Course



Do you give credit where it is due? What does that mean really? The credit I am talking about is the recognition and thanks our staffs deserve for the work they do.

Just about every visit I make to our clubhouse a customer tells me how much they like the job I am doing, or the condition of the course. The easiest and quickest answer is a simple thanks. I go a little further and say, "thanks, we have a good staff this year and I'll pass your comments along." As paperwork and management have taken over my time, I rarely touch a mower so the staff should get the credit.

Right now I am learning just how important each person of the staff is as our mechanic has been sick for nearly a month. I was concerned he was slowing down as he got older but now I know how much he accomplishes in a day as I try to do his work myself. I cannot believe how many things have broken down in the past month. We are starting to adjust to not having a mechanic and more

people are stepping to the plate to help with his work.

Every one of our seasonal workers is important, as we all work together to get the job done. I have been very lucky as we have 7 retirees who work part time 24-32 hours per week. These guys do anything for us and do it the way we want it.

Then we have the students. This year we have 10 unique individuals with different backgrounds and goals. I have been very lucky in Fond du Lac finding student workers. I always turn some good kids away, never have had a kid quit midseason and I have not fired anyone in 6 years. I hear horror stories from other superintendents who cannot find or keep help, so I am very willing to give the kids credit for their performance.

As we enter the fall season, do not forget to thank your workers for what they have done for you and the course this year. They deserve all the credit and recognition they can get.

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The golf season is going by fast. We have had some great hospitality at our monthly meetings. Many thanks to our hosts Chad Harrington at Autumn Ridge, Gordon Waddington at The Country Club of Wisconsin, Pat Zurawski at The Golf Club at Camelot and Tod Blankenship at Wisconsin River Golf Club. I could not attend the Super Pro at CCW but I enjoyed the other meetings and learned something new at each one that I could take back to make Rolling Meadows better.

Please try to get away for a day of education while playing as we visit Scott Bushman at Fox Valley

Golf Club and Rod Johnson at Pine Hills Country Club. We also have the Dinner Dance at Quit-Qui-Oc Golf Club and the WTA Fundraiser at Blackwolf Run to enjoy this fall.

Then to wrap up the year we, have the Symposium. This years topic "Doing More With Less": *Resource, Time and Money Management* could not be better as many of us are facing tight budgets and staff reductions.

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The past two messages I discussed my goals of leaving work at a reasonable hour and getting home to spend time with my family before they are grown up. I am doing better, but it has been tough now that I am the acting mechanic. Don't forget to go home at the end of the day and spend time with the family and friends. We only have one life to enjoy. ♣

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