



No Surprise

By Monroe S. Miller, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Circumstances were such that I missed the presentation of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association's Distinguished Service Award to David Brandenburg. I love events that I know will become a part of our chapter history, and Dave will always be a significant part of our past. For now, he is a very important part of our present. The DSA assures that future generations will be reminded of the high respect we have for him.

I look at Dave and I still see a young man, seemingly too young to have cut such a wide swath in golf in Wisconsin. It actually was a long time ago, when he was first starting out with his own golf course here in Dane County, that I made his acquaintance. He needed a waiver for a pumping permit from downstream users, which included Tom Harrison and me. It was Tom who commented about how polite he was, impressed that Dave initially called him "Mr. Harrison."

"Nice kid," Tom said. Dave extended the same respect to me, although Tom and I quickly pointed out that he could call us by our first names. To this day, despite the situations faced, Dave Brandenburg is the consummate gentleman — courteous of others and respectful of everyone. It is a trait not seen often enough anymore. And he didn't come to it lately; a high school classmate told me he was exactly the same in those days, now quite a few years ago.

His pleasant demeanor is exceeded only by his huge capacity for work. In our chapter, "if you want a job or a project done, give it to Dave Brandenburg" has held true for years. One of the most important traits a leader can have is a dedica-



tion to the tasks at hand. From committee work, up through all of offices of the WGCSA, and continuing today, Dave gets the job done. He is a hands-on, in the trenches, roll up your sleeves and get to work kind of guy. You aren't going to outsmart him and you will never outwork him.

A good leader has a vision for the organization, and I have always considered David Brandenburg a visionary. A good leader has the respect of those he is leading, and I have never met a WGCSA member (or anyone else, for that matter) who doesn't respect Dave.

Dave is open-minded and has struck me as a good listener, addressing concerns members have about an issue. Although

there is strength to his leadership, I have never seen him dictatorial in his execution of any of his duties as a director or an officer.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with him on two big projects — The Grass Roots (where he is the business manager) and on *Caring for the Green* (a history of our association written by Gene Haas). He is reliable, dependable and responsible. You wouldn't get this publication if it weren't for Dave and his role as business manager.

For Dave Brandenburg, good citizenship goes beyond work. He has given to his church and school in the same way he has shared his time with us. There is something special about serving as president of the school board or the church council.

It goes without saying that he is a great golf course superintendent, a position he has held at three different golf courses. He's successful wherever he goes.

So, it really is no surprise that Mike Lyons and the other officers and directors selected him to receive this high honor. I couldn't be happier for him. I'll bet the only one surprised is Dave Brandenburg. ♣

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