



Deep Thoughts...

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The President's message within *The Grass Roots*, has always been a great avenue to communicate an update of Association activities to the members of the WGCSA. With the hiring of Brett Grams and Paydirt Services, LLC, WGCSA activity updates will now be provided by

Brett, the WGCSA Chapter Manager. So, what should I discuss in my message? Life lessons? Philosophies?

Yikes! I may ponder some thoughts once and a while, but by no means am I to be included with the likes of Plato, Aristotle or even Friedrich Nietzsche. Heck, I had to search the internet to learn how to spell their names correctly. When it comes to birthdays or anniversaries, thank goodness for Hallmark cards, because if I ever need to come up with an original, witty statement, I'll either hurt my brain or it'll end up becoming a "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue" rhyme. Language creativity is NOT a skill or gift I can flaunt. So, this message will not include any profound thoughts or visions.

But, I can use this message to remind everyone of a few things. As golf course superintendents we:

- Have the skills, education and work ethic to help our facilities succeed, even during these difficult economic times.
- Have the vision and ability to adapt to any crisis or situation. As well as the willingness to "jump in and get it done".
- Have the obligation to acknowledge and praise our employees that are key to our success.
- Have absolutely NO control over weather. As soon as we think we are a 1/4 step ahead of Mother Nature, she quickly reminds us who's boss. And where else can one manage turf in a climate that can experience October, mid-August and September weather over a 10-day span in June.
- Should use sun screen and schedule skin cancer screenings. We love to work outside. Let's protect ourselves and our families. Besides, it's not really too impressive that we have great sun tans only from the "neck up" or from the "elbows down".
- Need to laugh. "Laughter is almost as effective as exercise on physical and mental well being. About 100 to 200 laughs are equivalent to 10 minutes of jogging or rowing because this boosts blood flow by at least 20% and reduces the risk of developing heart disease." (National Post, April 11, 2008)

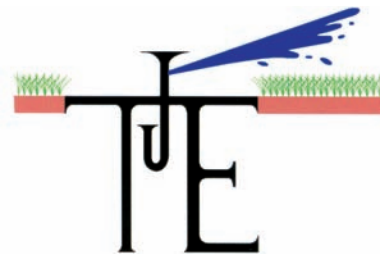
- Have a great network of professional colleagues that is willing to provide advice or experiences when any one of us encounters a problem.
- Need to avoid taking golf course criticism too personally. It's impossible to please 100% of the people 100% of the time. There will always be a member or guest that believes the "other courses" do something better. Focus on the areas that we have control of. Yet remember, that the "other course's" members or guests are saying the same thing and could be referencing your golf course.

And finally...There's only 24 hours in a day. Remember your family needs to be part of each and every day.

Take care. Be happy. Enjoy life.

References

National Post, April 11, 2008, *Ten steps to a longer life* [online] Available at: <http://www.canada.com/topics/bodyandhealth/story.html?id=fc38b756-7ad8-40c5-83c3-7e790a639ed9> [accessed on July 1, 2009] 



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