

Attitude, It's Your Choice

By Jeff Millies, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Edgewood Golf Course

The 2012 golf season sure started off with a bang. Many of us were short handed back in March with the unusually warm weather. I can't remember ever having to do so much mowing that early in the season. April then brought us back to reality with the colder temps and frosty mornings.

It seems the weather continually keeps us on a roller coaster. Sometimes making us sick to our stomachs yet always forcing us to react and adjust our schedules based on yesterday's weather or tomorrow's forecast. Time after time we hear how people hate

change but few Superintendents or golf courses find themselves in any type of steady state at the moment. A challenging economy, external demands, and a highly competitive environment are making change a necessity rather than a choice.

I believe most Superintendents unknowingly crave change. Most of us appreciate everyday being different and need new challenges to keep things interesting. If everyday was the same it would seem like we are on auto pilot, and it wouldn't be long before work might seem boring and we start looking for that next project. I realize many of us right now might be wishing for a boring week of routine daily tasks, but remember, it's really about your attitude.

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Attitude can change everything. Each day with every opportunity you have a choice of being either positive or negative. It's amazing how many people surrender that choice to other people or other things. Realize that every interaction with someone leaves that person feeling either better or worse, there are no attitude neutral interactions.

If your crew is starting to have a less than positive attitude, the first place to look for their attitude is in the mirror. Their attitude is most likely a reflection of yours. Our attitudes are contagious whether good or bad, the choice is yours. So choose wisely this summer and notice the difference in you and your crew.

Congratulations to the team of students from the University of Wisconsin Madison for coming in fourth place in the GCSAA 18th Annual Turf Bowl. The team of Dustin Bernau, Joe Betcher, Ben Luedtke, and Brian Huiras brought in \$300 for their placing. It is a great showing and with a little more studying the Badgers can unseat the Cyclones from Iowa State. Iowa has taken first place 12 of the past 14 years. That is a dynasty any team can be proud of.

Upcoming events include June 25th the WGCSA Golf Tournament Meeting at Oshkosh CC, July 31st is the Summer Field Day at OJ Noer Center, and August 20th is the WGCSA Golf Meeting at Lake Arrowhead GC.

Make plans to attend these events and enjoy a day of fellowship and networking. I look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces.



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