



EDITOR'S CORNER

BRAD KLEIN, CGCS

Spring really has sprung at my house with a new little golf course superintendent joining the ranks. My wife and I have decided not to spoil this child, that's not to say we'll hold back any love and affection. What we're going to attempt is a balance between discipline and guidance.

There are many things that correlate between children and golf courses and in most instances, the same approach to solutions will yield similar results.

With a child it is sometimes amazing what candy or a new toy will do to calm their screaming and whining, if only for a short time and then right back to the same old tricks. Golf courses, both the land and the players on it, do this same whining and screaming and demand their favors to keep quiet. The treats we give them are excessive fertilizer and over watered greens. The golf course is real green and the players can now keep their solid Top Flite

golf balls on the surface but, like a child, the treats are fattening and fat cells are not what any child wants to live a long, healthy life.

The discipline involved here is to remember that the golf course is a living thing and it must be fed both water and fertilizer to grow and prosper. A fellow superintendent challenged all of us at our annual conference last December to cut back on fertilizer and water and see what a lean mean fighting machine our course can be. The golf course, like the child, needs its rewards but only in a responsible manner.

The guidance we can give is the education of our players and children alike. Somehow we must inform them that excesses, whether it be water and fertilizer or candy, is not really a very good solution to the long term goal of growing good turf or children.

We must educate ourselves as well as our players as to what makes a good playing surface and a healthy one without the excesses of fertilizer and water. The old saying of "spare the rod, spoil the child" has some meaning in turf management also, not to say we whip either our golf course, players or children but rather guide them along a healthy path in life.

May 9 we'll all get together again at Stillwater Country Club and if the weather and playing condition mimic the

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Jerry Commers

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John Sniker
Tim Commers

April meeting at Faribault Country Club hosted by Dale Wysocki, we'll have another wonderful time.

The superintendents that have held meetings in the past should all receive a pat on the back for submitting their courses to so many critical eyes. Those that would like to host meetings in the future can use the opportunity to collect many suggestions and ideas for future reference.



"I told you this was a tough hole."

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Forget each kindness that you do
 As soon as you have done it;
 Forget the praise that falls to you
 The moment that you have won it;
 Forget the slander that you hear
 Before you can repeat it;
 Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer,
 Wherever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done
 To you whate'er its measure;
 Remember praise by others won
 And pass it on with pleasure;
 Remember every promise made
 And keep it to the letter;
 Remember those who lend you aid
 And be a grateful debtor.

Remember all the happiness
 That come your way in living;
 Forget each worry and distress,
 Be hopeful and forgiving;
 Remember good, remember truth,
 Remember Heaven's above you,
 And you will find through age and youth,
 That many hearts will love you.

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