

Private Owners—

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Quality playing conditions aren't always the most important consideration. I sometimes cynically chuckle when I think of the state mission of the golf course superintendent at many private clubs. Their basic mission is to provide quality playing conditions for the club members and their guests, within the confines of well-established and defined budgets.

Privately owned public courses operate with a different set of goals, resulting in a different mission for the superintendent. Quality to a degree is the goal. Profitability is the ultimate goal - we do not exist to simply break even. Consequently, budgets that are defined on paper may be ignored in the quest for profitability. Management staff must constantly strive to save money or face the consequences.

This businesslike attitude, which I do believe is necessary and has been

beneficial for myself, leads me to think about the logical next step. That would be to own a golf course of my own. Many superintendents think about this idea, but not too many pursue this dream.

What would it take to own a golf course? What are the risks and benefits? Many superintendents would certainly need to change some attitudes and practices in order to survive as business people. Exposure to privately owned operations easily leads one to consider the possibilities.

Some superintendents, through exposure to public golf, have taken the plunge into course ownership. Most have turned it into a successful venture.

The subtle encouragement of this idea by one's owners/employers is a very real benefit of working in public golf. Exposure to their business experience rubs off, gets under the skin and starts the itching.

More superintendents should consider scratching that itch.

—Credit: *The Grass Roots*

Penn State—

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visor at Beaver Stadium," he says. "If transportation isn't a problem, we might be able to land a student a summer job at Joe Robbe Stadium in Miami."

"As the turf industry continues to grow, it is becoming very aggressive in recruiting qualified people," he says. "With a degree in turfgrass science and summer work experience, our graduates will be very competitive."

Methyl Bromide Ban

EPA is preparing a ban on U.S. production of methyl bromide by the year 2000, according to Susan Wayland, acting deputy assistant administrator of the Office of Pesticide Programs and Toxic Substances.

Wayland says the ban is required by the Clean Air Act. She added that the agency put off the ban until the year 2000 to allow time to identify alternatives.

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