

QUESTIONS

Asked of MGCSA Student Members

Editor's Note: There are approximately 80 student members in the MGCSA, many of whom we don't get a chance to hear from very often. I asked five questions to three Class C members about their ideas so far in the golf course industry. Those members are: John Lindman, currently working at Edinburgh USA; Christopher (Chip) Smith, New Richmond G.C., and Troy Elam, Les Bolstad University of Minnesota G.C.

1. How did you become interested in turf management and what school are you attending?

Troy: I became interested in turf management because I've golfed since I was five. I also worked at a golf course and liked being outside dealing with nature. I enjoy the challenge that working on a golf course brings and the rewards that can be seen in the enjoyment and praise from golfers.

John: I became interested in turf management about 3 years ago. I work at Edinburgh USA in the summer doing maintenance. I enjoy working outside on the golf course and also playing golf. All of these factors were why I became interested in golf course management. I graduated from Anoka Technical College on June 8, 1995.

Chip: I became interested in turf management when I was younger and discovered the grass in my lawn was growing between sand particles. I am attending Anoka Hennepin Technical College.

2. How do you view the MGCSA and to what extent will you become involved in an organization such as the MGCSA?

Troy: The MGCSA is a strong and committed organization which helps superintendents and golfers alike in the quest for understanding by the public. I hope to be active in the

MGCSA in the future. I agree and applaud what the MGCSA has done and continues to do.

John: I just joined the MGCSA and from what I have seen and heard, it's a positive in the turf industry. I will try to attend all of the meetings that I can and also help out in whatever way I can.

Chip: I believe it is a great organization to belong to. All the members I have met in the association have been a great bunch of people.

3. Of all the qualifications which might make you a good superintendent, name two that you feel are most important.

Troy: Communication is a very important element from our everyday lives including work. Communication is the backbone for accomplishing the tasks we need to do. Without it, nothing gets done. Another qualification is being open-minded to new ways plus those which may be suggested by your staff. Change is good; we need to accept change and to think all options through.

John: Being organized . . . being educated.

Chip: Two of the most important qualifications which help make a good superintendent are caring for the environment and being sincere towards your employees and golfers.

4. Is there anything you would like to see in your education you are not currently getting which may be beneficial in golf course management?

Troy: I'd like to see a more "hands-on" oriented curriculum. You can learn a lot from books, but each experience you have will add to your knowledge and will be remembered for the rest of your life.

John: No.

Chip: I feel more 'trouble shooting' and 'problem solving' should be done in class with book study out of class.

5. In what way can a superintendent be of help in your education?

Troy: A superintendent can help in sharing their experiences and letting us make mistakes, in order for us to learn from those mistakes. He can help us by exposing us to a variety of tasks during our years of work before we move up to a management position.

John: The superintendent can help us by giving the knowledge he has through his experience in the field.

Chip: Superintendents can be of help by coming into the school and talking about things going on in the field. While I am on supervised occupational experience, I think it is great to have my questions answered and explanations for everything we do.



HOSTS SUPERINTENDENT MARLIN MURPHY, Stillwater C.C., with three members of his fine crew.