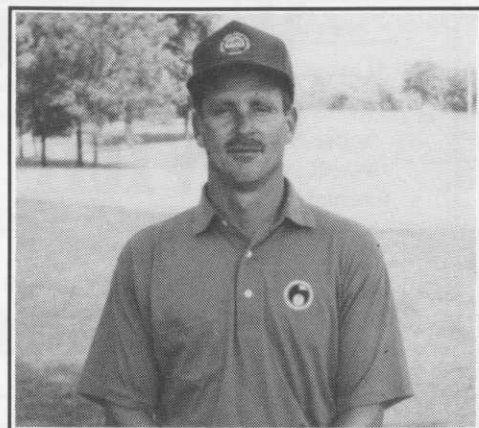


PROFILE OF A SUPERINTENDENT

By Robert Panuska
Waseca Lakeside Club



Hello, MGCSA members. My name is Rob Panuska, the superintendent from Waseca Lakeside Club in Waseca, Minn. My goal with this article is to give some background about myself, a brief history of my club and my thoughts regarding management.

Background

Let me begin by introducing my family: My wife Sherry has put up with me for 15 years, we have a daughter Britania, nine, and a son Ryan, four. We live on a rural acreage west of New Richland, just south of Waseca. Sherry operates a commercial dairy and milks 30-40 dairy goats. So when I'm not working at the course you can usually find me doing farm chores of some kind. When I can make the time, I enjoy landscaping, building, hiking, bowling in the "off" season and golf. I would characterize myself as a workaholic and generally don't "make" enough time for myself.

Work and Education

My entry into the golf course superintendent's profession was actually unplanned and somewhat by accident. I have been superintendent at Waseca Lakeside since the fall of 1990. Prior to this I was the assistant and worked on the crew. I "fell" into this opportunity while I was attending the former University of Minnesota/Waseca campus completing a second major in turf and grounds management. I owe a great debt to Ray Bloemke, the superintendent at Lakeside who "took a chance" and hired this novice who had never worked on a golf course before. He gave me the opportunity to learn and make mistakes as I gathered experience and "got my feet wet" in this profession. The other individual that opened those first doors of opportunity for me was Brad Pedersen, who at that time was the turf and landscape professor at the Waseca campus. Brad has that amazing ability to see people "fit" into a job and encouraged me to visit with Ray at Lakeside and redirect my coursework into the turf management area. I would not be where I am today without these two people.

What brought me to the Waseca campus in the first place started when I was growing up in Long Lake, Minn. My parents had a small farm, and after graduating from Orono High School in 1977, I first attended the U of M — Waseca and majored in production agriculture. From there I pur-

chased a farm in central Minnesota. From 1980 to 1985 we tried to "make a go of it" farming but the farm crisis was more than Sherry and I could cope with. The physical and emotional toll was something I would not wish on my worst enemy. However, life went on and after a few brief jobs at selling farm equipment, real estate and even recruiting for the Waseca campus, I enrolled for the second time with a major in the horticulture program.

Waseca Lakeside History

The club was started back in the '20s with three holes on a farm field on the north shore of Clear Lake. One of those first "movers and shakers" that made the club what it is today was Edgar Johnson, the founder of the E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca. The details are a bit sketchy but sometime around 1940 the club was officially organized, built a clubhouse and had nine holes. In the late 1960s additional land was purchased north and east of the existing course. The high ground was sold off for development to raise money to build the additional nine holes on the remaining low peat ground. The expansion continued into the early 1970s with the building of a new clubhouse, pool and tennis courts. The next major improvement came in 1989 with the addition of a fairway watering system. As you can imagine, the condition of the course improved 100 fold. Since then we have experienced strong membership growth and support. This has allowed us to add additional labor, expand and fine tune maintenance and replace and expand our equipment. The course statistics are below:

Tees	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Red	5273	73	70.3	115
White	5822	71	67.6	115
Blue	6025	71	68.6	116

The club continues to improve every year because of the strong support from the membership. Last fall we began implementing a master plan for course improvement completed for us by Joel Goldstrand. This includes bunker renovations and additions, tee rebuilding, addition of several forward tees, rebuilding some greens and complete reconstruction of a few holes. I am looking forward to the challenges this will bring over the next five or so years.

(Continued on Page 27)

Panuska —

(Continued from Page 25)

Management Philosophies

I have been very fortunate in my short career as a superintendent to have had the opportunities to grow with the position. The most difficult task I have had to learn as a superintendent is people management. I was raised to be a "get out and do it" person. To be effective as a superintendent, I had to train myself to give others the same opportunity that Ray gave me, the opportunity to learn by doing and making some mistakes. The most important aspect of my job is people — general members, board members, the public but, most important, the people that make our course what it is, my staff.

Their commitment and dedication to their jobs makes the difference at our course. It doesn't matter how much or how little budget you have to work with, the people make the difference. As I bring this to a close I want to leave you with a few thoughts that I try to live by:

- Don't take yourself so seriously and enjoy what you do.
- Do unto others as you would have then do unto you.
- Learn to laugh at yourself.



TEAM GARSKE — What is this five-some?

Williams-Gill



& Associates

Garrett Gill, Principal

Office (715) 425-9511

Facsimile (715) 425-2962

Golf Course Architects

Williams, Gill of Wisconsin
421 North Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022

• Services •

- New Course Design
- Master Plans
- Golf Practice Center Design
- Environmental Planning
- Irrigation Design
- Renovation & Restoration
- Site Planning

When It Comes to Turf Management...

NOBODY KNOWS
LIKE YOUR
WILBUR-ELLIS PRO

- ★ Quality Products
- ★ Environmental Leaders
- ★ Regulations/Services
- ★ Trouble Shooting
- ★ Fertility Programming
- ★ Diagnostic Work
- ★ Leaders in Environmentally Favored Packaging
- ★ Best Technical Services

Yes



Your one-stop shop for all turf management needs. Ask about our complete line of chemicals, fertilizers and seed.

Wilbur Ellis...dedicated to quality, customer service and environmental stewardship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

SHANE ANDREWS

612/723-0151 or 1-800-592-9513

