

HOLE NOTES

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

As the Season Progresses, Don't Forget to Spend Time With Family and Friends



It was the last day of school. We arrived, anticipating what final words of wisdom Dr. Duich was going to share with us. Maybe he would lay out the ultimate nutrient schedule. Or maybe a program for "disease free" putting greens. But that didn't happen. What he had given us, were the tools to figure these out on our own. You know, every golf course has different growing conditions. Larry figured he was going to finally tell us the Cadillac of all programs that turns Poa annua putting surfaces to Bentgrass, Penncross of course. Not a chance. Figure it out yourself, pal.

To our surprise and great benefit, he talked about life after graduation. We were the ones who had a chance to change our profession and private lives when the great jobs came our way. He talked about spending time with family and friends.

"What if you're in an accident in July and hospitalized for an extended period of time, would your course suffer? Not if you are a good manager. So why not be like a normal person and take a week off with your family?"

Take a summer vacation? Has he lost his mind? Bill dared to inform him that no one takes summer vacation. It is unheard of. He looked right at him and said, "There was too much divorce and substance abuse, and it was up to us to change the way we do business."

It was our charge to keep the family structure healthy as well as the golf courses. The golf course will always be there, so we needed to make sure our family will always be there.

This advice has stuck with me like much of the other wisdom Dr. Joe passed to us 20 plus years ago. I can tell you first hand that it works. I have taken a summer vacation every year and I still have a job and the same wife. It is also an opportunity for the staff to show its stuff. More times than not, your golf course will be better than when you left it...because we have accomplished our job of teaching our staff how to do the right things.

Try it, you'll like it.

— Jim Nicol, CGCS
MGCSA President



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