

Insight:

One Superintendent's Perspective

John Monson, Long Prairie Country Club



Course and statistics: Long Prairie Country Club is an 18-hole, semi-private course located at in Long Prairie, Minn.

Years in the Business and Bio: 28, college degree in biology and taught HS biology and astronomy for 34 yrs. Took care of the 9 hole course after school and summers. The additional 9 was built in 1998 the same year I was planning to retire from teaching so the transition was perfect to 24/7 superintendent.

Why and/or how did you enter the turf management industry?

By accident. I was on the Board of Directors at the course in the 70s and the gentlemen who oversaw the grounds was getting married and leaving town. We discussed what to do at a summer meeting and I said, "I suppose I could do it." 28 years later I'm still "doing it."

Who was your professional mentor and why?

All the superintendents who I talked to personally and those



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who took time to answer my questions over the phone. I asked many questions early on.

What has been the highest point in your career?

Being involved in the development of the new 9 and watching it change as it matures.

What has been your lowest point?

Haven't had any real low point.

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

No problems politically or managerial. Agronomic is the biggest problem with poor soil conditions on three of the new holes. The cause was a limited budget during construction.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course and how do you?

Dollar spot and brown patch. Have had very good results with 26GT and weatherstix over the years

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

Good help is not hard to find in my part of the state.

Where will our industry be in ten years?

Similar to where it is now but the equipment will constantly be changing. I don't think robotics will replace people.

Where would you like to be in ten years?

Alive and probably still getting up at 4:30 in the summers and watching the sunrise over the golf course.

What is your perspective of our state association and what would you change?

Because we are outstate, I don't get to many meetings. I guess the only thing I would like to see change is one or two meetings a year more centrally located.

Name your foursome, who would you play with and why?

Jesus (*He would be a calming influence*), Noah (*I would love to see him hit it in the water*), my wife (*she never misses the fairway*). Since I am of Swedish heritage I would make it a fivesome and take Annika along, too!