

WHY I DO WHAT I DO

by Kevin Merideth, *Meredith Maintenance/National Soccer Hall of Fame*

As I was mowing the other day, I experienced an incredible feeling of peace, serenity and satisfaction. I felt comfortable in my being and fully comprehended why I do the type of work I have chosen. As I continued mowing I wondered if it would be possible to articulate my thoughts, express my feelings and convey to others the wonderful sensation that comes from knowing that you are doing the right thing. This is my attempt to do so.

I consider myself among the very fortunate. Not only do I enjoy the challenge of my chosen profession, I receive monetary compensation for doing what I like. I am sure that what I do is not just for the paycheck. If it were, then I would only be cheating myself and those I serve. I am confident that I am not in it for the direct praise of those that use my fields. To them I am anonymous. They do not know who I am, nor do they have to know. I do not do this work to gain favor with those that compensate me. They expect and receive professional results. Although others are capable of doing my job I am the one that has been blessed with it. I consider it an honor and privilege to be able to go to work, give my best and achieve satisfactory results.

I enjoy watching people utilize my fields. I like knowing that I have presented the safest, highest quality fields I am capable of. I like being there on a Saturday morning when young players first step onto the fields. I like to hear them say "oh wow," and to watch their faces light up with the prospect of playing on the nicest turf they have ever experienced. I like the idea that I am part of a growing organization which is helping promote a great sport and preserving its history. I am part of something bigger than myself.

I do not want it to appear that I view the world through rose colored glasses. My job has its share of stress. I can not control the weather. I must stay informed and work around it. I can not control other people. I must educate them and in turn listen to what they have to say. To be adversarial is to be counterproductive. There are times when I make mistakes. I try and view my mistakes as learning experiences. I figure my mistakes, looked at from that perspective, become character building exercises. Through the years I have come to understand that there really isn't that much that I do have control over. In fact, it is clear to me that there are only three things I have any control over. They are: everything I Think, everything I Say and everything I Do.

The realization that I am responsible for what I think, say and do has played a key role in helping me develop as an individual and as a manager. As a younger person

I never gave much thought as to what I would say and do. I was motivated by immediate gratification and was not concerned with the future. My life was out of control. My thoughts were hedonistic, my words were harsh and my actions unacceptable. I was not capable of living like I choose to live today. Today I am able to control my mind, measure my words and demonstrate restraint in my actions. To me these attributes are rewarding, and without a doubt allow me a better way of living.

Why do I do what I do? I do what I do because it makes me feel as though I belong. I do what I do because mowing for me is therapeutic. It allows me to spend hours in contemplation and helps me establish harmony and balance. I do what I do because I created this life by the choices I made. I do what I do because I enjoy it. I do what I do because I like where I am at this point in time. I also like the the idea that the other side of the fence is not greener than mine.

"Why do I do what I do?" Quite simply I like what I do and it brings me a feeling of satisfaction. I believe that there is no greater satisfaction than liking what you are doing. Liking what you are doing perpetuates satisfaction. It is an ongoing process that recreates itself and results in peace, serenity and gratitude. I am continuously rewarded for what I enjoy doing. For all of this I am grateful and truly hope that others can find the same amount of satisfaction I experience.



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