

Sorry Folks, I Just Had to...You Know

We can control some things in life and other we can't. One of those we can't is age. Sue Gibson let me write this column to explain that *TurfGRASS Trends* is a human undertaking and this particular human ran into more roadblocks than he could overcome. I apologize and hope you will forgive me and Advanstar for being late.

I got into this business largely because my parents derived tremendous joy from their landscape. Their pleasure touched me, and I eventually became a horticultural journalist. Now that they are facing the final lap of their lives and I have benefited from 30 years of a career by following their lead, I can only say, they come first. Every few hours I talk with my mother, who is in a hospital bed 2,000 miles from my office. I'm no momma's boy, but I will excuse myself from any call to talk to her. There isn't much I can do, but I have only one priority for the time being — returning the favor of their devotion and love.

We all run this course one day, some sooner than others. Even so, none of us seem prepared. My guide is doing what I hope my two children will do for me when I am in the same situation.

In a few weeks, my son will start his first job as an assistant superintendent at a golf course on the amazing central coast of California after graduating from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. That would not have happened if my dad had not taken me to Shaw's Garden in St. Louis year after year, season after season. My daughter is working on becoming a professional photographer and graphic artist, primarily from her joy of landscape photography. She and her brother are as close as fraternal twins because of their shared admiration for nature. That came through me, not from me, and it wasn't one sided at all. Their mom is the artist, the one who taught them to believe in themselves, pick a career in which they make a difference and to prove it through education. I hope you understand.

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