



On being proud of your job

"There are a lot of great superintendents in the country."

These words from Milwaukee Country Club's Danny Quast, a superintendent himself, start the juices flowing. And there are a lot of other great landscape managers in the country, too. In my six years in the green industry, I've certainly met my share at conventions and in other travels across the land.

"You have to love this business and you have to be motivated," the likable Quast told me this summer, right in the middle of the driest, hottest drought in decades. "The members don't expect as much out of me as I do."

And that's the key.

If this is beginning to sound like a pep talk, maybe it is. Every once in a while, we all need a pep talk. A little "Vince Lombardi" to remind us that we're proud of what we're doing.

Just what is it that you're doing? You're beautifying our country. You're making it a pleasure for others to go to work. You're making it fun to take the kids outside on a nice spring day and roll around in the grass. You're making it a treat to take a day off from work and play a few holes of golf. In your own special way—think about this—you're making people more fully appreciate life.

And you're having fun doing it. You're not chained to a desk or locked in a room with a computer terminal. You, generally, are outside in the warm sunshine when many others are chomping at the bit to be unleashed.

Ken Erman is building supervisor at Edgell Communications. He is, typically, one of you. As he approaches retirement, he tells the story best.

"I've been at this all my life. I worked on a farm from the time I was nine. This was my life. I couldn't get enough of work."

Was it hard work, Ken?

"There are hard aspects. But it was worth it to see the product. To see the results.

"Maybe it's hereditary. My dad was a great one for flowers."

You're a landscape manager. You're historically a hard worker. Hereditary or not, you take pride in seeing the final product. Thank you, one and all. And keep up the good work.

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