

where were

you

in

1962?

...Or '67 or '74 or '86. Here's how some of our readers got their green industry start, and what they've been up to since those early days.

Thanks to all who responded to our request for an update, and best wishes for further accomplishment in this great, green industry!

—The editors

For the past twenty years I have been involved in tree work, but for the past fifteen years I have considered myself an arborist and not just a tree trimmer. Since I was a kid dragging brush, cutting limbs with a bow saw and stacking brush on a trailer I have seen many improvements to the profession. Some of the improvements have made the work easier, safer, and more fun!

The profession is now at a point where many consumers see us as "crafts people," and not just "trades people." Some things quickly come to mind as improvements to the profession:

Dr. Alex Shigo; *Modern Arboriculture*; ISA Certification; synthetic ropes; technical rigging techniques; blending international climbing techniques into our systems; disk-style brush chippers; light weight, high power chain saws; the Internet; personal computers.

Tom
Tri-Cut hand saws

The past 20 years have seen many changes, most of which have been great for golf.

Probably the biggest change has been the increase in non-professional input from the golf community (more commonly known as golf course politics). Today's superintendent experiences more stress from this than from any of the agronomic problems we face. This is not all bad. Today's superintendent is far more businesslike and has better communication skills than was the norm 20 or 30 years ago.

Thanks for asking for the input.

Rodger Pevehouse, golf course superintendent (17 years), Fianna Hills CC, Fort Smith, AK

In 1958 I graduated from SSA; UMass in 1959. Was always active in arboriculture, and have been self-employed on Cape Cod since 1972 with Peter B. Childs & Son, Arborists.

Significant change has come about in areas of education. There are an incredible number of publications such as *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*. The technical information and professional direction in the industry is great, and there are also many more professional women in the field.

In 1962 I also married the wonderful gal I had met because of arboriculture. I went to work at the end of 1962 for the Town of Greenwich, which began my 10-year career as a municipal arborist.

Peter B. Childs
West Barnstable, MA

I entered the green industry in 1984. We operate a lawn application company (fertilizing, weed control, etc.)

Significant changes I've seen include: better control products, such as Acclaim and Pre-M; better sprayers and spreaders; and regulatory restrictions which are oppressive.

Steven Schwartz
S&R Lawn Care
Pomona, NY

In 1969 I was in grade school, but working at a small executive golf course picking up range balls and whatever other 'gofer' job I could weasel my way into. The superintendent at the time—Pat Green—had just graduated with a turf degree from Eastern Kentucky University. He's now general manager at Triple Crown CC.

Dr. Dwight Barkley was and still is my turf professor, and both he and Pat Green had a dramatic effect on my future. I'm now in the golf industry 25-plus years, and the certified golf course superintendent of 45 holes in Kentucky.

I owe so much to fellow superintendents Louis Miller, Louisville CC; Mark Wilson, Valhalla; Jay Charnes, at Harmony Landing CC; and Roy Hourigan, now retired. These guys all guided and encouraged me, along with Green, Dr. Barkley and others I had the opportunity to work with.

The most amazing changes have been the technology and scientific advances in such a short time. The educational level of industry personnel is incredible! We have six turf grads on staff. The next boom—already under way—is the info highway, specifically the ability to share and disseminate information at the click of a mouse. Anyone not jumping on board is missing the boat!

*Jerry Coldiron, CGCS
Boone Links/Lassing Pointe
Florence, Ky.*

Congratulations on 35 years! I was recruited into the landscape industry in 1985 and it's been a great experience. Twelve years later I still look forward to going to work, which I attribute to the quality of the organization I work for. In my short time in the green industry, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with landscape professionals throughout the United States.

What I've found is that if you're willing to give back to the landscape industry the landscape industry is also willing to give.

We've exchanged forms, résumés, job descriptions, surveys, we've toured competitors' buildings, reviewed processes and computer programs and shared home phone numbers and become friends.

I'd like to congratulate the landscape professionals who have raised our industry above the perception of 'a truck and a rake.' It's a great industry and there are thousands of teachers, trainers, managers, supervisors, editors, vendors and suppliers who should also be congratulated.

*Kent Miller
Vice President
The Groundskeeper
CA; AZ; NM; NV*

In 1966 I was in landscape contracting full-time after starting in 1960 part-time prior to college and Navy. I now own a landscape contracting/management, nursery and garden center. There have been great changes in equipment, and far more government regulations.

*John Lamm
John Lamm of Jackson, Inc.
Jackson, Wisc.*



After 20 years as a certified golf course superintendent, I was able to turn my back on a profession that fulfilled all my dreams and goals, and change careers at mid-life and set my sights on another rewarding, but more secure profession.

As in recent months, I have noticed other supers leave the business, yet find work that is still related to the business and I wanted or felt that was the path for me. The all too many disappointments of interviewing as a CGCS, only to lose a job to a far less qualified or "cheaper" superintendent, unethical superintendents, the stress, damaged family life and the all too frequent and familiar situation of having members and public that seem to be more knowledgeable in your field than I was.

I now work for the City of OKC as the Horticulture/Park Maintenance Supervisor for the Parks and Grounds system. I have a great boss, am very energetic in my new profession, yet for the first time in my life, I leave my job at the office and come home with a smile. If anyone says that you can't be re-born through a job change, I'm a prime example that you can!

Walter W. Bird, CGCS, CPSI

In 1977, my father hired me as a lawn care technician for Crowley Lawn Service, Cleveland. I am currently a landscape design consultant for The Pattie Group, Inc., Novelty, Ohio. I

think the most significant changes in the green industry have been anti-pesticide extremism and companies following moderation principles through public relations, education and responsibility.

Charlene Crowley, The Pattie Group, Inc., Novelty, Ohio, shown with daughter Hannah.



In 1962 I was in my ninth year with my own landscape construction firm. In 1974 I formed Natural Athletic Turf, Inc. This company is very active today, constructing or renovating between 20-30 athletic fields per year. I work on golf courses the balance of the year as a green and tee specialist. The most significant changes I've seen and done are in athletic field construction using the sand-based systems and washed sod.

I'm sure that in a few years, growing turfgrass in domed stadiums will be commonplace.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT is great! Keep up the good work!

*Roy G. Zehren,
President, Natural Athletic Turf, Inc.,
Mequon, WI*

