

It's the middle of July and it's been hot and humid for about six weeks now, and I can't wait for August!

The golf course members are wondering what happened to the beautiful grass in the fairways (*Poa annua*) and, is that an irrigation leak on number two, or an underground spring...?

It's that time of year when the stress level is at its highest and when we all can be thankful for the people who are near to us.

There's no question of the importance of our families. I know that my family understands how important they are to me and how much I love them and appreciate their patience when dad can't come home soon enough.

There's another family that is also close to me, and they are my fellow golf course superintendents, co-workers and friends in this business. With all of our busy schedules, it's sometimes difficult to stay in touch,

but when we can visit it's great to know that I may have made someone's day a little brighter or that I am not alone in my own challenges.

A good example of superintendents helping each other occurred in the spring of 1996, after several area courses experienced winter kill. The Nebraska Superintendents Association called a meeting in Lincoln. There was an excellent exchange of ideas and possible solutions. The Beatrice Country Club also had some degree of winter kill that spring, and it was a good feeling to know that I could call on other supers and experts for help.

Have you ever wondered why you are a golf course superintendent or, what keeps you in the work you do? A very few may say the money, and some may say, "I love working outdoors with

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Be a friend, love your family, learn to laugh



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nature."

While all of these things and more are all part of the big picture of why you do what you do, for me as a golf course superintendent for more than 15 years, it's the people.

I have been privileged enough to meet and become personal friends with some of the greatest people a guy could ever hope to know, and I would bet that most of you feel the same about the people that are near to your heart.

Remember to laugh every day. Don't take yourself too seriously. And remember, you're never alone during the rough times. Help is always a phone call away! Keep the faith! **LM**

The author is superintendent of the Beatrice Country Club, Beatrice, Neb.

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