

## Letter to the editor:

Dear Frank,

I have read your recent/current article, Good News, Bad News regarding golf courses and golf play.

I do agree with some of your thoughts but as a long time professional and sometime Golf Superintendent I do not think one has to be P.C. and adopt the "organic label". I suspect most of the Supers today support that approach and strive to achieve that end.

The superintendent today has far more mechanical tools and equipment and advances in the biological controls than I did graduating from Cornell in 1961 and going directly to a course as a Superintendent. The label wouldn't make it work, the management skills of the Super will, all the technical information is out there, but the leadership skills are much harder to come by.

I do not play as much golf as I would like for a couple of reasons. I do not like to play where a golf car is required because of the long walks from greens to the next tee or because the course wants to increase revenues, and usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> reason is to speed up play. I prefer to walk, observe the course, enjoy the facility, etc. I will observe the golf rules and let the faster players through but they will be missing the best part of the game.

Let me give you an example. A few years ago my wife and I were playing late in the day at a very well known course and we were moving along slowly. There were a couple of foursomes ahead of us moving slow. The Ranger came charging up in his white golf car and said we would have to leave as we were holding up the foursome behind us. I looked back and yes there was a foursome in a Cushman Truckster and they were the last group on the course. At the next tee I had time to talk to this last "foursome" and confirmed what I thought – they were course employees playing a few holes and were not in a rush!

You see Frank, there is a bunch of us retired folks out here that the industry is missing just because of some of my above comments.

Perhaps the time issue should be considered temporary while one has a young family, as they are more important than golf. On the other hand when they are young let them start in youth league so it can be a family event.

I still do some consulting work in the Green Industry and I usually find the problems involve management skills and approaches rather than the technical aspects.

Sincerely,

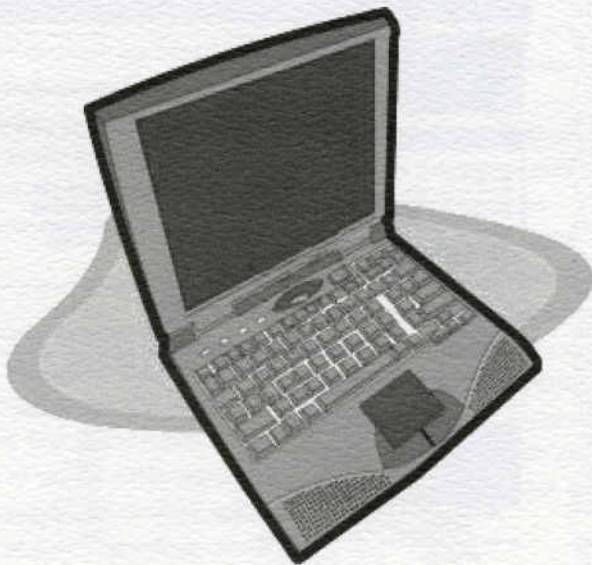
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