

Glemson Horticulture Student Essays

Golf Course Maintenance Reflective Essay

By Alex Hill



During Nick Menchyk's presentation last class, I developed a whole new appreciation and respect for golf course maintenance. Living on Hilton Head I am surrounded by countless golf courses, some rated amongst the best in the United States. I never realized how much effort actually goes into caring for and keeping these courses

in top shape. When Nick described his summer responsibilities: aeration, sod work, irrigation, pesticide, mowing and tree work (N. Menchyk, Powerpoint lecture, March 6, 2012), I was blown away. I always understood golf etiquette with fixing your divots and not grounding your club, but I never truly understood why; as it turns out, that same etiquette seems to make the maintenance crew's job a little bit easier. If I am conscious of my divots and strike marks on the green, which will allow the crew to focus on bigger issues than just my marks. Prior to this new knowledge, when I used to play golf at home I wouldn't necessarily take the best care of any divots or strike marks on the green that I had caused. It never occurred to me that if I didn't take care of them that somebody else would. Now that I have this new knowledge of the intense work that goes into caring for a golf course, I fully intend on fixing my own mistakes and also, I will be sure to thank any maintenance workers that I see during my rounds. I'm sure they are very seldom thanked for the amazing job they do on the course, and thanking them is a small thing I can do to make them feel valued and appreciated.

Turf Grass Scholarly Paragraph

By Alex Hill

The turf grass industry is a highly underappreciated/unknown industry that is involved in many areas of our everyday life, from our front lawn care to the NFL Football field we see on Sundays. This industry is huge for the US economy, providing jobs (opportunities range from 500,000-750,000) and revenue of \$45 billion (H. Liu, PowerPoint lecture, March 6, 2012). Of the total land area in the US, 70,000 square miles is turf; composed in that 70,000 square miles figure are 60 million lawns, 17,200 golf courses, and 750,000 sports fields (800 are professional) (H. Liu, PowerPoint lecture, March 6, 2012). Without this turf industry, sports

fields and lawn care would not exist; golf course maintenance is a huge operation comprised of aeration, sod work, irrigation, pesticide, mowing and tree work (N. Menchyk, PowerPoint lecture, March 6, 2012). One specific turf grass profession is a Greenkeeper who's responsibility it is to look after the course and insure optimum playing condition. Old Tom Morris formerly of the St. Andrew's course in Scotland is considered a pioneer of the Greenkeeper position (H. Liu, PowerPoint lecture, March 6, 2012). There are countless examples of turf grass in our society; the potential for this industry to succeed is limitless.

Alex Hill is a junior majoring in Health Science. He is from Hilton Head Island and was a student in Dr. Vincent's HORT 101 class during spring semester.