

MARCH / APRIL 2011

**KNOWLEDGE**

**Knowledge without understanding,  
interpretation & implamentation is  
WORTHLESS.**

**Knowledge:** WEBSTERS SAYS: *“All that has been perceived or grasped by the mind”.*

What a wonderful word that we use in conjunction with Science, what we expect our teachers and elders to have, and what we as professionals in the turf industry must have in order to give our employers a fair return and to provide leadership to those we are responsible for.

**Understanding;** WEBSTERS SAYS: *“To know thoroughly; grasp or perceive clearly and fully the nature, character, functioning, etc. of.*

**Interpretation:** WEBSTERS SAYS: *“To explain the meaning of, make understandable”.*

**Implementation:** WEBSTERS SAYS: *“To carry into effect; fulfill, accomplish”.*

Years ago I performed an I.S.T.R.C. physical analysis including particle size on the greens of a golf course located in the Midwest that had rebuilt their greens only a year and a half before. [One and half playing seasons]. The greens were struggling and the answer was in the physicals, however before my conversation with the superintendent could proceed to what was causing the greens to fail the superintendent took offense with the particle size analysis report, which showed that there was a piece [one] of gravel in the mix and this piece of knowledge ended the conversation. The superintendent had read a lot and thought he knew everything

there was to know about the particle size analysis of the sand. This piece of knowledge caused the superintendent to come to the conclusion that the I.S.T.R.C. report was not accurate and could not be used.

**KNOWLEDGE:** Not enough

**INTERPRETATION:** Incorrect

**UNDERSTANDING:** Very little

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Not a chance

This former superintendent knew all of the answers to everything and could quote them to you and enjoyed doing so, however he didn't have a clue when it came to common sense understanding and implementation. **AN EDUCATED IDIOT AS MY FATHER USED TO SAY.** This person is no longer in the sports turf industry. The new superintendent laughed when I told him this story and after a brief discussion the corrective measures were implemented and the stressed turf became a mute point. Twenty years later these greens are still performing very well.

Recently I had a conversation with the general manager of a very prestigious Midwest course who had just finished building an additional 18 holes and was looking for a new superintendent. He asked me for recommendations and proceeded to explain to me that he just wanted a middle of the road superintendent, as they had used a well known architect and an established Construction Company so there would be no problems. **WOW,,,,,,,,, IS HE IN FOR A SURPRISE**

**KNOWLEDGE:** Very little

Knowledge based on science and experience is not that hard to obtain, if we would just take the time and do our homework. The purpose of this article is to stress the need for proper knowledge and to

**never stop listening and learning.**

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