Trees: Tough to live with, yet you can't live without

By DR. R. JAY STIPES

Virginia alone. There are Lonesome Pine, of trees? Just turfgrass, perhaps with a ornaments? Despite the agonizing they intendents, I think not!

Roundwood, Stumpy Lake, Willow Brook, historic past.

Letters

BAVIER MADE A DIFFERENCE

To the editor:

North American golf superintendents typi
cally recognize their colleagues from the Chicago area as trend-setters in our profes
some. The finest golf courses are located in the greater Chicago District, and there is keen competition among superintenden
to provide the best possible playing conditions for the golfers. As a result, there are so many excellent courses in and around Chicago that the entire PGA Tour could be played there over the duration of the summer
season. Courses in this area are in excellent condition, and would require little prepara
tion by superintendents for any PGA event.

Recently, a Chicago area superintendent became a distinguished and significant con
tributor to the industry. Michael Bavier, from Indian Trails Golf Club, wrote a letter that later was published by Golf Course News. He ex
pressed a concise and skillfully worded criti
cism of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's proposed bylaw changes. The letter was widely acclaimed, and coagulated support on the part of super
intendents to defeat proposed changes.

Bavier's letter in Golf Course News was the impetus necessary to galvanize suppor
to the defeat of these proposed bylaw changes. The proposed changes would have altered the direction of the associa
tion. These include the ability for the Board of Directors to regulate dues, change voting procedures (from chapter voting to individual ballots by mail), establish a part of that subliminal or subconscious linkage to the good earth from which we came. They impart a sense of belonging, therapy and health, and tend to lessen our fear of mortality as we mingle with strong, sturdy, old specimens.

Trees are nature's best air conditioners. They exchange clean air for foul in return. They also "excrete" pure water and other gaseous wastes and give essential oxygen in return. They also "excrete" pure water through the transpiration process. They serve as screens for ugly sites and irritating noises. Erosion control is difficult, if not impossible, on certain sites where precipitation is excessive on some types of soil.

They certainly enhance real-estate values! Try selling a house with a treeless landscape compared to one with nice, mature, beautiful specimens, especially in warm climates. Much real estate can only be sold when forested.

Most of us love birds, and trees provide shelter and food for many of them, not to mention other wildlife. Trees are aesthetically unique and essential in providing varied interests in different shapes, sizes, colors and dimensions. They also provide a sense of health and well-being associated with a part of that subliminal or subconscious linkage to the good earth from which we came. They impart a sense of belonging, therapy and health, and tend to lessen our fear of mortality as we mingle with strong, sturdy, old specimens.

Trees are nature's best air conditioners. Some houses or other buildings are only the Bermudagrass in winter. GCSAA has elected Randy Nichols, su
perintendent at a top-notch 36-hole golf course near Atlanta, as its new president.

Mr. Bavier leaves his wife of 45 years, Tink, two sons, Royce Rene Richardson and Sheldon E. Richardson; and two grandchildren, all of Paradise
Valley. The family has requested that donations be made to either the American Cancer Society or the Royce R. Richardson Memorial Fund, which will be used to endow a scholarship at the University of Arizona. Donations should be mailed to Farmers Marketing Corp., c/o Elaine Jordan, 3501 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, Ariz., 85040.

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IT'S A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

Now, the flip side of the tree story is the "hate relationship" as encountered by superintendents who have no "free lunches" in their care of the grounds which includes trees. Trees are continuously shedding creatures. They drop bark, branches, leaves, flowers and fruits onto the manicured turfgrass. Some need continuous pruning, feeding, and pest and disease management. Also, in heavy soils where trees are "seeking" moisture, oxygen and nutrients, roots often surface, causing a big problem. Storm damage sometimes becomes a management pain. Also, on many golf courses, the faulty choice of certain tree species results in tree care that could have been avoided had good counsel in tree selection been obtained. Soil compaction resulting from golfers' foot traffic and golf carts becomes problematic in some cases, and soil aeration becomes essential to good tree health.

Are trees on golf courses worth it all? I think even the cynic would have to agree that they are. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure in tree culture and maintenance on golf courses. Knowledgeable consultants in tree care are extremely important resources for superintendents, since turfgrass and not tree management is often their mainline work and expertise. Tree culture, technically known as "arboriculture," is a rapidly changing field, and new science and art are forthcoming daily.

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Phillips: Military course of action

Continued from page 10 (D-Ohio). DeConcini (D-Ariz.) originally submitted this legislation last summer, withdrew it, then reintroduced it in January 1993. Now the opinions: This is a ridiculous bill, with all due respect to DeConcini. For the past five months, I've talked to 30-odd people involved in maintaining and managing these military layouts, which number 249 nationwide. The overwhelming consensus says security would be compromised, especially if the course were managed by a civilian entity. Most military superintendents indicated the courses could be more broadminded with their public play policies, but private management is out of the question.

Leslie commentary

Continued from page 10 name.)

Let's concentrate on our similarities, on those things that pull us together. Even if it hurts, let's tell the truth, not distort it with unbridled rhetoric. That way, even if we disagree on things, at least the facts will be laid out — not buried in shades of truths and untruths.

Two major problems I see: 1) the normal PC's 'belief in biocentrism' and his/her/their stand against "foundationalism.

Biocentrism is the doctrine that every species has equal intrinsic value and that planet earth cannot be viewed solely as a resource for human beings. It is the central tenet of the so-called deep ecology movement, and is epitomized by the view of John Davis, editor of Earth First! Journal, that "eradicating smallpox was wrong. It played an important part in balancing the ecosystem.

Foundationalism is the doctrine that inquiry or thought can actually be grounded on pregiven principles that are true beyond mere belief or assumption. Postmodern analysis, PCs say, shows that no such principles or truths exist, and that any attempt to establish or prove they do is merely an exercise in self-constituted logic.

An example: The statement "We hold these truths to be self-evident" is blatantly — and pathetically — foundationalist, according to The Official Politically Correct Dictionary and Handbook by Henry Beard. Some of the PC types are like the man who smelled the flowers and looked around the corner for the hearse. They are the environmental activists who play games with politicians. Which leads the politicians to play games with science. Which leads to scientists pulling their hair out because they are not the ones with the facts. Yet no one wants to listen to the facts.

Example? Earth First's goal is, by the year 2000, to have made half of the population feel guilty over the U.S. lifestyle. Has that group performed any scientific research lately? They want impartial data. But they don't want to take 10 years of tests. The dilemma we are in is not that the information is unavailable. It is there. Since the PCs won't put themselves out to seek it out, who will? Maybe those from the Socially Moral segment of society.