President’s Message

I hope that most of you have received your Early Bird registration forms for the 58th International Golf Course Conference and Show to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, Jan. 26 - Feb. 2, 1987. I strongly urge you to register now in order to take advantage of the available discount. This year’s conference looks like it will have another record-breaking attendance, which is another reason for registering early.

Our thanks go to Lou Rudinski for the successful July luncheon meeting that he hosted at Eisenhower Golf Course. Thanks also go to John Whittemore and

(Continued on page 2)

Tom Regan Retains An Eight-Point Lead

The field fell a little farther behind leader Tom Regan in the on-going point tournament, as he shot an 80 on July 8 at Eisenhower Golf Course, raising his point total to 28. Nick Vance picked up 4 points that day to bring his total up to 20, still good for second place. Tied for third at 16½ points are Tom Walsh and Stan Lawsen, while Virgil Robinson moved up to fourth with 15 points. In fifth place is George Renault with 14½, and Ken Ingram is sixth with 13.

In monthly open play at Eisenhower, Tom Regan’s 80 gave him low gross honors, one stroke ahead of editor Corrigan. Low net went to Steve Cohoon with 80 less 10 handicap for 70 (Tom matched him out for gross), while George Renault was second with 86 less 14 for 72.
It's People That Make Our Business What It Is

by Bill Neus
Superintendent, Hobbit's Glen Golf Course

Sometimes, when we trudge through a difficult and trying year such as this one, we might find cause to question why we're in this crazy business. I've always contended that part of the reason is the great people in the industry who are always ready to help.

We currently have a member who is out of work due to an illness. When his situation became known early this Spring, some area superintendents began working with that club's green committee chairman on a day-to-day basis to help the club through the crisis. Then, when it became apparent that the illness might be prolonged, these same superintendents helped the club to find someone qualified and able to devote the necessary time to the course through the summer.

Can you imagine Ford or General Motors cooperating in this sort of spirit? Try to picture something similar happening in almost any other industry. Let's face it, we are unique — something special. And, all of us can be tremendously proud of the intangibles that we bring to the golf course business.

The GCSAA advises that if anyone of us in the vicinity of Park City, Utah, on August 22, we're invited to a reception in honor of GCSAA president Riley Stottern, who is the host superintendent for a PGA Senior Tour event at his Jeremy Ranch Golf Course August 21-24. You can also attend this PGA Senior Tour event for free by showing a current gold membership card.

LETTERS . . .

July 2, 1986

Dear Mid-Atlantic Superintendents:

I am writing to say that my husband, Parker Shirling, died several months ago after two severe strokes. Since he retired from Princeton Turf 10 years ago, it is quite possible that the people he worked with are no longer active in the field of cultivated sod. Still, he much enjoyed being on your mailing list for so long; even after his contributions to the business had ended, his interest remained.

Sincerely,
Ruth Shirling

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(Continued from page 1)

Norman Burch of the Golf Collectors Society for bringing out their specimens of old clubs, balls, and books and filling us in on some of the early history of golf equipment.

Once again, August is upon us, and that means it is time for the annual picnic. This year the picnic moves out to Hobbit's Glen in Columbia, where Bill Neus will be our host. For those of you who have never attended a picnic or haven't attended one for many years, you are missing out on a great Mid-Atlantic function. I hope to see everyone there, so come on out and bring your family and guests. No reservations are necessary.

Jerry Gerard, President

Budget Cuts Could Hit Extension Program

The Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing bill passed by Congress has reduced the Virginia Extension Program for 1986 by 4.3%, and the second year of the bill could create even more serious problems for the program, since 84% of the Federal budget is protected from cuts. The bottom line for Virginia Extension is that if the President's budget is enacted with that protection covering 84% of its amount, significant staff reductions will take place, including the release of 33 faculty members, 73 Extension Agents, and 122 secretaries or technicians, respective reductions of 16%, 18%, and 30%.
Yes, You Can Control Canada Geese On Your Golf Course

by Patrick Lucas, Innis Arden Golf Club, Old Greenwich, CT

The purpose of this article is to discuss some of the problems Canada Geese are causing and to share some of the lessons I've learned in controlling them. With the onset of fall, their migration south will commence once again. Originally, most Canada Geese were migrants, using corridors or flyways for travel, going south in winter and coming back north in the summer. We here in the Northeast are located on the Atlantic Flyway, where some one million birds migrate annually.

Today, Canada Geese can be placed in two categories. The first are the migrators, or those geese which still migrate annually. The second category, "resident" geese, are those geese who have stopped migrating and stay in one location year-round.

The numerous problems caused by large flocks of Canada Geese include eating fine turf to a stubble, making reseeding necessary; the droppings they leave behind are unhealthy, ruin the grass, pack mowing equipment, and make putting impossible; and, they leave feathers in the water. If the lake or pond they are inhabiting is used for irrigation purposes, eventually their feathers can clog irrigation suction line strainers.

Why are Canada Geese invading our golf courses and public parks? To answer that, let's look at some of the basic requirements of Canada Geese or what I refer to as their "drawing cards." The first is FOOD and what could be more tasty than our fine turf? The second requirement is WATER, needed for drinking, landing, protection and sleeping. And the last requirement is PROTECTION, or relative safety from being hunted.

Does your course offer these "drawing cards" to Canada Geese? If the answer is yes, then your course can become a resort... for Canada Geese.

Your geese removal program must concentrate on altering these conditions which brought geese to the area in the first place. The most important factor in your geese removal program will be TIMING. The longer Canada Geese are allowed to inhabit an area, the more comfortable they will become and the harder it will be to get them to leave.

Let's look at water, remembering that water is necessary to Canada Geese for: a. drinking, b. landing, c. protection, d. sleeping.

Your goal will be to make your lake or pond look unwelcome from the air. Some of the ways in which this can be achieved are:

WIRE GRIDS: Wires can be strung across the lake in a grid-like pattern about 14 to 18 inches above the water level. This will effectively deprive Canada Geese of using the water. If the span is great, use floats as needed for mid-way support.

ROPE OBSTACLES: Yellow rope can be strung between high trees, across favorite flight paths near the body of water. Keep the ropes somewhat loose to sway in the wind. This will create obstacles in what used to be favorite landing or taking off flight paths.

BLACK FLAGS: The Fish & Wildlife Service reported on the use of a flag-like device made from a black plastic trash bag fixed to a tall pole to deter geese from feeding at their ease. It is said to work especially well in grain fields in the midwest. The Service notes that geese don't like to feed in areas where they sense a threat from overhead, which is what the fluttering "flag" represents to them. These could be installed in and out of play areas, or even in the pond itself.

SWAN SCARECROWS: Swan families and their babies (or cygnets) are vicious to Canada Geese and most geese are aware of this. Consider using replicas of swan families as "floating scarecrows" to deter geese from landing.

Lastly, consider the aspect of safety and security. Canada Geese are smart, staying close to metropolitan areas to avoid being hunted. This protective "comfort zone" which they enjoy must be removed.

If you have Canada Geese, you can remove their "comfort zone" and get them to leave at the same time by using what I call the HUNTER AMBUSH APPROACH. Your goal is to make the Canada Geese feel they are genuinely being hunted and that their welfare is being threatened. A point to remember: this is NOT a form of harassment which probably the geese have had to contend with in the past. This is an entirely different approach which makes them feel their very survival is threatened. Here's how to do it:

You will need a loud blank gun and a trusted member of your crew as your "hunter." Have the hunter stalk the feeding geese either early in the morning, or at dusk, slowly creeping up on them, inch by inch. It may take the hunter 15 or 20 minutes to cover say about 200 yards as he approaches the flock, during which time several things will begin to happen.

The first and most obvious is that the sentinel or lookout goose will begin to look in the direction of the approaching hunter. Next, the majority of the flock will begin to stop feeding and "aim" in one direction. All this time the hunter is getting closer to the geese. As they become more nervous, the geese will begin to squawk and flap their wings, because someone or something is approaching them in a way which is strange and unfamiliar. It is exactly at this point that they are ready to go and the hunter (very close now) should begin firing. Or, at any time during the day that the geese are observed attempting to land, the hunter should begin firing when their wings are locked-in on their approach.

The library of Natural Sounds, Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. has available a cassette audio tape of Canada Geese distress call. Consider using it in conjunction with your "HUNTER AMBUSH APPROACH" for greater effect.

Once properly done, you will receive another bonus besides getting the geese to leave. Research has shown that Canada Geese are unlikely to return to a spot where they have been ambushed.

Remember, when geese fly over they look for "signs"; signs below telling them everything is all right, it is okay to land. Other waterfowl (ducks, egrets, kingfishers, etc.) are such signs and must be frightened away. We want our lake or pond to look unwelcome from the air.

Clean out all brush areas which have been favorite nesting grounds in the past. Once the geese have nested in the spring, it is very difficult to get them to leave.

In closing, success can be achieved by a combination of understanding the basic requirements of Canada Geese and implementing a program of action.

Meeting Schedule 1986

September 9 — Falls Road G.C., Ralph Strouth, host
October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselman, host
November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
December 9 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, Grant Pensinger, host
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