

T H I N G S

Golfers belong to a group of people commonly known as "nuts". This group includes also fishermen and hunters. Anyway, this story about a truly dedicated golfer was passed on to me, and in turn I'll pass it on to you..

Bill was a fanatic about golfing, and nothing would stop him from his weekly appointment with the golf links. His wife had resigned to this fate, and had accepted her role as a weekend golf widow with dignity. However, she did have some important shopping to do that Saturday, and they had only one car. So, she asked her husband if he could be back early enough to help her with the shopping. Oh yes, that was perfectly fine with Bill. He would just start at daybreak, and then be back at about 2:30 p.m. So, Saturday morning, at 4:30 a.m. Bill got up, and drove several miles to pick up his golf crony, Jack. That night at 10:30 p.m. he struggled in, and was met by his furious wife: "Where have you been?"

"Oh, Honey," Bill said, "Don't start yelling until I tell you what happened to me today. I had a terrible day. I started early as you know to fetch Jack. On the way to the course we had a flat tire. I wanted to change to my spare, and found that we had not fixed our spare from the last flat we had recently. So, I took the tire off and rolled it to the station, which was 3 miles one way. When it was fixed I rolled it back 3 miles, and put it on the car. We took off again, and about a mile further down the road we ran out of gas. So I walked two miles to the station to get gas, and back. Well, by the time we had filled up and had driven to the course, there was a long line of golfers waiting ahead of us, and we did not get a starting time until 1:00 p.m. When we finally teed off, it was 1:15. We got to the second green when Jack had a heart attack! I ran back to the club house to get a doctor and an ambulance. Then I ran back to the green to see how Jack was doing. When I got there, poor Jack had died. Well, honey for the rest of the game I had to hit the ball and then drag poor Jack behind me, then hit the ball, and drag Jack behind me.....!"

Lee Huang

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Californian Robert Muir Graves was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group's recent annual meeting in Naples, Florida.

The Society's membership comprises golf course architects from Canada, Mexico and the United States.

A landscape architecture graduate of the University of Calif, Graves has maintained his own firm since 1959. His office now is

located at 3186 Old Tunnel Road, Lafayette.

His completed courses include Carmel Valley Golf & Country Club Carmel Valley, Lake Merced Golf & Country Club, San Francisco, Canyon Golf Club, Rodeo and the Villages Golf & Country Club, San Jose.

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TURFGRASS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

by Anthony Terzis

For many years Golf Course Superintendents have provided thousands of acres of healthy turf for the enjoyment of millions of people. Until recently, grass has been praised mainly on its aesthetic value. Because of the increased public awareness of pollution and the environment, it behooves us to look at the contribution turf makes in improving and protecting our environment.

We can begin by considering grass as a life support system. Green plants, whether they are phytoplankton, "the grass of the sea," or a wheat crop, provide the base for a food chain. This means everything we eat, plant or animal, begins with something green.

In their life processes, plants take polluting gases from the air and liberate pure oxygen. Recent research indicates that equal amounts of oxygen are produced by plants in the sea and on land. In fact, the average 18-hole golf course of 150 acres during the growing season provides enough oxygen for 10,350 people day after day. But the production of oxygen is just one of many benefits living turf provides.

Turfgrass is a regulating factor of man's environment. Each year the burning of fossil fuels puts large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists warn that since carbon dioxide has an insulating effect, the result will be a warming of the earth through the "greenhouse effect." This could bring about a melting of polar ice caps and a flooding of coastal cities. One-half of the carbon dioxide produced each year is taken up by the oceans. The other half remains in the atmosphere to become incorporated into the roots, stems and leaves of green plants through the process of photosynthesis. In spite of this, we remove a million acres a year from production, paving them over with highways, shopping centers and apartments.

Another chemical formed during fuel combustion is nitrogen dioxide. The action of sunlight on it and unburned gasoline produces photo-chemical oxidants such as ozone and peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), which, while harmful to some vegetation, have a lesser effect on bluegrass. Another air pollutant, hydrogen fluoride, can cause injury to crops in minute concentrations of 1/10 part in one billion, but grass can accumulate several thousand times that amount without injury.

Grass and trees are effective dust traps. They act to slow the