

**Editor's Note: Ladies' view of a Green's Seminar.**

**By Jeannie Morris  
Chicago Today News  
Let golf courses return to nature**

**TIME TO DE-ESCALATE GREEN GAME**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN to a green seminar? There are red seminars, of course, which are said to be subversive, and blue seminars, which are notably depressing, but a green seminar?

Illinois Atty. Gen. William Scott has been to one and so have I. The same one, as a matter of fact, and I don't think it was terribly exciting for either of us.

The people who ordinarily go to green seminars are green supervisors; that is to say, they're not sick or any thing, they're just the guys who are in charge of administering and grooming golf courses.

The men present at the Chicago District Golf Association's annual green meeting nodded in agreement when Paul Voykin of Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield referred to Illinois area links as the "major league of golf," the best, he said, in the United States—and maybe the world.

THE TALK WAS ABOUT budgets and pesticides and budgets and refuse burning and budgets and drainage—and budgets. Until Scott arrived, and he talked about the problems and achievements of his administration in the areas of air, water and even noise pollution. It was his very slick environment talk, his "green" speech, if you will.

I was impressed, I really was.

But Scott didn't have much to say about golf courses, except for one almost casual thought that maybe the state should eventually give some support (tax breaks) to golf clubs, with a view to keeping their very valuable land open and, well . . . green. Otherwise, the attorney general conjectured, the courses could be gulped up by the large-mouthed machines that forerun condominium developers.

Now, I believe in equitable real estate taxes but the more I thought about private country clubs getting state support in the form of tax considerations the more the idea irritated me.

I saw that sign when I drove in: It said: "Rolling Green Country Club, Members Only." There are 250 members of the club and none of them is me. They pay \$5,000 initiation fee, \$100 a month in dues, fees for almost every service and must spend a minimum of \$40 a month in the clubhouse. Budget squeeze or no budget squeeze, neither Rolling Green nor the members of the other 109 private clubs in Illinois qualify as welfare cases.

BRIARWOOD'S VOYKIN has a more digestible suggestion. He is trying to start a revolution in course maintenance which counters the trend of the past few years. He says we overgroom our courses here in the U. S. and offers as an alternative the wild—and often more challenging—links of Europe.

Voykin backed with figures his contention that the material and man hours spent on meticulous mowing, pruning and feeding of many course areas are frivolous and cater to the American golfer's insatiable need for a "good lie." "Golf," says Voykin, "should be a game of accuracy. But there is more and more preoccupation with the long drive."

Voykin told how he had allowed two acres of previously manicured rough on his course go back to nature, "and even a few wild flowers came up," he said. Wow! How disconcerting!

And why not go back to nature? The average 18-hole course in Illinois costs \$110,000 per year to maintain. Bob-O'Link, the marvelous all-male bastion in Highland Park spend \$130-140,000. Ladies are allowed to enjoy the parking lot. A little man will even serve you a drink — if you promise to stay in your car.

VOYKIN'S IDEAS of ameliorating the cost squeeze appeal to me a lot more than Scott's. All that most of us get out of that gorgeous acreage is a look-see over the fence. Scott says it's ridiculous to allow a private club to go broke (when a little tax relief might help), turn around and spend the taxpayers' money to buy the land back for a park. Frankly, I don't see why that's so bad; at least, in such a case, the taxpayers could USE the land.

As much as I admire Scott's pollution solutions, Voykin gets my vote in the links league. He says the hooker in his plan is that many of the "green" men equate beauty with a nifty manicure and there is considerable competition to achieve the best-groomed course. But there is also beauty in "challenge," and in nature as well. Voykin is right. It's time to de-escalate the green game.

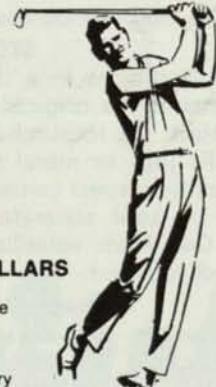
From the world's largest  
grower of fine sod . . .

**Warren's®  
A-20**

**KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS**  
Sod and Sod Plugs

**The finest grass  
available for  
TEES - FAIRWAYS - COLLARS**

- Rated highest in disease resistance
- Upright growth
- Takes short mowing
- Fast recovery from injury
- Greens up earlier — stays green longer



**CREeping BENT SOD & STOLENS**

**Greens** — Toronto C-15 and Pennpar  
**Tees** — Cohansey C-7 and Pennpar

**Warren's TURF NURSERY**

8400 West 111th. Street  
Palos Park, Illinois 60464  
Phone (312) 974-3000

State Road 47 (North)  
Huntley, Illinois 60142  
Phone (312) 974-3000

1801 North Rand Road  
(U.S. 12 No. of Dundee Rd.)  
Palatine, Illinois 60067  
Phone (312) 974-3000

2550 Dempster Street  
(Dempster St. at Potter Rd.)  
(Lindemann's)  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
Phone (312) 297-7470

**C. E. STEWART  
and Associates  
Civil Engineer**

**Irrigation, Drainage, Water Supply, Pumping Plants  
Design — Reports — Consultation — Supervision**  
18357 Homewood Ave. Homewood, Illinois