

greenkeeping with the golfer in mind



*Superintendent, Bob O'Link
Golf Club, Highland Park, Ill.
Past President, Golf Course
Superintendent's Association
of America. An ardent golf
fan with a 7 handicap.*

Bob Williams

Golfers must be particularly happy that the day has arrived when most golf course superintendents have taken up the game. Now that superintendents share the pleasures and frustrations with everyone else who trods the greensward, they are more sympathetic with the playability of the course. As enthusiastic golfers, today's superintendents are aided by a keen awareness of the game's aspects that are strongly influencing their everyday management decisions. What's more, they are doing something about it and thus making golf more enjoyable. Here are a few of the considerations Chicagoland golfers are receiving from local superintendents.

OPERATION TEE-CUP: Several years ago, the Chicago District Golf Association and the superintendents got together to devise a uniform system for tee and cup placement that is in general use today throughout the country. Basically, this system uses the front, center and back areas of both tees and greens: Six tees front, six middle and six back. The cups will also be placed with six front, six center and six back, but coordinated so that a front tee will play to a back cup setting, a center tee to a center cup, etc. In this way, the everyday average length of the course varies only slightly. Some superintendents also add a rotation of the cups from left to right so that 9 cups will be from center to left of the green and 9 from center to right. Systematic setup of the course in this manner eliminates the possibility of finding the course extra long and tough one day and a pushover the next. It also helps to keep handicaps more equitable.

There are many efforts made in the interest of helping the golfer. To help them with the rules of the game, signs are posted at convenient locations. Also, to lend interest to the course for club members, the positions of

tees, pins, markers and even ball washers and benches are changed several times each week.

Of significant importance to the golfer and his game is the unsung but necessary task of policing the course. While this is not an arduous job, it is vital to maintaining the beauty that characterizes a course and a must for actual play.

It is an interesting sidelight to note that on many courses the architects and the superintendents had the golfer's slice in mind when they laid out the course with a modified approach to doglegs. Usually to the right rather than the left.

SHORTER MOWING MEANS BETTER GOLFING: Golfing superintendents have a solid appreciation of the golfer's desire for closer cropped fairways, tees and greens. With that desire in mind, we now mow fairways approximately 40 percent closer than we did 30 years ago; the present height being about $\frac{3}{4}$ ths to $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch. Greens and tees are cut to about $\frac{5}{32}$ nd and $\frac{3}{8}$ ths, respectively. Up to a point, the shorter mowing provides the golfer with a better opportunity for a clean hit off of the fairways and a truer putting surface. Naturally enough, there are limits of tolerance both for the golfer and the various turfgrasses. I believe, however, that we have reached a level of optimum compatibility where both factors are being dealt with satisfactorily. It is also of interest that most of the greens in the Midwest area are now being mowed seven days a week to offer further consistency and appeal to the golfer.

TIME FOR AN "INTERFERENCE CALL" ON GROUNDS CREW: Probably more than any other consideration, the scheduling of important and necessary

maintenance operations has significantly come to the attention of the golfing superintendent. He has grown particularly aware of those items that interfere with pleasurable golfing, such as aerifying, watering, topdressing and mowing. Technical research at our state universities, coupled with fantastic new developments in equipment and chemicals, have brought out essential changes in our maintenance programs, all to the benefit of the golfers.

We have learned to use the "off season" periods more efficiently to reduce player interference during the busy season. Aerifying and topdressing greens for example, can be scheduled for early spring or late fall rather than over the summer months. Automatic irrigation is proving to be a godsend to turf management whereby we can apply less water more uniformly and during the nighttime hours. Women golfers who usually prefer golfing in the early morning will especially appreciate this.

Professional time studies have taught us that the job must be done with as little interference to the players as possible. This is not only for the golfers' pleasure but because unproductive workmen are a gross extravagance. A more recent innovation is the development of the motorized sand-trap rake which allow the superintendents to get traps raked more efficiently with about one-fourth the labor.

LOVE THAT LANDSCAPE:

Golfers get as much if not more pleasure from the passive recreation found in walking or riding around a beautifully landscaped golf course. The glorious flowering of spring trees and shrubs, the fragrance of a June-blossoming Olive tree, the array of red and yellow colors of the fall leaves, small lakes with water-fowl and fish, romping squirrels, rabbits

and other wildlife—are all features that take one back to nature and far from the daily cares and pressing demands of life. Golf course superintendents are mindful of this important aspect of recreational pleasure and are continually working out long-range programs for the landscape enhancement of their courses.

By personally learning and

playing the game, the superintendent has found a new awareness that helps him relate to the game and to the players. Having a feel for the game himself has also improved his relationships with the clubhouse managers and the golf professionals. The outcome can only add up to a combined total effort that yields a more pleasurable game for the golfers.

ARTHUR CLESEN INC.

Turf Chemicals

**Agrico — USS Agri-Chem. - Koos
Fertilizers**

Soil Conditioners

"Easy Markers" & Paints

611 So. Wolf Road
Wheeling, Illinois (312) 537-2177

The sympathy of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to Mrs. Gordon J. Duguid and family at the death of Gordon.

Gordon J. Duguid, Age 44, spent much of his childhood at the Evanston Golf Club and started his career there under his uncle, Bob Duguid, Sr.

Served as assistant to Mel Warnecke, Evanston Golf Club; Superintendent - Villa Olivia Golf Club; Assistant Superintendent - Medinah Country Club #3; Superintendent - Big Spring Country Club, Louisville.

While in Louisville served two consecutive terms as President of the Kentuckiana G.C.S.A.; Superintendent - Country Club of North Carolina.

After leaving the country club at North Carolina, he moved to Beckley, West Virginia, where he was involved in building golf courses for a large complex.

He became ill approximately two years ago. Early this summer progress was being made with the treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis. In June a tumor in the chest was discovered which was malignant. He passed away Sept. 4, leaving his wife, Joyce, five children, his mother, father, a brother and sister. The family lives at 709 Northwestern Avenue, Beckley, W. Va. 25801.