

IF THE SHOE FITS ...

One thing that bothers me at our monthly meetings is the way some of our members show up to play golf. I really don't think that blue jeans and tennis shorts should be allowed on the golf course. At a recent meeting, one of our members showed up in blue jeans that had faded quite badly and had small holes in the knee areas. A member who I know personally, came up to me and made a comment about the way the individual was dressed. It hurt my pride to have this man come up to me and say what he did.

Gentlemen, we are supposed to be professionals in our own field so why not dress like one? It only takes a moment to change from work clothes into proper golfing attire. I think that we would certainly improve our image with our own members as well as those members whose clubs we play each month.

It was certainly a credit to the M.A.G.C.S. to see Mr. Ray Gerber and Mr. Paul Voykin accept awards at our national convention and show in New Orleans dressed in coat and tie. As I looked around the room, I saw numerous superintendents, not necessarily from our association, dressed in blue jeans. Here we had Mr. Jim McKay from our National Vice-President's Club to give a keynote address which was outstanding and who will probably never see many of us again. Do you think that his first impression of us as a group might be a lasting one? I do and that is why I feel that we should dress a little bit better than the way we go to work.

At the club level, the grounds department at Briar Ridge C.C. are given four tee shirts with the club name on the back. They are required to wear these shirts daily with blue jeans without holes. The members appreciate this very much and especially when they have guests. Also, if something is wrong, dead cart for instance, they know that if they tell someone in a yellow tee shirt, it will get back to the pro shop promptly.

Don't get me wrong, I realize that we don't and will not get paid by the way we dress; however, I feel that we should look as presentable as possible. By improving our own image, we can only help ourselves as well as make our members proud of their grounds crew and their superintendent.

I recently held an Indiana PGA event at my club and got some feedback through the mail about the course and the tournament. It was interesting for me because most of them mentioned the grounds crew, not only for the job they did, but how polite they were. Also, one participant came up to me and asked if I allowed any of my employees to wear tank tops or go without a shirt while working. I responded with an emphatic "No". He was very appreciative of that and told me that he thought all clubs should make their employees wear shirts all of the time, just the same as golfers are required to do on almost all courses.

In summary, let's make an effort to come to our monthly meeting dressed as golfers, not employees. It can only help our image at the club we are playing at. It also has to make the host superintendent proud to be associated with people who know how to dress for an occasion. In 1979, a code of ethics was adopted that requires sport coats to be worn at all dinner meetings. Let's keep this in mind each month.

Joe Williamson
Briar Ridge Country Club

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

Ruskin

LEAF GALLS ON SHADE TREES

Galls are abnormal growths on plants. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors depending on the insect, disease, or environmental condition that caused them. According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, when insects cause these tumors, the growth is stimulated by chemicals that the insect produces.

Although insect galls on the leaves of shade trees may detract from the beauty of the tree, they really don't weaken it.

Succulent oak galls are very common on oaks this year. They are green growths that occur at the base of leaves of pin oak and some other oak varieties. They look like small green grapes and are caused by tiny non-stinging wasps which lay eggs as leaves are emerging in the spring. The pin oak leaves continue to develop into full-sized leaves and no more galls are produced until the following spring.

Honey locust pod galls are actually leaflets that are deformed into small, green to reddish balls about 1/8 inch in diameter. The flies that cause these galls have several generations a year producing additional galls on honey locust throughout the summer.

Maple bladder galls appear as green, pinhead-sized lumps on maple and box elder leaves in the spring. These galls are caused by mites that have several generations that produce additional galls throughout the summer. Although these galls are green when produced, they soon turn red.

Hackberry nipple galls are caused by insects that are close relatives to aphids, called psyllids. The gnat-like adults enter our homes in the fall to hibernate for the winter and return to hackberry leaves in early spring to lay their eggs. The immature psyllids that hatch from these eggs cause the green, nipple-like galls to be formed around themselves as the leaves develop. One generation is produced each summer that emerges as adults in the fall.

Generally says Fizzell, control measures are not recommended for gall producing creatures, since galls on leaves usually cause no apparent harm to the tree. Although the appearance of the leaves may be different from normal, seldom is the gall infestation large enough to be noticeable except by close inspection.

James A. Fizzell, Sr. Extension Adviser
Horticulture — University of Illinois

NEW ROTOR DAM MODELS INTRODUCED BY RAIN BIRD

GLENDORA, CA, June 30, 1982 -- New rotor dams were introduced recently by the Turf Division of Rain Bird Sales, Inc.

Designated as Models RD-3 and RD-6, these dams can be mounted on Rain Bird rotors at grade on new turf areas, instead of mounting rotors a few inches above in order to prevent the back wash of seed, top dressing and debris into the rotor case.

Once the turf is established, the rotor dam can be cut off and thrown away. This disposable feature saves the labor involved in digging around and lowering the rotor to finished grade level after the turf has been established.

The RD-3 model fits all Rain Bird MINI-PAWS. While the RD-6 model fits all Rain Bird cast iron and SAM plastic-case rotors.

For more information about rotor dams, contact your Rain Bird distributor, or write Turf Division, Rain Bird Sales, Inc., 145 N. Grand Avenue, Glendora, CA 91740.