

(Strawberry cont'd.)

For an easy way to use extra berries, try no-cook strawberry jam.

Uncooked Strawberry Jam

- 3 cups crushed strawberries (about 1 1/2 quart boxes)
- 5 cups sugar
- 1 package powdered fruit pectin
- 1 cup water

Measure berries into a large mixing bowl. Add sugar, mix well, and let stand for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Dissolve pectin in water, bring to a boil and boil for 1 minute. Add this solution to the berry mixture and stir for 2 minutes. Ladle jam into freezer containers or canning jars; leave 1/2 inch space at the top. Cover containers and let stand for 24 hours or until jam has set. Store in refrigerator or freezer. Jam will keep up to 3 weeks in the refrigerator or up to a year in the freezer. Makes 7 half-pints.

If the jam is too firm, stir to soften. If it is too soft, bring it to a boil and it will thicken on cooling.

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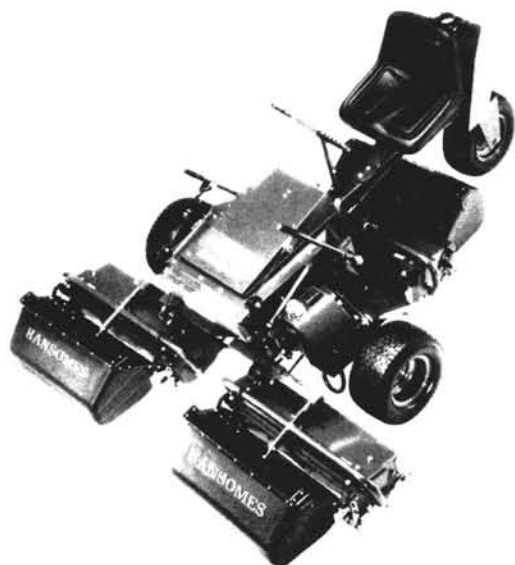
A Rewarding Handicap

by Edwin Wollenburg, retired superintendent

Several weeks ago, while looking for my ball that had gone askew from the fairway that had been so carefully designed by Robert Trent Jones for me to follow, I came upon a patch of wild strawberries. My pursuit to challenge and humiliate the course rating, ceased here immediately as I feasted on these luscious tiny berries. Wild strawberries have to be the sweetest berries that grow. Why there aren't more of them anymore, is one of those tantalizing mysteries of the open fields.

Wild strawberries once were plentiful in sunny places almost everywhere. I think it has been 50 years since I last plunked one of those sweetest of all morsels into my mouth, I can remember my grandmother telling me, that they used to pick them by the pailful and refer to them as "more pleasing than honey to the tongue." My mother used to make jam from the pickings in the hayfield before it was cut for fodder. A finer jam has never graced a table. And anointed with honest-to-

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(Rewarding Handicap cont'd.)

goodness cream, was complete ambrosia. I guess they were the reason for the first strawberry shortcake, and today's modern counterpart is, if not actually a fraud, a poor excuse in comparison.

The mere sight of those wild strawberries took me back to the scenes of my early youth, and I'm sorry for the kids or anyone who has never had the pleasure to have them excite their palate. And I'm in full accord with Monroe Sprowl's little verse or limerick that said:

"If ever I dies an' you ain't certain I's dead.
Just butter some biscuit and new made bread
And spread 'em all over with wild strawberry jam.
Then step mightly softly to whar I am
An' wave dem vittles above my head ...
If my mouf don't open, I's certainly dead."

Wild strawberries, when you can find them, as I accidently did, are prime examples of how much flavor can be stowed in a small package. They seldom are bigger than a fingertip, their juice is blood-red, and their bit of flesh is a concentrate of wild sweetness, so rich you smell their fragrance before you taste it. If there were wild strawberries in Eden, and there must have been, Adam was a fool as well as a sinner to taste any other fruit.

As you can see, I have no comments about my golf game or score, but what I discovered off the beaten path was well worth the handicap of a lousy golfer. I may never play the fairway again.

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