

Shellcrackers Keep the Geese Away

by Kevin Czerkies, Supt.
Sportsman's Country Club

Once again the topic of geese came up at the March MAGCS meeting. Like many courses, I had my fair share of them. My biggest problem with the geese was the droppings they left behind.

I had heard that Dave Beno at Bonnie Brook and Paul Bastron at Glen Flora were successfully scaring their geese away with the help of shellcrackers. I decided to give it a try.

Shellcrackers are a class "C" explosive that sounds like a gunshot when they explode. They are considered somewhat like fireworks, therefore I needed written permission from the village of Northbrook and the police department before I could legally purchase them.

I ordered 600 shellcrackers and purchased a 12 gauge flare gun. The flare gun needed to be reamed out slightly to hold the shellcrackers.

Before I could begin firing shellcrackers, the Northbrook police asked that I notify all neighbors that bordered Sportsman's. I drafted a letter explaining our intentions, and had two of my employees distribute copies to each house.

Finally, it was time to begin. We began firing shellcrackers last October. At that time we had over 500 geese.

The first week my staff and I fired nearly 500 shellcrackers. Within this one week period we had completely rid Sportsman's of geese.

Now, whenever any geese land on the golf course, a single shot clears the course again. The geese are so spooked that, quite often, they fly away before I can get a shot off.

It took a lot of time and effort to get this program implemented, but it's a solution that works.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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