

Getting to Know Your Fellow Members

by John Meyer

Spring is finally here. The greens are green again (second time this Spring), the trees are budding out and Wrigley Field is filled to capacity.

I don't know if the Cubs will win the pennant this year but I do know of one fan that will be pulling for them every step of the way. Don Ferreri, born and raised in Naperville, born and raised a Cub Fan. In visiting with Don, he mentioned that in his family you either followed the Cubs or you followed the Cubs.



The Naperville North graduate went to Joliet Junior College to study turf. I did not ask Don, but I imagine what he did not learn there, he learned from Art Benson at Butterfield Country Club. Don was Assistant Superintendent at Butterfield for seven years until April of 1987.

In April of 1987 Don was hired by Forest City-Harris Group as superintendent for the company's new Seven Bridges Golf Course in Woodridge. The company had purchased the 60 year old, 36 hole Woodridge Golf Course as part of a 395 acre site. Construction of the new course was to begin in June of 1987 but was halted before it even began.

The Du Page County Forest Preserve District filed a condemnation suit against the property, which led to more than two years of negotiating with the Village, County, and the Illinois Department of Transportation.



Don kept the old courses intact and operational until the negotiations were through and finally got to break ground in June of 1989. The biggest challenge Don faced was a goal he set himself, "that when the course opened for play, that it would have that well established look."

The greens, tees, and fairways were easy because they had irrigation. But the rough mounds were a challenge. Don brought water to the mounds by relocating and adding quick couplers. This ensured adequate moisture during germination and that well established look Don wanted to achieve.

Don has established himself, his bride, Geri, and their three children, Brenda, Bridget, and Brittany in Naperville. I wonder if they have ever heard HOLY COW!! in that household?

Geese = Poa Annua

by Michel P. Etchemendy, Asst. Supt.
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We all know that Poa Annua invasion is traditionally a result of several factors: poor drainage, compaction, high phosphorous and nitrogen rates and movement of seeds by equipment and grass clippings. On our golf course, and perhaps yours, there are several greens that have substantially more Poa Annua, but they drain well, have no compaction problem due to light play, aerification and hand mowing, and are treated culturally, the same as the rest of the greens. Why do these greens have so much Poa Annua?

This spring while preparing greens for opening day, I noticed something very interesting. The greens with more Poa also have many more goose droppings. I believe there is a direct correlation. The geese seem to like eating Poa Annua and it's seeds, and even scratch down into the soil on some patches of Poa. They then deposit the seeds with an organic fertilizer and an insulator or cover to make conditions perfect for germination on those warm days of early spring. Who hasn't removed the goose droppings from their greens and found the grass below long and lush.

So what can be done? There are several options, fence the affected greens so the geese can't walk on to the green. I don't think they will land inside the fence due to the length of the runway. The use of growth covers may also discourage the geese from using the green, or perhaps some other repellents would be effective.

I don't have any university studies, or scientific proof to substantiate my theory. It was simply an observation but maybe you will find it useful and something to consider.

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