

Brad Johnsen and Klein Creek



John Meyer

Later this month, we, the members of the Midwest, are going to have the opportunity of playing Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield Illinois. Klein Creek, one of the newer golf courses here in the Chicagoland area, is a Dick Nugent-designed course that is certainly a challenge for every golf enthusiast. Course superintendent

Brad Johnsen said, "Nugent did a great job with a flat piece of farm land." I had the pleasure to sit down with Brad last month to pick his brain about Klein Creek and a little about himself.

Brad has been with Klein Creek since June of 1993, but as many of us know, he is no newcomer to the Chicagoland area. Brad grew up at Ridgemoor

Country Club in Chicago. There he did "everything." "I did everything from working in the bag room, to caddying, to helping out in the kitchen. My grandfather was superintendent at Ridgemoor for 40 years, and I basically grew up there," Brad recalled.

Johnsen received his formal education at Western Illinois University. His 1973 degree in

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From tee to tee . . .

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Managing Summer Pests in Turf

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the greatest benefits from fungicides. In fact, our research suggests that in a properly managed turf, the use of fungicides can be reduced both in rate and application frequency.

Pythium blight of summer turf

This is the most destructive disease of turf and occurs during the warmest time of summer. It affects all species of grass, can destroy many square feet of grass in hours, and is prone to attack intensely managed turf. Water and temperature are the main driving forces for this disease, but high nitrogen (>5%) in the leaves also fuels this disease. To manage this disease: water infrequently, keep the turf areas open to circulation so the leaves dry each day, slow down on the amount of applied nitrogen, and know the "hot" spots in your turf where Pythium blight may develop. Pythium blight usually develops in the same general areas of a turf each year, and the pathogen is spread by moving water. If you are going to use a fungicide to keep the population of Pythium in check, try treating only the "hot" spots. Use a systemic prior to conditions that support the disease. If the disease becomes severe, use a contact fungicide in between applications of the systemic. Also, be sure to change the type of fungicide that you use to avoid potential pathogen resistance.

Summer Patch

As the name implies, this is a soil-borne disease that is seen in the summer. However, it actually starts developing in the spring of the year when soil temperatures are about 21°C two inches beneath the turf. When you see summer patch in June-September, there is little you can do to stop the disease, for most of the dam-

age is done. The times to manage summer patch are spring and fall. Fortunately, summer patch can only be spread by the movement of infected, living turf. Thus, it will develop year after year in the same areas. Once you have observed the problem, focus your management on those "hot" spots. In the spring and fall, make sure that your management promotes strong turf growth. Next, consider the use of a fungicide in the spring and possibly the fall. Soil-borne diseases like summer patch, once started, are very difficult to manage without the help of fungicides to reestablish balance in the turf.

Summary

I have only described the most prevalent summer diseases of turf. I strongly recommend that you keep a calendar upon which you record when you observe each disease that affects your turf. Also, be sure to get an accurate diagnosis of the diseases that you observe. Next, identify on a map of your turf areas where the various diseases occur. Take your calendar and area maps to a pathologist and discuss your situation. You will be pleased to find that planning ahead can make the management of disease realistic. ■

Brad Johnsen - Klein Creek

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Agronomy certainly fit well with his years of experience at Ridgemoor. Brad continued to work at Ridgemoor, then as an assistant superintendent, and in 1974 he was promoted to superintendent.

Through the years, Brad has worked at a couple of golf courses throughout the Chicagoland area. Most recently though, Brad was superintendent at Eagle Brook Country Club. There he oversaw the grow-in and stayed on as superintendent until he was offered the Klein Creek job.

Having seen both Eagle Brook and Klein Creek, I know why the owners picked Brad for the Klein Creek job. Both courses grew in beautifully. Brad wants Klein Creek to be a success. "I want Klein Creek to be a first-class public golf course. We at Klein Creek want a private country club atmosphere for the public golfer," Brad explained. That "private country club atmosphere" only costs \$55 with cart during the week and \$65 on weekends. In this writer's opinion, Klein Creek IS a success and is certainly a bargain at those rates.

The 44-year-old Johnsen has been married to his bride, Joyce,
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Why 18 Holes?

John N. MacLeod

I can remember my grandfather telling me stories of his early years in Kilmarnock, Scotland, at the turn of the century before he immigrated to the United States. He worked as a young lad in the local distillery running errands for a Mr. Walker... that is, Johnny Walker, chairman of the board of that famous Scotch whiskey company. He told me that he had once delivered to Mr. Walker some of the latest American Haskell wound golf balls, Mr. Walker being an avid golfer. The following story, however, takes place some 50 years before, about the time gutta percha, or rubber balls, were first introduced, and where another "board member" and some Scotch whiskey play an interesting role in the fate of the game of golf.

Why couldn't a golf course have 10 or 13 or 21 holes? Well, it seems that back in 1858, the board of one of the oldest, most venerable courses in Scotland sat all day trying to settle this very question. There were 7-hole courses, 13-hole courses and 15-hole courses. At one time, the famous St. Andrews itself was made up of 22 holes; and another, the Montrose, had 25. Finally, after fruitless all-day discussion, it is said that one of the Scottish board members, an elder of very good standing, arose and spoke as follows:

"You good men have been considering this situation for many hours. I have been hoping you would decide along lines agreeable to me without any insistence on my part. I see, however, that I must now speak for myself. As you know, it has long been my custom to start out for a game with a full bottle of

Scotch whiskey in my bag, treating myself to a wee nip on each tee. Naturally, I find it pleasant to play golf as long as there is a drink left in the bottle. And, it makes no sense to continue the game when the bottle is exhausted. Here I have a small glass which contains about an ounce and a half. I have found that one bottle will fill this glass just 18 times, so it has been my custom to play 18 holes each afternoon, no more, no less. I see no possible way of changing from this custom, unless the bottles are larger, which I fear would be too marked a difference in our manufacturing life."

And that's how a golf course came to have 18 holes. ■

Credit: Why 18 Holes?—Courtesy of the Milwaukee and Illinois St. Andrews Society

Director's Column

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advertisers, this publication would not be possible. Fred and Dave have done a great job! Let's show our support by contributing photographs and articles to *On Course*.

One final note. I think it was very fitting that the title for our publication came from one of the legends of our industry who had been the source for the title of its predecessor. A special Thank You to Bob Williams, who came up with the name *Bull Sheet* in 1947 and the title *On Course* in 1995. ■

Ask the Expert

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much this concept catches on remains to be seen. In reading articles about this topic, superintendents in other parts of the country claim to have cut their fertilizer costs due to the information gained through tissue testing. Others suggest that they are spending more on fertilizer; but in conjunction with a fertigation system, they are not using as much labor to put the products out on the course. Others still have documented that using less pesticides due to tissue testing has helped them grow healthier turf. Is tissue analysis in your future? ■

Brad Johnsen - Klein Creek

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for 22 years. Joyce is a special education school teacher for kindergarten and first graders. Together, the Arlington Heights residents are raising three children: Gary - 18, Phil - 14, and Julie - 8.

I asked Brad if any of his children would "follow in his footsteps" as he did to his grandfather. Brad politely said, "I love what I do, and I would not do anything else in my life, but it is not for my kids."

I, for one, am really looking forward to playing Klein Creek later this month. It is my understanding it will be a scramble format with a 10 a.m. shotgun. Look in your mailbox for details, and do not miss this chance to play Klein Creek. ■

