

Greg Johnson -N- Eagle Brook Country Club

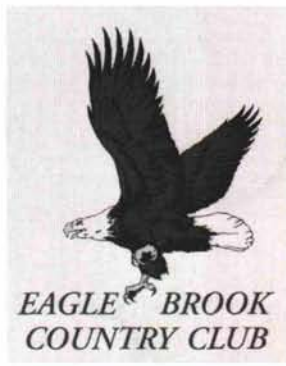
*John Meyer
Cannon Turf Supply*

Last time I wrote a Super -N- Site Profile, it was for the College Golf Championship at Bryn Mawr last October. It is hard to believe yet another year has slipped us by. This year's tournament is slated for Monday, October 6, at the beautiful Eagle Brook Country Club.

Greg Johnson, graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, is our host. As in the past, the event will be a two-man scramble with a minimum two-team entry. Hopefully, the "home-field" advantage will benefit our host's team, of which I am a part of. I know a certain team out of Wisconsin fared pretty well this past January with a "home-field" advantage. Maybe Greg's team will do as well as his favorite football team.

Following his father's lead, Greg grew up a die-hard Packer fan in Richmond, Illinois. After graduating from River Falls in Scientific Land Management, Johnson moved to San Diego, California, to become a superintendent. Johnson spent eight years in Southern California before moving back to his roots and the green and gold. That was 1987, the year Golf Club of Illinois (GCI) was built.

Greg started at the Dick Nugent-designed course shortly after it opened and stayed there through numerous ownership changes. The most recent change at GCI was when Southwest Golf purchased the property. Greg's responsibility changed as Southwest purchased additional properties in the Chicagoland area. In the summer of '95, Greg was named regional



Greg, Cathy and Alex.

superintendent for Southwest Golf in the Midwest. Greg oversaw GCI, Blackhawk Golf Course and Eagle Brook Country Club.

In the past two months, American Golf Country Club purchased Eagle Brook from Southwest Golf. Greg has been named superintendent with Tod Hoppman as his assistant. With the recent acquisition, plans are in motion to make a couple of changes around the course, enlarging the driving range tee complex and improving the chipping and practice green areas, to name a few. Additional irrigation and other instrumental changes are being looked at to improve the course.

For the championship, the 18th hole will prove to be the most difficult. The par 4, 448-

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The View From M.S.U.

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The studies conducted here at Michigan State by Eric Miltner, Bruce Branham and myself compared late fall nitrogen treatments with those emphasizing spring applications. There was no significant leaching of nitrates from either treatment. If the nitrogen is applied while the plant is still physiologically active, the soluble nitrogen should be taken up and used so it will not be available for leaching over the winter.

While there may be a small increase in growth during the fall or spring, most turf managers are satisfied the benefits are far greater than the potential negative effects. There is no evidence that late fall N increases susceptibility to low temperature or crown hydration injury. In fact, if there is such winter injury, recovery may be faster if late fall N has been applied. There is evidence from a study done at Ohio State that late fall nitrogen may increase thatch accumulation to some degree.

Benefits of late fall nitrogen include good carbohydrate levels in the turf the next spring, good early spring root growth, good fall and spring color and good turf density so there is less potential for establishment of spring weeds.

With many advantages apparent for late fall nitrogen and few disadvantages, it is clear why so many turf managers have adopted this practice. I have not talked to anyone who has tried late fall nitrogen fertilization who has not continued to utilize the practice for agronomic reasons. This is the best testimonial for late fall fertilization. ■

Toughening Up Turf Through Fall Feeding

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and herbicides, which makes its inclusion in a preventative spray program a basic part of fall maintenance at no added cost in labor.

We demand a lot from our turf. We want it green at all times and to heal itself, even after we repeatedly drive over it, trample it, and beat it with a club. There aren't many plants that would survive all that we put our turf through. Most gardens would be devastated just to have someone carelessly walk through them. All of this resiliency demands specialized care and feeding. Pushing here and tweaking there. Giving the turf what it needs to survive winter stress is one of those little things that can pay off big. ■

What to Do If You're Pulled Over

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cer's name badge matches the name on the ticket. Mistakes could result in the dismissal of the ticket.

There are three ways to respond to a ticket. First, you can plead guilty. This is usually handled by mailing the fine. Second, you can negotiate a plea bargain which may result in fewer points on your MVR but may result in a larger fine. And finally, you can fight the ticket and hope to have it dismissed. Whatever you do, don't just ignore the ticket. This can result in suspension of your license and a warrant for your arrest.

Drive safely and remember that avoiding a ticket is always your best defense. So keep on trucking—safely! ■

Credit: New World Van Lines

Greg Johnson -N- Eagle Brook C.C.

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yard hole has an island green surrounded by wetlands. After you survive that hole, you will be glad to relax in the new \$7+ million clubhouse. Eagle Brook can play to a demanding 6,736 yards from the green and gold tees.

Throughout Greg's tenure at Eagle Brook, his first year was the most challenging. "The summer of '95, right after Southwest bought it," Greg said, "our maintenance facility was an old barn with a dirt floor—and you remember the summer of '95?" Yes, Greg, I think we all do; and thank God for the law of averages. "The biggest challenge now is trying to keep pace with the competition, the other private country clubs, in the Chicagoland area," Johnson noted.

Johnson gave special praise to his assistant Tod Hopphan. "Eagle Brook is a very environmentally sensitive property. With over eighty acres of wetlands, Tod has been very instrumental in working towards the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program certification." (Note Tod's article in the June 1997 issue of *On Course*, "Membership Has Its Price!")

Greg and his bride Cathy have been married for 19+ years and have a future quarterback, Alex, that is eight. Greg states that "Alex is very athletic, and I would not be surprised to see him in a Packer uniform some day." Sounds like Greg's boyhood dream?

I have had the sincere pleasure to know Greg for a number of years. I know his FAVREite colors are green and gold. I know his aspirations ten years down the road are not to stay at Eagle Brook; but if you ever want Packer/Bear tickets, call the superintendent in Titledown, and ask for Greg. ■