

Dudley Smith -N- Silver Lake Country Club



Dudley Smith and Dave Kohley.

This year's combined ITF golf day will not require double shotguns or any commuting between courses, thanks to 45-hole Silver Lake Country Club and our gracious hosts Dudley Smith and Dave Kohley.

Dudley Smith, past president of the Midwest Turf Foundation and secretary of the Musser International Turf Foundation, has obviously made many contributions to our industry. The one contribution that stands out the most is the list of employees whose lives and careers he has helped to shape.

The current facility has been around since 1940 under the ownership of the Coghill family. The North Course, originally built in 1927, was a private club known as Euclid Hills Country Club. Across the street on the Johnson farm, the original Silver Lake Golf Club (now the South Course) was built in 1929 as a daily-fee course. 1962 saw the construction of an additional nine-hole executive course known as Rolling Hills.

Dudley Smith, past president of the MAGCS and an ITF Distinguished Award winner, has been the superintendent at Silver Lake for the past 41 years. Since he graduated from Penn State University, Silver Lake has been his only job. If things go Dudley's way, in five years he'll leave Silver Lake to become head coach in Happy Valley when Joe's contract runs out. Unfortunately, not everything always goes Dudley's way. First of all, he inherited greens that received a healthy dose of lead arsenic to control their poa. I guess it works if your greens aren't 100% poa. Second, Dudley had to live through the C15 bentgrass decline of 1981. Last, Dudley wasn't fond of the idea of having tee-to-green cart paths, but since they've been installed, he now admits to liking them.


Dudley Smith, past president of the Midwest Turf Foundation and secretary of the Musser International Turf Foundation, has obviously made many contributions to our industry. The one contribution that stands out the most is the list of employees whose lives and careers he has helped to shape. The names on Dudley's list are Bill Hargrave (U. Mass), Donald Theesfield (Penn State), Ed Fischer (Penn State), Sean Daley (Penn State), Ken Zanzig, Dave Behrman (Penn State), Dave Louttit (Penn State), Brian Comiskey (Danville), Tom Hildreth (Danville), Jay

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Druhan (Penn State), Jack Mucia (Joliet), Mike Rayman (Danville), Rick Wilson (Illinois), Tom Wilson (Eastern), Dave Wollenberg (Penn State), Kevin Smith (Penn State), Donald Houston (Southern), Bob Rigney (Danville) and Bob Kohlstedt (Illinois).

The last name on Dudley's list, and still working as Dudley's assistant, is Dave Kohley. Dave earned a B.A. in horticulture from Eastern Kentucky in 1992. Also known as "Hoosier," Dave came pretty close to choosing a career of losing to Tiger Woods. If that had been the case, Silver Lake might not have been the 97th course in the country to be certified by the New York Audubon Society. When Dave is not hunting, fishing or golfing, you can find him restoring the creek banks for erosion control or building new pro tees for the South Course. I'm sure Silver Lake applauds his efforts. Also, it would

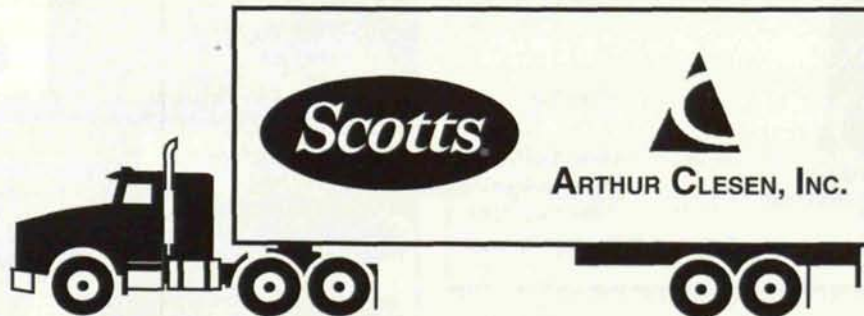
be downright shameful not to mention Dan Brown, who has been Dudley's mechanic for the last 18 years. If you like to play cards, stop by Dan's shop around lunch time.

This super-n-site could actually take up an entire issue of *On Course*, just writing about Dudley Smith's accomplished career, but we can't leave out the President's Message or especially John Gurke's Bull Sheet. I didn't even touch upon Dudley's wife Marlene, also the mother of Tom and Rick Wilson. Marlene, if you read this, I promise to stop by for a hotdog soon. So come on out for the May 15 Combined Golf Day at Silver Lake Country Club. And remember to thank Dudley, Dave, Dan, Paul and the rest of the crew, because they had to put in extra time on Mother's Day to give you an excellent golf course. 

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Arthur Clesen, Inc. is also pleased to announce that we will have a second spreader truck available for bulk fertilizer application this spring.