

We welcome our readers to use this forum to share their thoughts on local or national topics, golf-industry-related or not. We also invite feedback on articles appearing in this publication. This letter comes from MAGCS past president John Ebel.

Dear Cathy,

The September issue of *On Course* has special meaning to me. It was a thrill to see hole #3 at Barrington Hills C.C. on the front cover, having spent 23 years of my life at BHCC. As soon as I learned that Mark Bobb was hosting the September Midwest meeting, I planned to be there! What an opportunity to see some longtime friends and play the course one more time.

The events of September 11 cancelled my plans and the disappointment was overwhelming. However, my disappointment pales in comparison to the loss of thousands of lives in the New York attack! Scriptures tells us that “when evil abounds, good

abounds much more.” I think we have seen a lot of good in the aftermath of the tragedy.

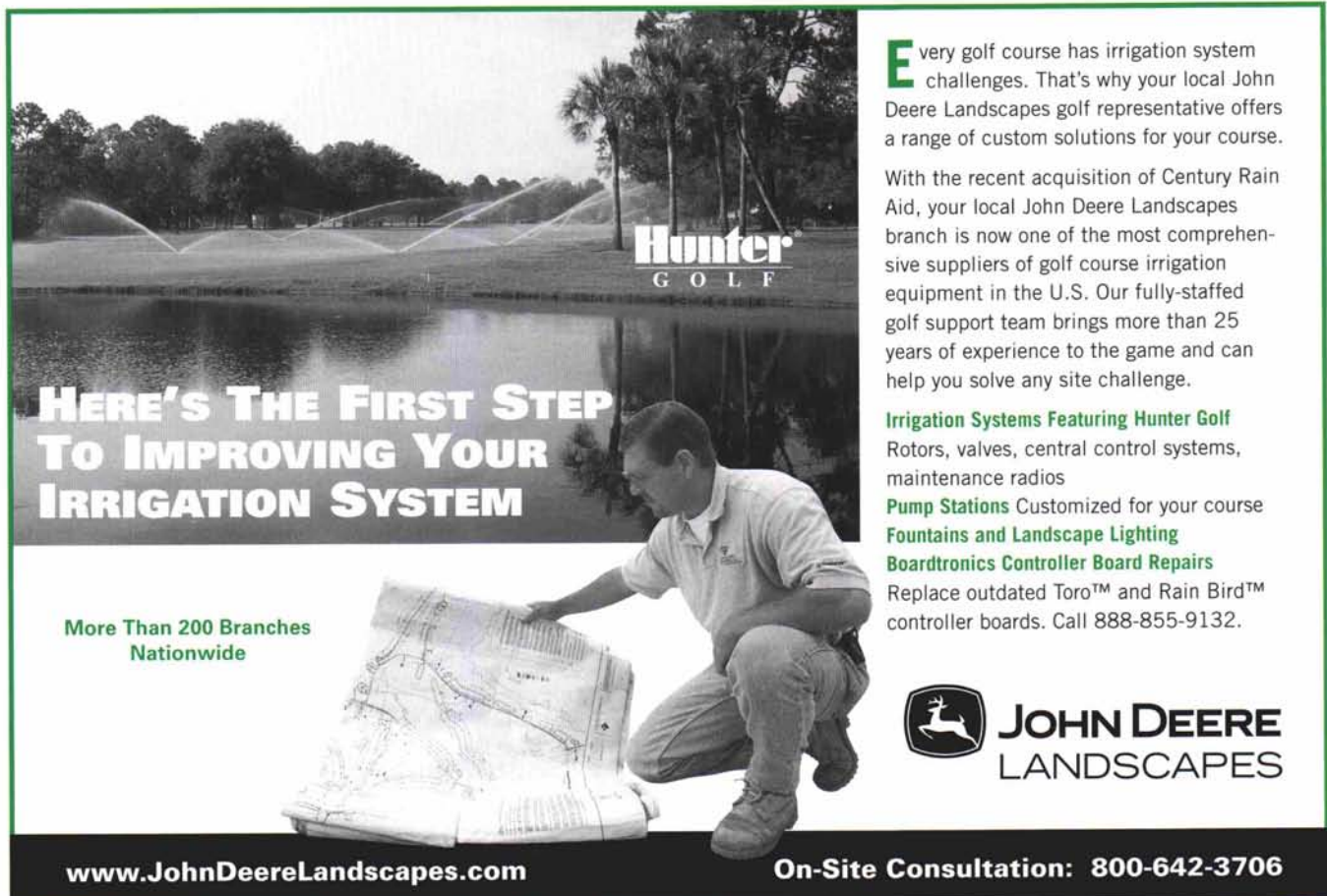
Larry Tomaszewski’s article was well-written. He is correct in describing BHCC as a “mood.” One never feels crowded while playing the course—unless your ball lands alongside some large tree. With very few parallel holes, each hole is a new adventure. I’m sure all who played on September 17 will agree that Mark has done and is doing a great job of making BHCC all that it can be with some help from God and the CFO.

With all of that said, I must address the main purpose of my letter. I was amazed to discover that I or another John Ebel had originally designed BHCC! In

1921, I was minus six years of age. I’m sure many of my acquaintances got a kick out of that. It’s okay, Larry, nobody’s perfect. To set the record straight, the truth according to *The Golf Course* by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Witten, Rutledge Press, New York, is as follows: Original design by G. O’Neil, Jack Croke and J.A. Roseman (Roseman Mower Co.). Changes by W. B. Langford, E.L. Packard, C. D. Wagstaff and Ken Killian up to 1990.

A bit of historic information: My uncle, Henry Wiest, worked on the greens construction using horses and slip scoops. Later my father, John L. Ebel, worked at BHCC for a time. His work day started at 4:00 a.m. and he

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“Like Mike, I Wanna Be Like Mike”




He's retired from basketball twice . . . and he's come back to the sport twice. Now suiting up for the NBA's Washington Wizards, Michael Jordan is sure to draw huge crowds at arenas nationwide this winter.

Given Jordan's passion for golf and his ongoing ties to Chicago, it's hardly surprising that several MAGCS superintendents are on a first-name basis with MJ. Among the fortunate few is Paul Voykin of Briarwood C.C., where Jordan has golfed with members many times. In fact, Paul has had the honor of hitting the links with MJ, playing nine holes with him and Briarwood member Dr. Greenberg a couple years ago. During that round, Paul recalls,

Jordan wore a sweatshirt of Paul's bearing the slogan "Canadians love milk."

Jordan is a kind, thoughtful gentleman, says Paul, and "always remembers my name." The photo featured here dates back only a few years, to 1998. Midway through the playoffs, Jordan took a time out to play Twin Orchard, home course of Peter Voykin. Peter (left) asked MJ to pose for a picture; Jordan—who can be cam-


era-shy off the court—obliged, Peter called Paul and the rest is history. The Bulls defeated the Knicks and the Jazz to complete their second three-peat, Jordan retired from hoops, and the "rebuilding" of the Chicago NBA franchise began.

MJ, thanks for the memories—and we look forward to seeing you on the court again, even if you won't be wearing a Bulls jersey. 

Midwest Voices (continued from page 31)

mowed six greens using a push greens mower. If the mower was not adjusted properly, you really had to lean into it!

I am sorry I missed the September meeting. Juanita and I are planning a visit to Illinois in October and looking for some cool weather. Thank you and all the staff for a Class A publication. However, as you know, I'm still partial to *the Bull Sheet*.

Sincerely,
John C. Ebel
GOD BLESS AMERICA! 

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