

Steve Schendel at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club Dishes on New Bunker Sand, Battling Mold

Steve is looking forward to a great year, albeit a very busy one. In addition to serving as the superintendent at Ruffled Feathers, Steve juggles the task of serving as a regional superintendent for American Golf, assisting other superintendents at the company's public course locations. He has been a superintendent for five years, spending time at Highland Park Country Club and Tamarack Golf Club before starting at Ruffled Feathers two-and-a-half years ago. Steve enjoys the benefit of working closely with the other company superintendents, a built-in networking asset that allows him to see other properties and share ideas.

Steve reports changing bunker sands (isn't everyone?) during the 2002 and 2003 seasons. He used a #1 mason sand and the old product will be used for a new practice tee and in the establishment of a nursery. The facility is currently finishing up a decorative improvement on the inside of the clubhouse (new carpet, furniture and the like). This fall, they plan to add a total of 10,000 square feet of teeing area to three holes. This will help accommodate some of the 32,000 rounds they do annually.

The property is a bit unique in that it has between 140 and 160 members who pay an annual fee for unlimited golf, range balls, carts and billing privileges. The remaining rounds are from the public sector. Steve enjoys

the challenge of trying to please both parties and becoming familiar with and working with a regular group of players. In this set-up, Steve receives valuable input from the regular members—input that benefits all the players.

Agronomically, Steve has battled the moss issue (hasn't everyone?) on greens and feels as if he has turned the corner on the problem. A slight increase in mowing height, backing off on aggressive cultural practices such as grooming, and a slight bump in fertility seem to be a step in the right direction. From a curative standpoint, he mentioned having the best results with a baking soda/warm water combination.

When Steve isn't busy at the course, his family keeps him hopping. The Danville native has been married to Beth for 11 years and they have three lovely children: Gracie, 7, Emma, 5 and Jack, 1-1/2.

—Brian Bossert, CGCS
Bryn Mawr Country Club



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