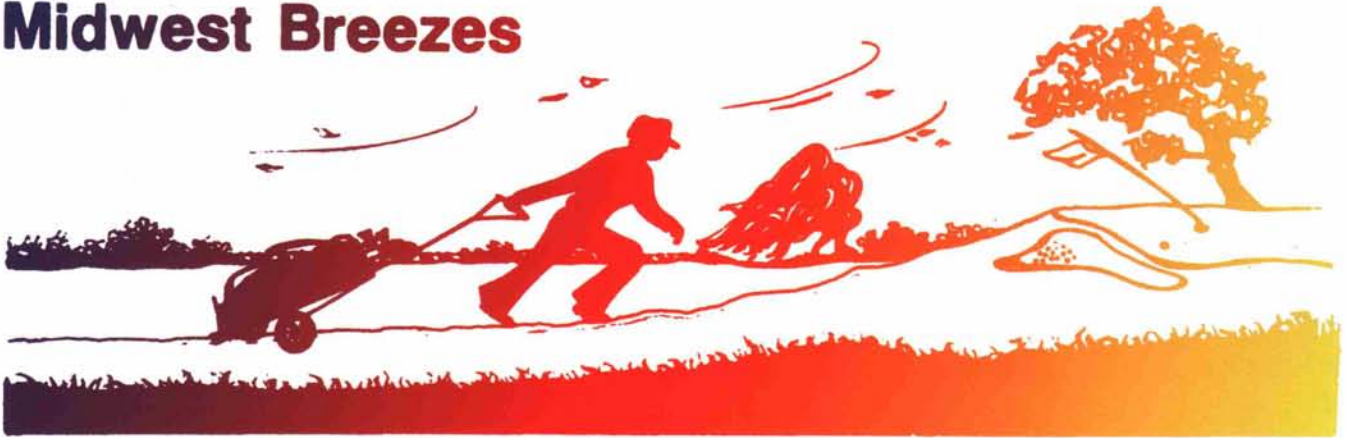


Midwest Breezes



Bunker Renovation Gives Barrington Hills Country Club a New Look

This past fall, Barrington Hills Country Club (BHCC) renovated the bunkers on all 18 holes and the chipping green. The course was built in 1921, thus some of the original bunkers were out of play due to tree growth over the years. The original bunkers also had poor sand quality and no drainage.

The renovated bunkers, designed by Don Placek of Renaissance Golf Design and constructed by MacCurrach Golf Construction, feature new design, new sand and new drainage. Liners were also installed in cases where erosion would be a prevailing concern.

The new design of the bunkers features both grass-facing and sand-flashing slopes. Construction utilized the pre-existing native soil. Surprisingly, the newly renovated bunkers contain approximately one acre less of surface area. The old bunkers, on average, were 2,200 square feet, and the new bunkers average 1,000 square feet. Also, in instances where existing bunkers were eliminated, extensive bentgrass sod work tied into existing fairway lines, giving the fairways a different shape. Removal of greenside bunkers saw these areas graded and sodded with bluegrass.

Before the project, BHCC contained 61 bunkers. After the renovation, the course tallies 66 bunkers, and four bunkers around the chipping green instead of three. Although these numbers are very close, the project entailed elimination of numerous bunkers and new construction of others in places where there were previously no bunkers, giving the course a new look.

The new design has also created new maintenance procedures for the BHCC staff. Before the renovation, bunker maintenance included daily raking with a Toro Sand Pro, and perimeter mowing with a Toro Sidewinder. Post-renovation, all bunkers are going to be hand-raked and mowed around with fly-mows.

Before construction began, superintendent Mark Bobb decided to test three different types of sand. The types of sand that he considered were Meyer FA-9, North-face and Antioch Root Zone. To get member feedback, we excavated the sand in the bunkers around the chipping green and set up four different plots: one for each type of sand, and one with the original sand. After months of testing and feedback from the members, we decided to go



Sandtrapper II liners were used in cases where sand-flashing slopes presented erosion potential; liners were tucked into the drainage mechanism.

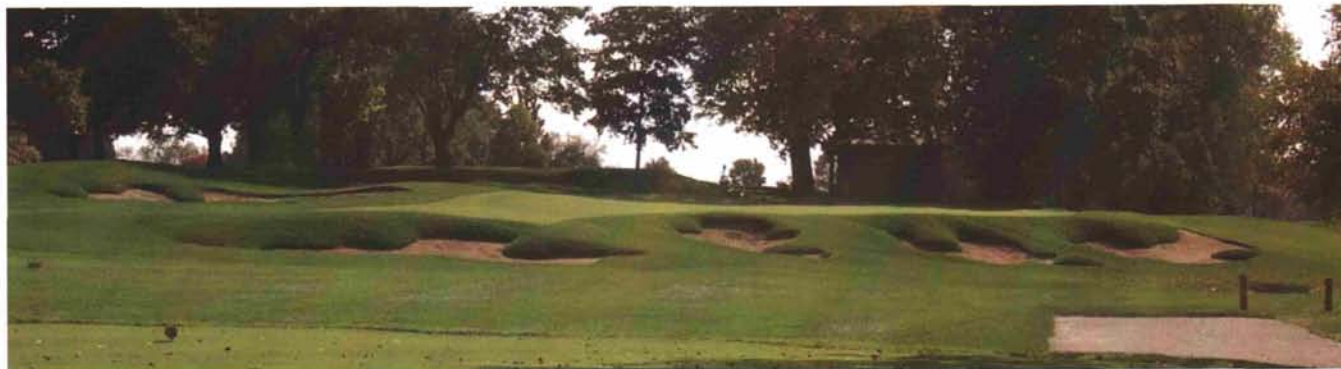
with the Antioch Root Zone because of its consistency and smoothness. It was placed at a six-inch depth throughout the new bunkers.

All the newly constructed bunkers underwent drainage installation. Four-inch perforated corrugated pipe was used in all cases. Due to the fact that the old bunkers contained no drainage, we had to connect new drainage to the pre-existing clay tile throughout the golf course when possible. In all other cases, a 3' x 3' x 3' sump was dug and filled in with pea gravel. Also, all drain tile underwent grading with a laser transit to ensure proper drainage. In cases when the slope presented possible erosion problems, Sandtrapper II liners were put in place. Liner installation occurred only on the sand-flashing

slopes and tucked into the drainage to channel the water into the new drainage system. Six-inch sod staples were installed one inch apart along the seams and edges, and six inches apart throughout the rest of the liner.

Next on the list for the new year is the reconstruction of the 17th green along with the greenside bunkers that were not included in the overhaul project, and new bunker irrigation. We'll also be revisiting green expansions resulting from new bunker placement, and the leveling and repositioning of tee complexes. So look forward to updates on these projects.

—Rob Nixon
Barrington Hills Country Club



After bunker renovation.



Before bunker renovation.

Turnberry's Jim Evans Brings Chemistry Down to Earth

Contrary to Midwest legend, Jim Evans is not a mad scientist. Jim's unique approach to greenkeeping chemistry is actually very sensible and down-to-earth. He may be mad, but he is not a scientist.

For more than 25 years, Jim Evans has been fertilizing his greens, tees and fairways entirely through his sprayers, which are calibrated to apply three gallons of water per thousand square feet solution. To illustrate the creativity of some of Jim's fertilizer mixes, I have outlined one of his fairway applications from May 4, 2005:

ELEMENTS	PER 210 GALLONS	PER THOUSAND SQUARE FEET
Urea 46-0-0	14 lb.	0.10 lb. Nitrogen
Urea Formaldehyde 38-0-0	17 lb.	0.10 lb. Nitrogen
Ammonium Sulphate 21-0-0	20 lb.	0.06 lb. Nitrogen
Sulphate of Potash 0-0-53	83 lb.	0.67 lb. Potassium
90% Elemental Sulphur	15 lb.	0.21 lb. Sulphur
Sprint Iron	7.5 lb.	2.00 oz. Chelated Iron
Mangenes Sulphate	1.5 lb.	0.12 oz. MnSO4
Zinc Sulphate	1.0 lb.	0.10 oz ZnSO4

(continued on page 8)