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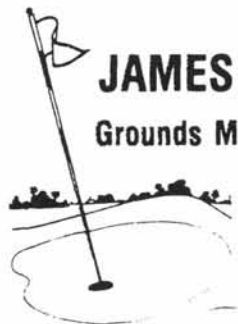
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Raising a Stink Over Skunks

by Joseph Carbonneau

At Equinox Country Club we have a moderate population of Japanese Beetle grubs inhabiting about 2 acres of roughs. Although I have tried numerous insecticides to control the grubs, I have remained unsuccessful.

Of all the problems created by these pests, the most serious is the attraction of skunks. The skunks invade the course, seeking the Japanese Beetle grubs as a food supply. By digging into the ground for grubs, they leave behind an unsightly stand of turf. The solution to eliminating this problem lies in either shooting the skunks or trapping them. My choice was the latter.

We started out by constructing six 8" x 8" x 30" box traps out of 1/2" plywood. One end was left open with a hinged door attached. A string was attached to the door which in turn was hooked to a bait tray from the outside of the box. A piece of band iron was incorporated as a door latch and a handle was added to the top. A 1/2" hole was then drilled in the back so that the skunk could be prompted to leave at the time of release. The traps were put out at the first sign of skunk activity and were baited with peanut butter. It took approximately a couple of nights for the varmints to get accustomed to the traps.

The traps were then checked in the morning and the traps that were tripped were carefully placed in the back of a truck and transported 3 to 4 miles from the course. At the time of release, randomly selected skunks were marked by a dot of yellow marking paint shot through the 1/2" hole in the back of the trap. The door was then opened and a dowel inserted through the hole in the trap to hasten the skunk's departure. In a good week we trapped from 10 to 14 skunks, making a noticeable difference in skunk activity on our turf. So far we have trapped a total of 50 to 60 skunks with only a few returning. Having the trap only 8 inches high makes it hard for the skunk to lift its tail and spraying is difficult. Thus far, not a skunk has raised a stink.

This form of control has reduced our problem of turf devastation from the pesky skunk in his quest for the Japanese Beetle grub.

Credit: Our Collaborator, August '85



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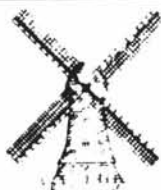


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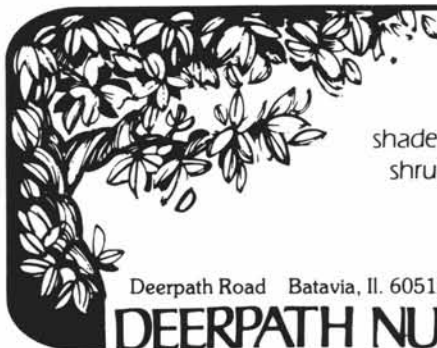


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Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

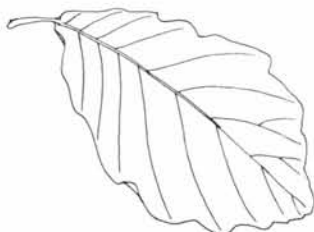
When one thinks of a long lived tree in this area you almost certainly think of the Oak. Oaks are majestic trees with huge sturdy branching along with their broad rounded tops. Some of the best courses in the Chicago area have been laid out through native oak forests. It is a tree that needs to be replanted and soon, if one is to perpetuate the present species. This month I have chosen the Swamp White Oak to describe.

"*Quercus bicolor*" (kwer'kus bi-kul-er) — Swamp White Oak

Leaves: Alternate, simple 3 to 7" long 1 1/4 to 4" wide, oblong-obovate to obovate, coarsely sinuate-dentate with 6 to 10 pairs of entire, usually obtuse teeth, or sometimes lobed halfway to the midrib, dark green above, whitish tomentose or grayish green and velvety beneath.

Buds: Imbricate, broadly ovate, light chestnut brown, 1/8" long, clustered buds often house needle to strap-like appendages.

Stem: Stout to slender, yellowish green to reddish brown.



Bark: Flaky, grayish brown, divided by deep longitudinal fissures into rather long flat ridges.

Size: Grows to 50 to 60' in height with an equal or greater spread; forms a broad open, round-topped crown and a short limby trunk.

Culture: Transplant as a small tree; found on many types of soil, although performs best in deep moist, well-drained soils; prefer acid soils, pH 5.5 to 6.5; full sun. Found in the wild in low lying and more or less swampy situations, often occurring in moist bottom lands.

Diseases and Insects: It has a whole list of problems such as cankers, leaf blister, leaf spots, powdery mildew, various galls, scales, oak skeletonizer, two-lined chestnut borer, leaf miner, etc., etc. BUT it is a durable and a long lived tree.

Credit: "*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*" by Michael A. Dirr



There are two good extension newsletters on the market today that would be a benefit to anyone who is growing grass or trees, etc. The first one, "The Chicagoland Hort Newsletter" prepared by Fredric Miller, Entomologist and James Fizzell, Horticulturist. For information on how to subscribe for this newsletter and cost call (708) 990-0769. The second newsletter, "The Bug Dope" is by Dr. Richard L. Miller, Emeritus, Extension Entomologist, Columbus, Ohio. Call (614) 488-7170 for additional information.

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An Idol Feast

by Edwin Wollenberg

Sports is a fantasy world. I would surmise that ninety percent of the fans live vicariously through athletes.

Depending on our sports preference, we watch as we are absorbed and completely carried away as Ivan Lendl's vicious backhand smash skips past his opponent, running back Walter Payton slashes through the line, and Babe Ruth points to the bleachers, signaling to the fans where he is going to deposit the next pitch. We get all hyped-up when hockey star Wayne Gretzky blisters a puck at the net or when Michael Jordan slam-dunks a basketball.

Gosh, how we'd all like to do these things.

But suppose you were given the fan's ultimate thrill. Suppose, you were told you could hold a fantasy dinner party for 12 of your favorite heroes, no matter what the era. Who would you invite to dinner?

It's a fascinating thought, and something that might make for an interesting mental exercise during spare moments (which I'm blessed with abundance). Just take a piece of paper and do some day-dreaming — you could have your own Field of Dreams. See what you come up with. Psychiatrists could claim such a list would tell much about your own personality.

If you invited all tough guys, would that mean you had a similar personality? How about nice guys? For example, would you want Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Wilt Chamberlain sitting at the same table? They were bitter rivals in their NBA careers, but how would they be over steak and potatoes? Or, how about boxers Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier breaking bread together or sharing chitterlings? Would their personalities clash and would another "Brash Brouhaha" break out? The list could go on, and on, and ...

Me, I'm partial to golfers.

It's natural, I guess, because they've been my bread-and-butter since I was 11 years old, and I have yellowed pictures to prove it. But limiting yourself to one sport and 12-guests is awfully tough. There are so many wonderful golfers and associated members of the game to choose from.

My first choice would be native western Pennsylvanian, Arnold Palmer, whom I met personally when he played at the club I retired from. Yes, I've always been a member of "Arnie's Army". He could sit at my table any time.

And to keep him company, his long-time rival, Jack Nicklaus, could get the seat next to him. They could debate who is the better player or who is more loved by the fans.

But the rest of my party would be a variety of personalities, some reverent, some irreverent, and some on excerpts and hearsay gathered during their career and prominence.

Of course, there would be Bobby Jones, owner of all the top amateur records and four U. S. National Opens. The only golfer to achieve the "Grand Slam" in one year; winning the U.S. National Open, U. S. National Amateur, British Open and British Amateur, all in 1930. And, he might enjoy having Ben Hogan (also winner of four U. S. Opens) on his left. From what I've read, they were both swing technicians of the highest degree. They could debate the swing, past and present.

But if you're going to have a party, you've got to have some live wires so it doesn't resemble a wake, right? So, enter two of golf's similar spirits — Walter Hagen and Doug Sanders.

Both seemed to live life to the fullest, sometimes even at the

(cont'd. page 21)

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Midwest Breezes



Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 24 — MAGCS Monthly Meeting at Bull Valley G.C.

October 3 — MAGCS Monthly Meeting at Carillon G.C.

October 26 — Fall Dinner Dance, Riverside G.C.

November — MAGCS Clinic

November 27-29 — Turfgrass and Ornamental Chemical Seminar at Purdue

December 4-6 — NCTE in Springfield

Dear Fred,

First of all, my wife Cathy, and I would like to announce the arrival of our first baby, Emily Claire. She was born on March 17 of this year, 17 weeks premature and weighing 20 oz. Emily was admitted in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Rockford Memorial Hospital, where she has stayed until she came home on July 28. Now she weighs a hefty 5 lbs. 10 oz., and is doing fine in her new home.

Second, I would like to thank the staff at Bob O'link Golf Club, especially Bruce Williams and Richard Bowden. During this difficult time in our lives, their constant concern, support and understanding have truly been a blessing. They have been more than generous with adjusting the work schedule and time away from work, and Cathy and I are very grateful.

Emily is home now and growing like a weed. "Thank You", to everyone for your thoughtfulness and prayers.

Glenn Bereiter

Turf Product Auction

A silent auction is a featured event for the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) this December. Items to be auctioned have been donated by the trade show's exhibitors. Mobay Corporation, Tyler Enterprises Inc., NAIAD Company, Aquatrols are some of the firms who have provided products to date.

Visitors to the trade show can bid for an item by signing the bid card on display in the donor's exhibit booth. The highest bid as of the close of the trade show is the winner.

This auction is an opportunity for suppliers to reduce their year-end inventory. The auction also allows buyers to make the most of their purchasing budget.

By holding the auction at the same time as the North Central Turfgrass Exposition, buyers can talk with a supplier at the exhibit booth before deciding to bid on an item. The NCTE will be held December 4 through 6, 1990 at the Prairie Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois. For more information contact the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation at 312/644-0828.

Congratulations to Lisa and Henry Michna of Winnetka Golf Club on the birth of their first son, Henry Anthony, Jr. on July 25.

Ed & Gene Stewart will be celebrating their 42nd Wedding Anniversary on September 11th. Give them a call to wish them the very best and continued health and happiness.

The MAGCS would like to apologize to J. W. Turf in not including them on the meeting notice card that they were also sponsoring the hors d'oeuvres at Tamarack C.C. Thanks John Buck ...

The Fort Sheridan Golf Club is looking for a Golf Superintendent.

Russ Fink had the Tamarack C.C. in excellent shape (too much water for some of us to stray the ball) for the Seniors Day meeting. We had 104 for golf and 114 for dinner. Albie Staudt walked away with the senior honors! Ken Shepherd was closest to the line, Rick Wilson and Pete Lieponis were closest to the pins.

For Sale: 2 Ford Turf Tractors, Models 3000 & 2110. Excellent condition. Call Inverness G.C., ask for Mike or Mel. 708/358-7030.

Steve Crow at Briar Ridge C.C. is looking for a mechanic. Call 219/322-7605.

The Dom Grotti Award was won by Kerry Blatteau and his assistant Scott at the ITF Golf Day held at St. Charles C.C.

The ITF Golf Day was a success in every way. The heavy rains of that weekend that dropped from 5 to 7 inches all around the area spared St. Charles (they had only 1.5 inches) and the golf course was in excellent shape. Very little standing water and we were able to use carts with little restriction. Pete and his crew are to be congratulated. We had guests/players from Michigan in Bill Roberts representing the GCSAA and Mike Vogt and Conrad Stynchula representing the ITF.

GCSAA Regional Seminar

Mark your calendars now for this Winter's GCSAA Regional Seminar co-sponsored by MAGCS:

January 3-4, 1991 A two-day seminar.

Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

Cost will be \$165.00.

This seminar is one of several new Environmental Management seminars currently under development by GCSAA. The title of our seminar will be PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES. The instructor will be Scott Harrison whom presently is the Coordinator of the Pesticide Education Dept. at Penn State. Scott has performed research on pesticide runoff, is familiar with UST problems, and has researched water movement in soils. He is currently seeking a Geologist to co-instruct this seminar.

MAGCS will be the first Chapter to experience this seminar and our evaluations and input will chart the course for future attendees. A portion of the registration fees will be returned to our chapter if enrollment exceeds 50. An enrollment of 60 earns MAGCS \$1,650.

Don't wait to take this seminar in Las Vegas. Registration fees will be higher and besides, who wants to spend two days in a seminar in Las Vegas with all the excitement going on. More details later.

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