

Have You Been a Host Club?

by Fred Opperman

I have gone through ths past 15 years of back issues of the Bull Sheet to compile this list of clubs that have donated and made available a golfing and meeting place for the MAGCS. You see many names repeated. You see a mixture of private and public clubs, in fact if I counted right it came out even over these past 15 years. Have you been a Host Club? Why not? Our group is too big for your dining room? No problem, we can go elsewhere to have our dinner or we could cook out on the lawn. Believe me, the association is very flexible and will work with you. Sure, maybe you can't get your club this year due to the booking of events. That means now is the time to "book" your golf course for 1996 or 1997. The MAGCS will reserve a spot for you in the future. Give Brian Bossert a call, he's chairman of the Arrangements Committee. Let's get those clubs listed that owe us a meeting. Quit being a guest and become a gracious host.

1994 April - Inverness C.C. May - Silver Lake C.C. June - Aurora C.C. July - Orchard Valley G.C. August - Tamarack G.C. September - Seven Bridges G.C. October - Oak Brook Hills G.C. 1993 April - Geneva G.C. June - River Forest G.C. July - Poplar Creek G.C. August - Turnberry C.C. September - Shore Acres G.C. October - Bartlett Hills G.C. 1992 April - Village Links of Glen Ellyn June - Flossmoor C.C. July - Briar Ridge C.C. August - Mt. Prospect G.C. September - Big Foot G.C. October - Settlers Hill G.C. 1991 April - Village Links of Glen Ellyn May - Springbrook and Naperbrook G.C. June - Naperville C.C. July - Golf Club of Illinois August - Woodmar G.C. September - Ridgemoor G.C. October - Biltmore C.C. 1990 April - Lincolnshire C.C. May - Ill. Central Assn. June - Mount Prospect G.C. July - Woodbine G.C. August - Tamarack G.C. September - Bull Valley G.C. October - Carillon G.C. 1989 April - Kankakee G.C. May - Eagle Ridge G.C. June - Sportsman G.C.

July - Chapel Hill G.C. August - Poplar Creek G.C. September - Woodmar C.C. October - Presbury G.C. 1988 April-Mariott Lincolnshire Resort May - Silver Lakes C.C. June - Lakeshore C.C. July - Springbrook G.C. August - Balmoral Woods G.C. September - Crystal Lake C.C. October-Lake Barrington Shores 1987 April -? May - Pontiac Elks June - McHenry C.C. July - Village Greens of Woodridge August - Turnberry C.C. September - Balmoral Woods G.C. October - Woodstock C.C. 1986 April - Olympia Fields C.C. May - Eagle Ridge G.C. June - Crystal Lake July - Palatine G.C. August - Bartlett Hills G.C. September - Deer Creek G.C. October - Wilmette G.C. 1985 April - Chevy Chase G.C. May - Silver Lakes C.C. June - Sunset Ridge C.C. July - Deerpath G.C. August - Briar Ridge C.C. September - Aurora C.C. October - Flossmoor C.C. 1984 April - Woodridge G.C. May - Kankakee Elks June - Old Elm July - Sportsman G.C. August - Riverside C.C. September - Turnberry C.C. October - Cress Creek C.C.

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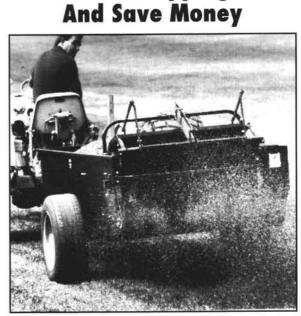
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April - Elmhurst C.C. May - Deer Creek G.C. June - Bon Vivant C.C. July - Sportsman G.C. August - Village Greens of September - Playboy G.C. October - St. Andrews G.C. April - Woodridge G.C. May - Riverside C.C. June - Ridgemoor C.C. July - Medinah C.C. August - Randall Oaks G.C. September - Shore Acres C.C. October - Woodmar C.C.

Prune Many Trees and Shrubs Now

by James A. Fizzell

The end of winter is an excellent time for pruning many trees and shrubs. There are some real advantages to pruning during winter. Plants are dormant at this time. There is less likelihood of disease transmission. The deciduous plants are bare so the branching can easily be seen.

Inspect your plants to develop a plan. Note the natural shape of the plants. This shape should be preserved during the pruning. Look for broken branches, branches which cross each other, and overgrown stems. Once you know what needs attention, sharpen your saw and shears and begin.

Prune certain shade trees, shrubs, most fruit trees, grapes, bramble fruits, and hedges, to help them grow better. You may prune the following plant types now: deciduous shade trees, flowering trees such as crab apple or plum fruit trees, grape vines, and small fruits such as blackberry and blueberry. For all these groups, start by pruning out all diseased, weak, or damaged branches. On trees (shade and fruit) and shrubs, look especially for branches that are rubbing or girdling each other and remove the weakest branch. Remove branches that may be endangering power lines or windows. On small flowering trees, only remove what is necessary to maintain good vigor and shape.

DO NOT prune flowering shrubs such as lilac, mock orange, or forsythia until after they finish flowering. Evergreen shrubs, trees, and hedges should not be pruned until early summer.

Larger overgrown deciduous shrubs can be ideally pruned at this time of year. While maintenance trimming can be done during the growing season to remove small amounts of current growth, major pruning to renew a shrub or to reduce the overall size of a shrub. This is best done during the dormant season.

Plants such as honeysuckle, privet, snowberry, or Indian current can be pruned down to 6" shrubs at ground level. This method is called rejuvenation and is used to regrow old unsightly or overgrown plants. The rejuvenated plant regrows from the base and essentially results in a completely new shrub.

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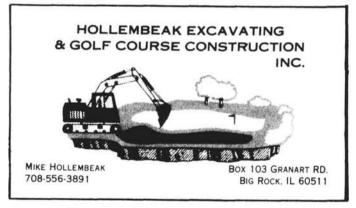
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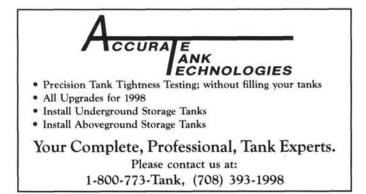
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Why You Need Protection for Your Irrigation Control System

by Joe Becker

Devastating lightning strikes and power surges are all two common occurrences on today's golf courses, therefore the sensitive nature of today's critical computer based irrigation systems require special coordinated protection to prevent catastrophic damage to expensive control equipment.

Complete and total protection requires that every possible path for lightning or power surges be considered. However, damage to irrigation system is not always related to a specific storm or lightning strike. It is a well known fact that many failures of sensitive equipment are a result of component stress due to constant bombardment by common power line voltage transients. So if you have suffered triac failures, constant fuse replacement, power supply board damage, modem and computer failure due to lightning or power line transients there is a solution to this expensive problem.

It is called coordinated power protection. It involves applying the proper surge protection devices in all the right places.

It begins with proper grounding of all elements of the irrigation control system. Good grounding is the back bone of any power protection system, because all protection devices require a solid earth ground to enable it to suppress lightning and power related transients. Merely driving a 8 foot copper rod next to the controller will not necessarily provide a good ground. The type of soil and available moisture will have a direct bearing on ground potential. All grounds should be tested with a proper resistance meter and tightened annually.

Coordinated protection for most irrigation systems can be summed up in just 4 critical areas.

1. Main panel protection for your maintenance building and pump house to prevent lightning strikes and power surges from entering the facility.

2. Satellite equipment protection for the AC loop power feed to remote satellite controllers which are vulnerable to ground induced lightning surges.

3. Signal Data Line protection for controllers to prevent transient damage to control circuits.

 Central Computer and Peripheral hardware protection to prevent costly catastrophic damage to sensitive computer systems.

Complete and total protection of irrigation control systems require that every possible source for lightning transients be provided with correct protection devices. Any wire or cable to or from any part of the system is venerable. While many of the new control systems have some level of protection built in, it has been proven that damage still occurs because the protection was inadequate or non existent on certain critical elements of the overall system.

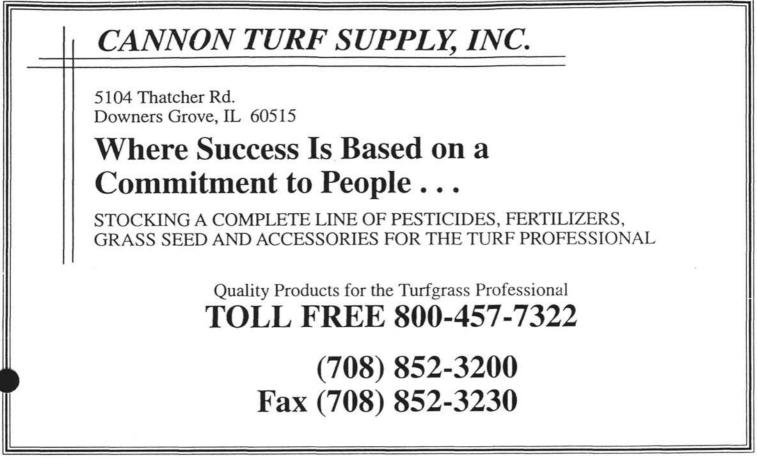
For example, none of the 45 courses recently surveyed provided protection on the main power panel in the maintenance building or pump house, which is one of the primary paths for lightning damage from utility power lines. A lightning strike on or near a power line, miles from your golf course can still do considerable damage to your expensive irrigation equipment.

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(Prune Trees, Shrubs Now continued)

Removing branches of a honeysuckle is also beneficial in reducing the number of overwintering Russian aphids. This insect sucks plant sap and distorts foliage which in turn ruins the visual appeal of the honeysuckle. Chemical control of this insect is limited, therefore cultural control will at least help reduce aphid populations.

Other shrubs such as arrowwood viburnum, weigela, deutzia, and dogwood can be thinned out by using a method called renewal pruning. Remove 1/4 - 1/3 of the oldest stems each year, all the way down to the crown, to stimulate growth of new shoots from the base of the plant. This opens the plant to light and air.

Prune multi-stem trees to keep the center open and prevent smaller stems from being crowded out by a larger stem. Try to select and maintain several well spaced branches of similar size. Remove branches growing into the center on the tree and crossing other branches. Bottom suckers should also be removed.

Large trees present a problem and pruning should be restricted to removal of broken branches. Contrary to popular opinion, severe pruning is not necessary for a tree and may actually be quite harmful. In any case, major pruning of large trees is dangerous and should be left to professional arborists.

Pruning is an important part of the culture of ornamental plants if properly done. Don't try to overpower plants with pruning. Use judicious pruning to guide the natural growth of your plants.

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(Lightning Protection continued)

Since golf course superintendents are not required to be experts in lightning protection how does one go about providing this necessary protection. Consulting engineers or electrical contractors are a possible source but most do not have the special expertise required to recommend the special devices for each specific application. The only known source in the Chicago area is Chicago Turf, the local Toro irrigation distributor who has been trained and equipped to provide a complete protection package. They will make a site survey of the complete facility and recommend the exact equipment to provide a complete protection package for your entire irrigation control system.

About the author: Joe Becker is the owner of D & B Sales Associates, 140 Glengarry Dr., Geneva, IL 60134. He is also a member of the Lightning Protection Institute. D & B specializes in power protection equipment.



