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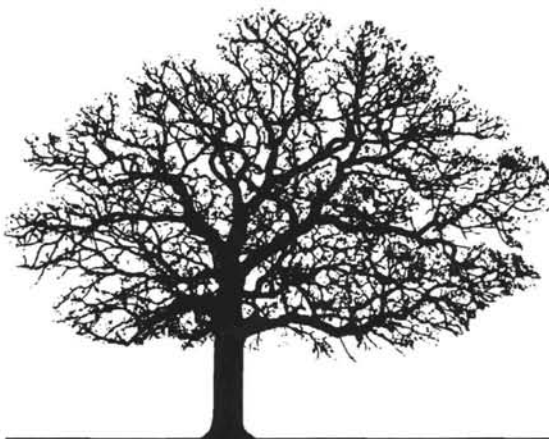


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(Goose Tactics continued)

In my mind, there is no dog better suited for this type of work than a Labrador Retriever. I've read about the Border Collie and I also believe that a Chihuahua could spook geese as well as a Great Dane. But a water dog, bred for swimming will go out on that lake and chase a goose off of it's greatest sense of security; the water. To me this is essential in controlling geese.

The best method that I have found when chasing geese out of a lake, especially a larger lake, is to use two dogs. One will spook the geese to the far side of the lake, they usually swim there. If she is by herself often times it is difficult to flush them out and this takes a lot of time. If you can start one dog at the near side of the lake where the geese are located, then drop the other one in at the far side of the lake where the geese are heading ... duck your head or make sure that you have a rainsuit on, because they'll soon be bombing you as they take off.

Not to worry about the legality of a dog 'catching' a goose. It is almost impossible. I have had ganders on numerous times intentionally swim slowly in circles just 6 feet or less in front of my dog for a half an hour at a time ... jeez I thought that my dog would die of exhaustion, but she wouldn't quit until I was hoarse from screaming at her and she finally scrambled up the bank. That gander swam away waddling it's tail, taking a dump, and rejoining his new family of goslings and mother.

The dogs can't catch them on land either. A goose's eyesight is very keen. They see you at 200 yds., and a guardian

goose is always watching. They fly well before you can get near enough to them to get caught. One other phenomenon that I have discovered is that sometimes when I don't have my dogs, the geese recognize me on my cart, especially the resident geese. Many times they flee when I don't have the dogs tagging along ... chalk one up for our side!

A goose, aside from it's nasty characteristics is a marvelous animal. I am continually amazed at it's tenacity, beauty in flight, wariness of predators, and survival instincts.

Another thing that I have discovered especially these past two seasons is that dogs are a great public relations tool. People love dogs and they love to see them perform. Nothing beats watching a dog in full stride dive into a lake. A great Labrador doesn't look beautiful until her chest is heaving, pink tongue lolling out, eyes alert for action, and her coat soaking wet from working the water. God I love that. These past two summers I had the opportunity to train two Chocolate Lab puppies ... talk about a PR tool! Golfers flock around your cart and conversations are immediate.

One other thing that a dog can do for you, once it is trained, is reduce stress. Early in the morning, making the rounds, breathing in the fresh air, and watching the dog work; some days it makes me feel that everything is right with the world and the responsibilities that I am charged with. Some days might just be bad, everyone has a bad day. Then that goofy dog might just chase away an aerosol salesman. Maybe she might just sit with her head on your lap, golden eyes sheepishly looking at you and saying 'I'm your friend, your best companion, everything will be all right soon.' You scratch her

(continued page 13)



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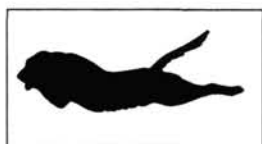
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on her head and smile to yourself ... 'yeah, everything will be all right.'



From this bounty of knowledge that I have just bestowed on all of you, what have we learned? For now the goose is here to stay. Our best solution at this time I believe is to use a combination of the better tactics that I described above. One thing is for sure, whatever methods that you should decide to use, you have to be persistent, as persistent as that gander was with my dog. These geese are now living in what they may consider their ... heaven, and they won't give up paradise any easier than we would. Good luck!

Index of Articles — 1994

January

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by Joel Purpur
"Just Hit the Ball" by David A. Oatis
"1954" by Peter Vandercook
"Do You Remember..." by Fred D. Opperman
"January Lull" poem by Ken Zanzig
"Flowering Shrubs Can Be Forced Indoors" by James Fizzell
"Snow Time Safety" by Marty Baumann
"CPR Course & Photos" by Ray Schmitz
"Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs (LLN&B), by Fred D. Opperman

February

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by Don Cross
"ITF Distinguished Service Award - Robert Graunke"
"Hazard Trees on the Golf Course" by Michael Beebe
"Seed Priming" by Judy Brede
"The Construction Dilemma" by unknown author
"Deicing Salt Injury to Plants" by Dr. Bal Rao
"Food for Thought" by Tod Hopphan
"February" poem by Ken Zanzig
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

March

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by Kevn Czerkies
"Food for Thought II" by Tod Hopphan
"March" poem by Ken Zanzig
"Fall Fertilization" by Alex Binnie
"Overseeding to Control Poa" by Mark Grundman
"Do You Remember ... Some Guys Still Do!" by Editor
"1994 MAGCS Hospitality Room, Dallas, Texas" by Alan Fierst
"Hospitality Room Pictures" by Ray Schmitz
"The 1954 Bull Sheets" by Peter Vandercook
"1994 MAGCS Voting Delegates Report" by Roger Stewart
"Plant a Little History in Your Own Backyard" by Global ReLeaf
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

April

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by Ed Braunsky
"Museum to be Dedicated to Mascaro & Steinger"
"1964 Bull Sheets" by Peter Vandercook
"National Golf Foundation Report"
"Gypsy Moth Caterpillar, Caution — Do Not Handle"
"Rolling Greens — Help or Hinderance" by Danneberger, McCoy, & Parobek
"Lightning and Golf Safety" by Richard Kithil
"Bird Watching Pays Off" by Dudley Smith
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

May

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by David Blomquist
"Recycle" by Dan Dinelli
"1974 Bull Sheets" by Peter Vandercook
"April, May and June" poem by Ken Zanzig
"Pre-Registration/Pre-Payment Policy"
"What's in a Name" by Dr. Bob Gray
"CDGA Notes" by Editor
"CDGA Green Seminar Pictures" by Ray Schmitz & John Meyer
"On The Waterfront" by Jim Reed
"The Love of Greenkeeping" by Paul Voykin
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

June

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by Kerry Blatteau
"GCSAA Letter to 'Wall Street Journal'" by Joseph Brady
"Keepers of the Green" by Ton Rzaadski
"Mechanics Job Fair" by Dave Blomquist
"Nels Johnson Supports Supts. Hockey Team" by Dave Blomquist
"GCSAA Membership Committee Meeting" by Roger Stewart
"1984 Bull Sheets" by Peter Vandercook
"Math Quiz" by Dr. David Wehner
"Annual Charity Gin Classic" by Paul Voykin
"An Integrated Approach to Controlling Summer Patch" by Bruce B. Clark, PhD.
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

July

"President's Message" by Alan Fierst
"Director's Column" by Don Ferreri (listed as K. Czerkies)
"Audubon Letter to 'Wall Street Journal'"
"Terry's Eulogy" by Peter Leuzinger
"Answers to Math Quiz" by Dr. David Wehner
"Il Annual Musser Golf Outing" by Mike Bavier
"Zebra Mussels" by Dan Dinelli
"Localized Dry Spots" by Hudson & Danneberger
"Wetland Policy Issues" by "CAST"
"Super-N-Site Profile" by John Gurke
"Verticillium Wilt" by Hort Newsletter
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

August

"President's Message" by Alan T. Fierst
"Let's Take The Next Step" by Robert Maibusch
"Dr. James Watson — To Receive Highest Honor"
"Summer '94 Disease Update" by Dr. Randy Kane
"Nominating Letters" by Alan T. Fierst

(continued page 14)

(Index of 1994 Articles continued)

"Orland Park — Worlds Golf Center" by Peter Vandercook
"Landscaping The Details" by Bob Lohmann
"Rosty and the Golf-Environment Relationship" by Dr. Frank Rossi
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman

September

"President's Message" by Alan T. Fierst
"Two Great Tools" by Roger Stewart
"Negotiate Your Way to the Top" by Mike Hamilton
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman
"Good Management" by Gary T. Grigg
"Super-N-Site Profile" by Kerry Blatteau
"Thanks for Your Support" by David Wehner
"Penn State Vintage Equipment" by George Hamilton
"Many Thanks to Our Host Clubs" by Don Ferreri
"Management & Control of Turfgrass Disease" by Dr. Ken Diesburg
"Buggy Trees ..." by Rex Bastion, PhD.

October

"President's Message" by Alan T. Fierst
"He's At It Again" by Fred D. Opperman, Editor
"Keeping Reels Sharp" by Monty Montague
"Super-N-Site Profile" by Tony Rzadzki
"LLN&B" by Fred D. Opperman
"Black Layer of Putting Greens" by Dr. J. Vargas
"MAGCS Golf Champions"
"Fertilization, Fall & Late Fall Style" by Dr. Paul E. Rieke
"Facts About Sexual Harassment"
"Dues or Don't" by Joel Purpur
"Ecological Side Effects of Pesticide & Fertilizer on Turfgrass"
by Daniel A. Potter
"Ways to Attract Birds"
"Identification of Soil Types"
"Forward Tees; The Key to Playability" by Mike Schultz

November

"President's Message" by Alan T. Fierst
"Director's Column" by Timothy Kelly
"40th Anniversary & Red Rider" by Peter Vandercook
"Groundwater, Turf Management, and Public Perception" by Michael L. Agnew
"Golf Course Drainage" by Geoffrey Corlett
"History of White Water Rafting Trips" by Fred Opperman
"GCSAA Chapter Relations Meeting Update" by Bob Maibusch

December

"President's Message" by Joel Purpur
"Director's Column" by Kevin Czerkies
"The Olympia Fields I Remember" by Peter Vandercook
"Historical Preservation Group Meets" by GCSAA
"Spray Adjuvant: Matching the Spray With the Goal" by Vicki Robb
"Experimental Greens at Cantigny" by Tony Rzadzki
"Little Prairie on the Golf Course" by Dan Dinelli
"Home Team in International Competition" by J. W. Buck Co.

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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

January 17-18 — GCSAA Golf Course Design Principles, St. Charles

January 17-19 — Midwest Turf Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN

February 7 — MAGCS meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club

February 12-17 — Indiana-Illinois Turfgrass Short Course

February 20-27 — GCSAA Conference & Show, San Francisco

March — MAGCS meeting at Oak Brook Hills Resort

March 16 — CDGA Green Seminar at Drury Lane, Oak Brook. Topic, Aerification and Spikeless Golf Shoes.

March 28 — GCSAA Spray Technician Training: Calibration & Safety, Oak Brook, IL

April 25 — MAGCS meeting at Ruffled Feathers G.C.

May 5 — MAGCS Past Presidents Golf Outing at Geneva G.C.

May — Joint ITF meeting at Eagle Ridge G.C.

June 19 — MAGCS meeting at River Forest G.C.

July — We need a meeting place.

August — MAGCS meeting at Mt. Prospect G.C.

September — MAGCS meeting at Prairie Landing G.C.

October 12 — MAGCS meeting at Sportsman G.C.

November — MAGCS Clinic & Annual Meeting at Medinah C.C.

November 27-29 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

Congratulations to Debbie and Donald Dodd on the birth of their second child, Dennis Leland, born December 7, 1994. Dennis weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 18½ inches long. This is the 5th grandchild for Marilyn and Jim Burdett and for Mrs. Paul Burdett her 9th great grandchild. A 10th great grandchild is expected soon.

Timothy J. O'Connor is looking for an assistants position in the area. He is a college grad, with 6 years golf experience. Call 708/397-8525 or write 2504 Jessica Ln, #106, Schaumburg, IL.

Ed Esgar is seeking an assistants position. Currently finishing an internship at Flossmoor C.C. Call 708/798-2498 days or 708/957-5262 evenings.

For Sale: Various sand trap rakes, Accuform, Lesco and Bayco. Call Tony Rzadzki at Cantigny G.C., best offer. 708/260-8179.

The experimental green that was built at Cantigny Golf Club was made possible through many people and firms. Credit should be given for this outstanding project that will come to benefit all of us in the Chicagoland area. The prime movers and shakers were: Tony Rzadzki, Supt. at Cantigny; Dr. Randy Kane, CDGA & U of I; and Dr. Hank Wilkinson, U of I.

The various firms and associations that provided either funds, services or products were: MAGCS, CDGA, ITF, Turf Products, Chicago Turf & Irrigation, Rainmakers, Wadsworth Construction, J. W. Turf, Central Sod, Duntelman Sod, Old Dutch Sand, GreensMix, Cannon Turf Supply, Fox River Irrigation Design, Oil Dri Corporation, and Arthur Clesen Inc. Those supplying sweat equity (and we apologize if we miss someone) were: Roger Stewart, Byron Ambrose, Vince Dodge, Jeff Smith, Jim Reed, John Gurke, Jim Keith, the sod crews from Evanston G.C. and Cantigny G.C.

Congratulations to Joan & Paul Wagner on the birth of their 6th child, Jacob Murray who was born on November 27, 1994. Jacob weighed in at 10 pounds, 6 ounces. Mother and child are just doing great.

Some of our eligible bachelors are ending their single lives. Mike Sauls got married back in November and John Gurke is to walk down the aisle on February 4th.

Peter Voykin had a triple by-pass surgery on December 9, 1994. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Will everyone please check with their accounting departments to be sure that they have the proper address for our association. All checks and correspondence should be sent to: MAGCS, P. O. Box 204, N. Aurora, IL 60542. That phone number & fax is: 708/896-6811.

Our next monthly meeting will be February 7 at Arrowhead Golf Club. The educational speaker will be Lisa Micunek, and her topic will be "Accent of Success." Her talk begins at 11 a.m. and lunch will be at 1 p.m.

NECROLOGY

It is with a deep sense of loss that we announce the death of Chuck Daugherty, who passed away on December 11, 1994. Chuck is best remembered when he was associated with the George A. Davis Company and the Chicago Toro Company. He was a long time member of Inverness G.C. and a one time greenchairman in the 60's.

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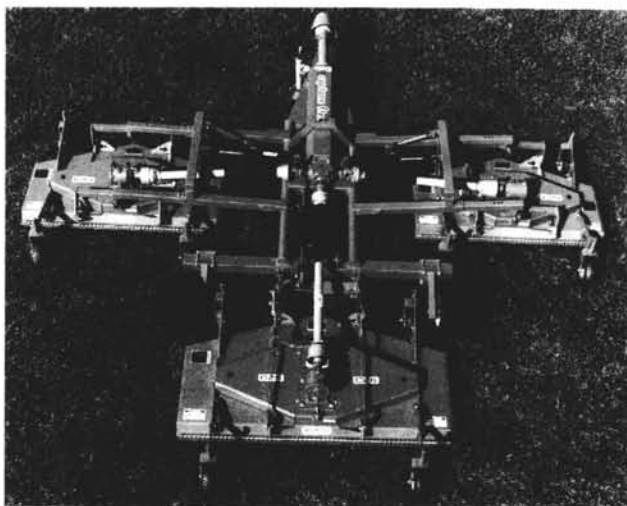
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(Midwest Breezes continued)



Dudley Smith (left) receiving the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's "Outstanding Achievement Award" at the recent NCTE meeting. Presenting the award was David Behrman.



Joel Purpur, President MAGCS, presented Dave Ward, President of ITF with a check of \$2,000 to be used for turf research at the recent NCTE meeting.

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For Sale: Two John Deere 22" Walking Greens Mowers, 1 year old. Both machines like new. \$3,100 each. Call Bill Kennedy at Cress Creek C.C., 708/355-5736.

Photos are from the bus trip that went to the Illinois-Penn State football game. A real squeezer of a game, but PSU pulled it out in the final two minutes. Photos by Don Maske.



Dudley Smith, Penn State, Class of 54!!



Left to right: Donny Maske, Bobby Wollenberg, Zachary Behrman, and Christina Louttit



Dave Behrman and son Zachary

Golf & the Fight for Discretionary Dollars

by Gregory E. Martin
Martin Design Partnership, Ltd.

Let's face it: there's a battle going on and it's raging into a war. There is a fight over discretionary dollars, the consumer's extra money. This isn't a battle just within the friendly confines of the golf industry, it is being waged throughout the globe with theme parks, theater, movies, resorts/vacations and cruises, music and even Nintendo. While golf has been fortunate of late, this war may ravage a proud and recently successful industry. Therefore, it is necessary to be flexible during the coming times of change.

This is the era of the televised championship medal play on Tournament of Players Championship courses. As viewers and participants, we are convinced that the only measure of a golfer's ability is from the most difficult course in the area. Why is it that each week thousands of golfers subject themselves to the back tees on 7,000 yd. courses with slope ratings bulging to 145? In a world where careers, families, and the evening news is stressful, the game of golf should not be painful: life is challenging enough. Golf should be promoted and developed to be more 'recreational', not more difficult. Golfers want service, price, quality and maintenance. Most importantly, however, golfers want to play a golf course that will test their skill.

All too often a golf course is valued by difficulty and length. There may be no substitution for length, but to overemphasize its merit has unfortunately and unfairly discriminated against some of the most beautiful and challenging shorter courses. The most notable golf courses in the world, Pebble Beach, St. Andrews, Augusta National and Cypress Point vary in length from 6,500 yds. to 7,000 yards, yet each has the ability to create options, no matter what the ball position. These great courses challenge the mental aspects of the game and support the notion that difficulty does not encourage skill and finesse, it demands talent. Playable courses filled with options are favorable. Harder is not necessarily better and skill is far different than strength.

Too often the design of a golf course begins with creating length and imposing difficulty. Designs are stretched past recreation, challenge and mental stimulation to punishment. The design of a golf course should begin with recreation for the middle to high handicap golfer and then implement difficulty where appropriate for the better golfer. National Golf Foundation analysis indicates that less than 20% of the population shoots under 90 on a consistent basis, yet many layouts of the past decade demand "my way or no way". Architects and those responsible for renovation should keep in mind that 73% of the rounds played are by 25% of the golfing population. It is clear that a facility should seek the higher frequency golfer.

Golfers are nomadic by nature, testing and trying new venues as they are opened. The courses that meet the quality, service and challenge demands of the high frequency golfer will ultimately win the "discretionary dollars". To produce a layout or implement improvements that encourage the golfer

to return, the course design should provide the following three key elements:

First, the course should be planned so that it is recreationally challenging for all abilities. This will surely expand the use of the facility and raise the potential for economic viability. Multiple tees, varied hazard locations, limited forced carries, forgiving fairways and accessible/puttable greens all account for playable layouts. Ironically, making the course difficult is easy and expensive. Difficult layouts for junior, senior, women or high handicap play will, in fact slow play and reduce the chance for repeat play. Good golf course design should entice the golfer to return.

Second, the course should be visually appealing and designed to enhance the surrounding landscape, not dominate it. The layout should be blended into the site using native features and culture. The seaside links of the British Isles don't try to hide the windblown dunes and the 'culture' of the parkland courses in southern England are vastly different than the desert courses of the southwestern United States. In other words, capitalize upon your local culture and landscape. The economic life of the golf course is hinged upon simplified construction and long term maintenance costs.

We cannot diminish the positive impact of the elaborate designs of the 1980's from renowned architects such as Dye, Nicklaus, Jones, Fazio and others. These architects and their designs have impacted the industry forever with highly visual, demanding layouts capable of bringing the best golfers in the world to their knees. But golf course architecture is moving toward simpler designs. Minimalist golf course architecture is a positive trend that will help ensure the long term success of the industry with sustainable landscapes. A return to "soft-handed" designs with less intrusive construction will reduce maintenance, irrigation and construction costs while, simultaneously, promoting play to a wider range of the golfing public through lower fees.

Third and finally, golf, by definition, has varying fields of play and this sport was historically played under match play conditions. Therefore, golf courses should be measured less against one another and more upon its ability to challenge a golfer under match play conditions. If this can be accomplished, golf course architects will feel less compelled to stretch a course to 7,000 yards, routing courses that fit the land, requiring less invasive construction. Golfers and the golf industry should look less at the length and difficulty of a golf course and more at how the course mentally challenges and stimulates the golfer.

The design of a golf course is a compelling process. Some of the most appealing courses in the world have evolved from nature's handiwork. The presence of a golf course will have a profound effect on the local quality of life and environment for generations of golfers, providing open space and recreation. Facilities need to be prepared for the coming challenge for discretionary dollars and golf course architects need to recognize that harder may not be better: that the economic and environmental life of a golf course may rest with sustainable, less intrusive layouts that encourage the golfer to return.

