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AG-A296

Free Labor

(continued from page 18)

registered as a 501C3 not-for-profit corporation, you are all set. Municipal golf courses can easily meet this requirement. We were approved, no questions asked, even though the golf course is a profit-generating facility for my employer, the Mt. Prospect Park District. If your course has any kind of legal partnership with your local municipality, they could act as a sponsor for work done at your course.

Weekend work must be available. Most of the offenders that you will be helping have regular jobs, and the community service they perform has to be tailored to their schedule. This requirement is no problem for us, unless there is a Superintendent out there who has figured out how to do his/her job Monday through Friday. In which case,

you should be writing a newsletter article for the rest of us.

Some record keeping duties are required. Obviously, the agencies need to be informed of each offender's progress toward the completion of his/her sentence. The Sheriff's program is as easy as a phone call to the office to schedule the next visit. They do their own paperwork. The Social Service Dept., on the other hand, requires more effort on your part because each case is handled individually. I've found that the documentation is far less than that required for a regular employee and can be satisfied with 5 minutes of work per visit.

It's not all rosy; "clients" fall off the face of the earth on occasion, and they do require some supervision. Let's face it; you're not dealing with Eagle Scouts here. I've had the Sheriff's Dept.

show up with 3 vans filled with 22 people one day and one van with 4 people the next. So you have to be flexible. Your membership and management have to be willing to accept the concept. On the day they showed up with 22 people, the Sheriff's Dept. crew with their reflective vests, hard hats and uniformed officers looked like a scene from "Cool Hand Luke."

The people I have dealt with at each agency have been very helpful; and because you are doing them a favor by being a sponsor, they make it as easy for you as possible. "Clients" that aren't working out for any reason are terminated at your request. One phone call to the program coordinator, and you never see them again (don't you wish it was that easy with certain golfers at your club). Your insurance carrier will be happy to learn that all individual

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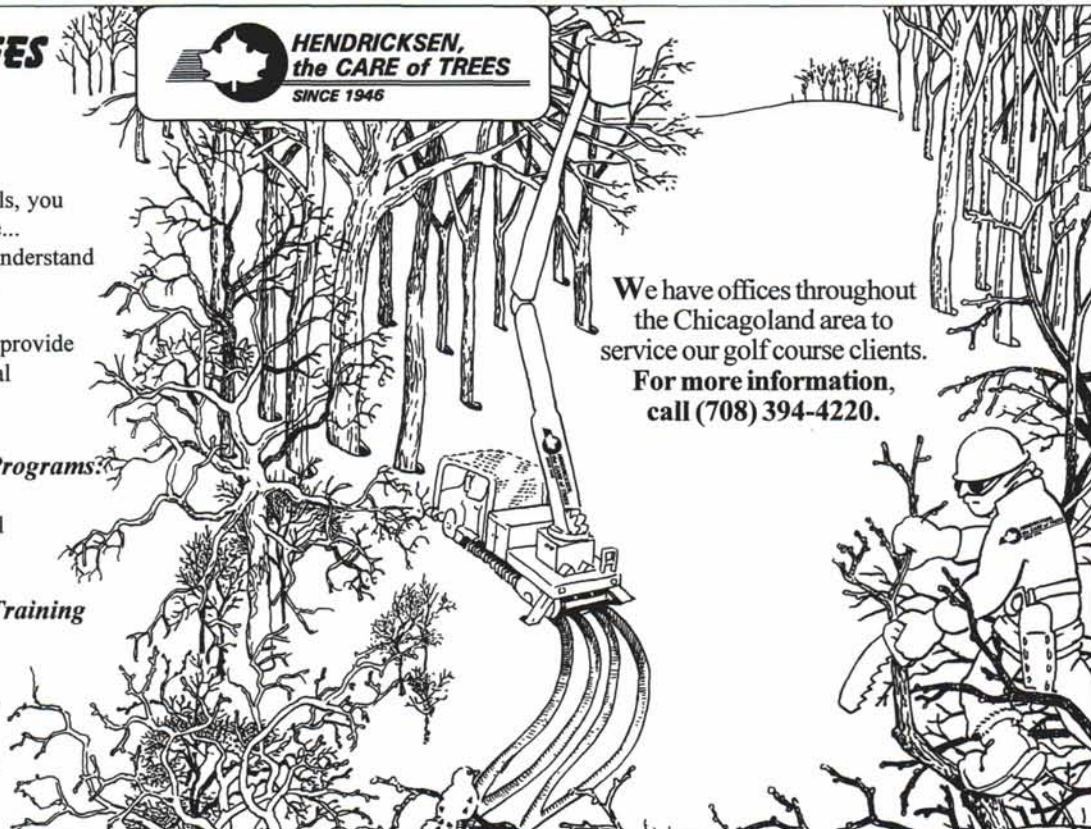
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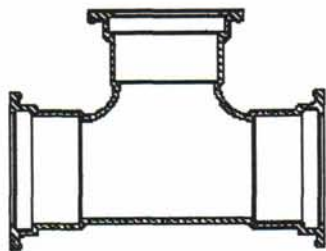
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BOO! Nite Lite

(continued from page 8)

by removing all sand trap rakes (can't see those — it's a desert), removing signage (can't read in the dark), taking down stakes, removing ropes, putting up marking cones in areas that are wet and newly seeded and recently built (like stone walls), and putting up snow fences around ponds (those glow-in-the-dark golf balls are expensive). All tee markers are moved up to forward tees, and all par 4s are moved into the fairways about 250 yards from the green.

Third, lighting the course and preparing for darkness. The pro shop personnel put out glo-sticks for the flagsticks and tee markers. The driving range lights are turned off. The beer cart has glo-sticks taped all over the vehicle, and the driver carries a flashlight to make change.

Fourth, irrigation scheduling. Usually, the White course is being used; thus, the White course gets watered the night before. The greens might get watered that night after Nite Lite, depending upon time. Some outings don't finish until 1:00 in the morning. Sometimes there are back-to-back outings — Friday night and Saturday night. One thing I forgot to add, this course is dependent upon a night waterman with quick couplers, so watering is "joy-joy". Hopefully, in the fall of 1996, an automatic irrigation system will be installed to alleviate watering around Nite Lite outings.

Fifth, course preparation and clean-up the following morning. The course must be ready for weekend golfers who are paying a higher green fee. Starting early in the morning around 5 a.m., two crew members set out to put sand trap

rakes back in the traps, put stakes, ropes, and signage up, remove marking cones and snow fence, remove glo-sticks, pick up garbage, and repair any damage that was caused from Nite Lite golfers — like tree damage, sand trap edges, restaking trees, and bushes. Lost tee markers, flags, and flagsticks are replaced, and tee markers are set back to normal position.

In summary, a few tricks that I picked up to aid in course preparation for the following morning: Keep all stakes and ropes in the area where they belong; just pull the stakes out along with the rope and lay them flat on the ground. Mark the stake/post hole with white paint for the original spot. Use posts with ground inserts. The holes never change; and when the ground is hard, the stakes go in easily. For each water hazard, use the same snow fence that is marked for that hazard. ■

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A "Birdie" for Village Links of Glen Ellyn

by Fred Opperman

Tim Kelly's repeat performance of winning the National Public Course Division 1996 Environmental Steward Award is a first for this program. Tim won the same award in 1995 and won it again in 1996. Quite an accomplishment to do so. Tim was recognized and presented the award at the GCSAA conference in Orlando last month. Also, I'm

sure many of you read all about this prestigious award in the February 1996 issue of *Golf Course Management* where quite a large section was devoted to the Environmental Steward Program. This is certainly a PR plus for all of the superintendents, winners and others. It takes a great deal of dedication and work to accomplish what the Village Links of Glen Ellyn did. As you read in the article, it stated there wasn't even a squirrel on the property when the course was built.

Well done, Tim Kelly, you are a credit to your club, your village and to our association and profession.

In this same light, Peter Leuzinger of the Ivanhoe Club, Ivanhoe, Illinois, was a cowinner in the 1996 Environmental Steward Program for the Mid-Continent Region. Pete won this award in 1995 also. Pete is the only superintendent in the country to have two different golf courses certified in this program. ■



Director's Column
(continued from page 10)

Committee, please call me; there is much to be done.

This newly formatted magazine is one example of many that I am enjoying my third year serving on your Board of Directors. I would like to thank all of our members for your support of the recent decisions chosen by your board. We have a very large, aggressive and innovative association. I am looking forward to working with the Long-Range Planning Committee. There are some very good ideas and concepts to refine in a fashion to strengthen our association. These items will be thought through and then brought to the membership for discussion as the year moves along. Anyone with a new idea or program that would impact the MAGCS in a beneficial way, please contact me or another member of

your Board of Directors.

So, as we embark on the 1996 golf season, I hope it goes well for everyone at work. And while at play, keep it in the fairway, any fairway! ■

Free Labor
(continued from page 22)

participants sign an agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the sponsor and its agents from any injuries sustained while performing their community service.

This may not be an answer for you, but I've found these programs to be especially helpful in handling those back burner jobs before I run out of burners.

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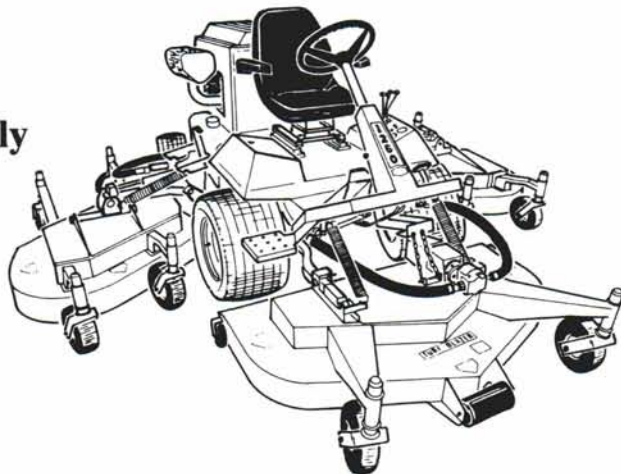
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Spanish General Standards Training

The Northern Illinois Horticulture Association will conduct a General Standards Clinic in Spanish April 16 and 17, 1996.

The two-day clinic will be held at the Inland Meeting and Expo Center, 400 East Ogden Avenue, Westmont.

The April 16 session will begin at 8:00 a.m. (registration 7:30 to 8:00) with equipment safety, a discussion of plant problems, followed by General Standards training till noon. Lunch is on your own. The afternoon session of pesticide training will run from 1:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m.


The April 17 session will begin at 8 a.m. and continue General Standards training till 11 a.m. Lunch is on your own. The General Standards test will be available at the Expo Center beginning at noon. **THE TEST WILL BE IN ENGLISH.**

Those interested in attending should preregister (space limited to 125) by sending a letter with company name, company phone number, names of persons attending and \$20 per person to: Northern Illinois Horticulture Assoc., P.O. Box 204, Gurnee, IL 60031.

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