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1997 Classic Gin Tourney

1997 Champ: Old P.V., Paul Voykin

John Berarducci
B & G Consultants, Inc.

The 1997 Classic Gin Tourney started out with a low turnout. However, the cream of the crop was there. The 1996 winner, Peter Voykin, showed up with a third-stage Hong Kong flu, along with Johnny "The Bear" Berarducci, "South Side Dudley", the Rookie From Glenview: Jeff Leuzinger, and many long-time losers with the likes of Bob Rigney, Jay Druhan and Jim Burdett.

The Northwest group of Mike Bavier and his Old Line Contingent were not player-ready and backed off.

It started off with the Old P.V. embarrassing old Wally Fuchs into buying some friendly sociables.

Old P.V. quickly swept through the early rounds until he matched up with the formidable Johnny "The Bear." He uncannily did not say a word for one and a half hours, one of the longest matches in Gin Tourney history. When he finally defeated Johnny "The Bear," he renewed his verbal attack on long-shot Wally and his associates.

Old, Old, P.V. finally prevailed, winning his first weather-aborted Gin Tourney. They say "on the South Side," the final four marches through Silver Lake C.C.; however, Old P.V. retains the trophy for the Northsiders at the Last Dance.

All funds were contributed to the "Rhonda Austin Fund." Should anyone want to continue donations, mail them to Dudley Smith's attention at Silver Lake C.C., Box 497, Orland Park, IL 60462.

I thank you for your continuing support.

"The Bear" ■

Director's Column

(continued from page 4)

not paid. This has been an reoccurring problem, so please check with your group and make sure all of them want to play and have sent their money in. This would help me with all the last-minute calls to the guys who had never intended to play but who had been signed up with a group that was short one player. I hope the new charge system will give another option to pay for our events.

Many have asked why there are limits put on the field for the monthly events. The limits are placed by the hosting club. Many clubs do not have carts or seating to accommodate a group the size of MAGCS; plus, because of time restrictions, many clubs have other events going on later in the day.

The price of the events has been questioned. We have to pay for golf, carts and sometimes a portion of both. Many events serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Then there are all those great new prizes.

If it were not for our monthly sponsors, the price would be even more than what we are now paying. I know Arrangements Chairman Greg Thalmann does his best to keep costs down.

Two years ago when golf chairman Kevin Czerkies handed the reins of the Golf Committee to me in a cold Medina C.C. parking lot, he stated to me, "You will

never please everyone." There have been mistakes made, but that is part of the learning process. We tried to accommodate as many of our members as possible and will continue to do so. I encourage anyone to come get their hands dirty and come serve on the Golf Committee. ■



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Bluejoint

Tom Voigt
Extension Turfgrass Specialist,
University of Illinois

Wet sites in either full sun or light shade can sometimes present a landscape problem. One cool season grass tolerant of those environmental conditions, bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), has remained attractive over the past nine summers in the native grass evaluation plots at the University of Illinois. Bluejoint is native in most of the northern half of Illinois and can be found throughout much of the northern regions of the United States. It is known by other common names, including bluejoint grass, reedgrass, meadow pinegrass, Canadian reedgrass, marsh reedgrass, and marsh pinegrass.

Appearance

The overall appearance of *Calamagrostis canadensis* is one of an erect, rather dense grass that forms heavy clumps. It forms a fibrous root system and spreads by creeping rhizomes. Its overall height will reach 2 to 5 feet tall.

The 1/8-inch diameter flowering stalks are usually smooth or slightly rough-textured, often with swollen nodes, and terminate in a panicle seedhead. There is much diversity in seedhead appearance; some plants form very tight, dense seedheads, while others produce open, loose seedheads. They are usually 4 to 8 inches long and brown colored, sometimes with a purplish tinge, at maturity. Published reports





identify it as normally flowering in June and July.

In the U. of I. evaluations, bluejoint began flowering in late May or early June when its pale, blue-green foliage was about 3 feet tall. The panicles emerge pale green and mature to a tan or golden brown. The contrast between the green foliage and the brown inflorescences has been attractive, and remained so



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through much of the summer. The grass and its inflorescence usually remain upright throughout most of the summer.

The leaves of bluejoint grass are pale blue-green, drooping, and grow to 16 inches long and 1/2 inch wide. The upper leaf surface is rough, as are its margins and underside. There are no auricles; the vernation is rolled, the 1/5-inch long ligule is rounded and membranous, and the collar is medium broad and divided. The undersides of the leaves are keeled, and the sheaths are rather short.

Landscape Use

Bluejoint can be used in natural gardens, as a seasonal screen, and in moist perennial gardens. It is not a plant for highly managed areas; it spreads by rhizomes and may become invasive as it

matures. It can also be planted in lightly wooded areas near lakes and ponds. Avoid siting this plant in areas where its height will interfere with errant golf shots.

Environmental Adaptation

Grow bluejoint in moist sites in full sun or light shade. It occurs naturally in both acid and alkaline sites, and thus seems to be tolerant of a wide pH range. In the Chicago area, it is found naturally in marshes, bogs, and alkaline fens (limy areas fed throughout the year by water at or beneath the surface). Where adapted, bluejoint often develops dense stands at the expense of other species.

Growing and Propagation

Propagate bluejoint by dividing the plants or rhizomes or by seeding. Divide in spring or autumn while the plant is dormant. The small seeds (approx-

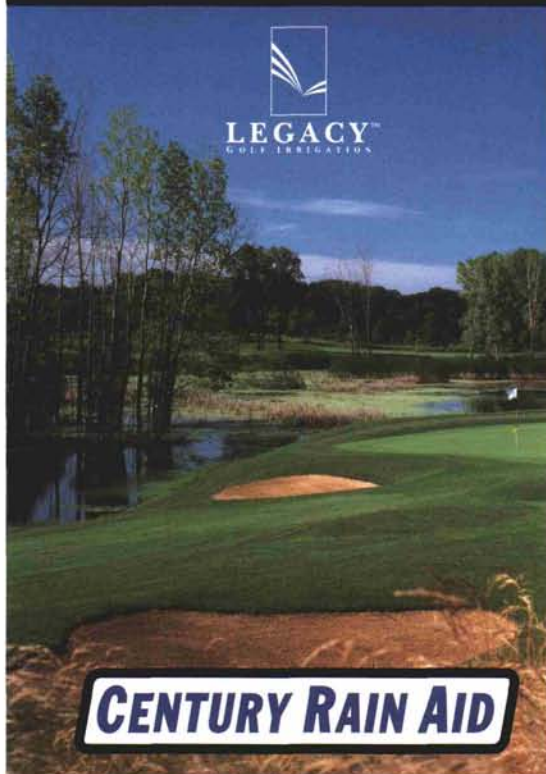
mately 1.5 million per pound) can be harvested in late summer or early fall when ripe and planted in fall or late spring. Reports indicate that this plant can be somewhat difficult to start from seeds.

Cut back the plants in autumn or spring while dormant. In most settings, fertilization is unnecessary.

Of Interest

Bluejoint is a relative of one of the greatest ornamental grasses, Karl Foerster Feather Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* "Karl Foerster"). This European native is a refined, upright hybrid well-suited to manicured settings. ■

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