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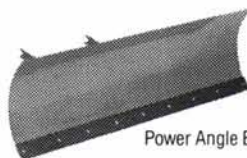
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Dan Albaugh -N- Ruffled Feathers Golf Club

*Ray Schmitz
Flossmoor C.C.*

It was indeed a pleasure to visit with Dan Albaugh, superintendent of Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, and tour the golf course.

Ruffled Feathers is an upscale gated community providing 18 holes of challenging golf. The course was designed by Pete Dye and his son P.B. Dye. It is believed to be their first joint venture in golf course design. There are 28 acres of federally protected wet lands throughout the golf course; and in cooperation with the Audubon Society Adopt-a-School Program, Ruffled Feathers is seeking help from Lemont Township High School in the management of these areas. The golf course has five sets of tees, and its most challenging rating is 73.1-134 slope from the black tees at 6,878 yards. The golf course recently became the home of the Illinois PGA and is managed by American Golf Corporation.

A golf course of this quality could not be successful without help from Dan's assistant, Joe Franssen. Another member of Dan's crew is Bubba, his Chesapeake Bay retriever, whose responsibility is goose control—a large task, indeed, with all the water and wetlands on the property.

This is Dan's fourth year at Ruffled Feathers. He started working on golf courses at a very young age with his father, Julie Albaugh, superintendent at Westmorland Country Club. Dan also served as assistant superintendent to the late Bruce Sering at Glenview Club for eight years. He holds two bachelor of science



Bubba and Dan Albaugh

degrees from Southern Illinois University. One degree is in geography, and the other degree is in plant science. He also earned the title of Master Gardener and

presently serves on the Education Committee for MAGCS. His favorite pastime is deer hunting with bow and arrow where he holds three Pope and Young bowhunting records for North American white-tailed deer. One of Dan's prized possessions is a 1979 Harley motorcycle.

The design and character of Ruffled Feathers will be an excellent test of golf for the MAGCS championship participants. Bring an ample supply of golf balls in case you stray from the 40 acres of bent grass fairways. Dan is looking forward to hosting the tournament September 22, 1997. The members of MAGCS extend their appreciation to Ruffled Feathers for their generosity. ■



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Golf Cart Usage

(continued from page 10)

U.S. Open in the Chicago area in 1990, stated that prior to the event cart traffic was restricted on course No. 3 for one month before the tournament. Danny stated in addition to compaction, the roughs become matted down, producing poor lies. The rough does not stand erect and upright as needed for such an event. Danny also stated that he believes that 90 percent of the damage caused at the course he maintains is caused by cart traffic.

Dave Ward, superintendent at Olympia Fields Country Club, hosted the USGA Senior Open last June. Dave also held golf cart traffic off the course that he maintained for three weeks prior to the Seniors event. Dave said it is amazing how rapidly the turf healed before the event. Typically, there are no cart restrictions, barring the weather, at Olympia Fields.

My next door neighbor at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club hosts the Western Open on an annual basis. Ken Lapp holds carts to cart paths only for two weeks before the Western. He also closes the course to play one week

Golf has a very rich history and tradition, more so than any other sport. It is a game of honor and integrity where there are no referees but the players themselves.

before. He plans to do the same for the U.S. Amateur this August, except the course will be open for play the week before the Amateur.

Golf has a very rich history and tradition, more so than any other sport. It is a game of honor and integrity where there are no referees but the players themselves. Golf has captured a wide audience and has had many widely-known players through the ages from Old Tom Morris, Chick Evans, Gene Sarazen, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and today's greats like Tiger Woods and Justin Lenards. People love to watch these players. They emulate their favorites. Tiger won at Augusta using the Titleist Cameroon Putter. Our pro shop still cannot keep it stocked. John Daly hit 300-yard drives with the Big Bertha driver! So every one must have a Big Bertha driver. All I know is that I have never seen Arnold, Jack, or Tiger hop on a cart and drive down a fairway. I am still waiting for the general golfing public to hop on the "play like the pros, and let's walk" bandwagon. ■

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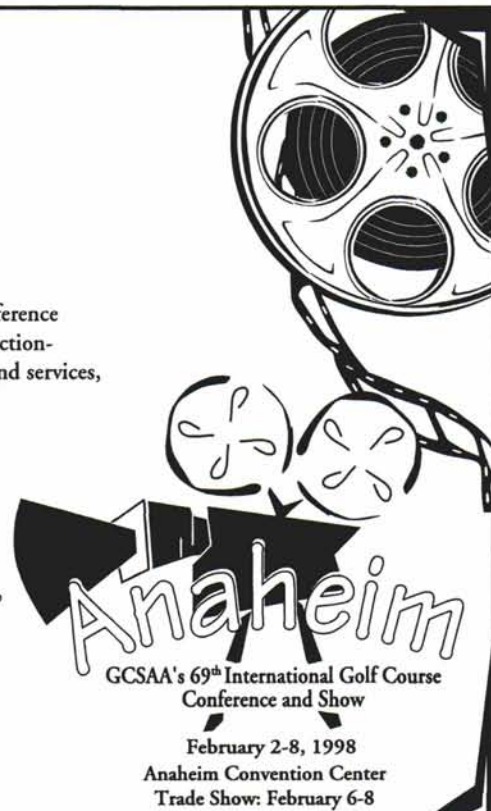
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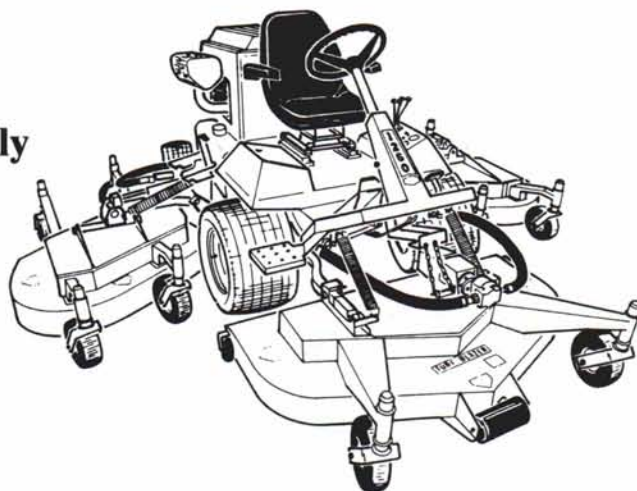
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Look Out for Lightning on the Links!

Jozsef deKovacs

Editors note: Thanks to Ken Krausz, editor of The GREENERSIDE (Official Publication of the GCSA of New Jersey) for permission to reprint this article on lightning. It sure got my attention when I read it, and I am sure it will initiate some conversation at your club and among fellow superintendents as well.

According to the *New Jersey Law Journal*, a New Jersey court has passed down the nation's first known ruling that lightning is not an act of God when it hits a golfer. The court cited breakthroughs in engineering and forecasting that have given golf courses the capability to protect golfers from lightning. Therefore, though courses don't have an affirmative duty to protect their patrons from lightning, they are liable if they establish protective systems and the systems don't work. The opinion suggests that courses can escape liability if, in effect, they decline to interpose themselves between God and golfers.

In this case, the Atlantic City Country Club's practice was to monitor the weather, and it had an evacuation plan that consisted of the golf course personnel driving onto the course to warn golfers. According to the defense,

a United States Golf Association (USGA) poster placed in the clubhouse recommended immediate reaction to dangerous situations and advised golfers to *seek shelter if you feel danger from lightning or storm is imminent*. In March

A New Jersey court has passed down the nation's first known ruling that lightning is not an act of God when it hits a golfer.

1993, a foursome on the course noticed lightning and began walking toward the clubhouse (there were no man-made shelters along the way). The plaintiff put up an umbrella and was subsequently

struck by lightning. He survived, but was injured and sued the club and its owners.

This case sets new precedence that lightning is increasingly falling into the category of hurricanes and tornadoes—disasters that have become more predictable. All managers should consider their options and research the expense associated with installing a warning system and shelters. ■

Note: Lightning Safety posters (14" x 20") are available through the USGA for \$1 each, or \$75 per 100. Lightning Safety Tips stickers (4" x 6") are available for \$2.50 per package of 20. To order these materials, please call the USGA at (908) 234-2300.



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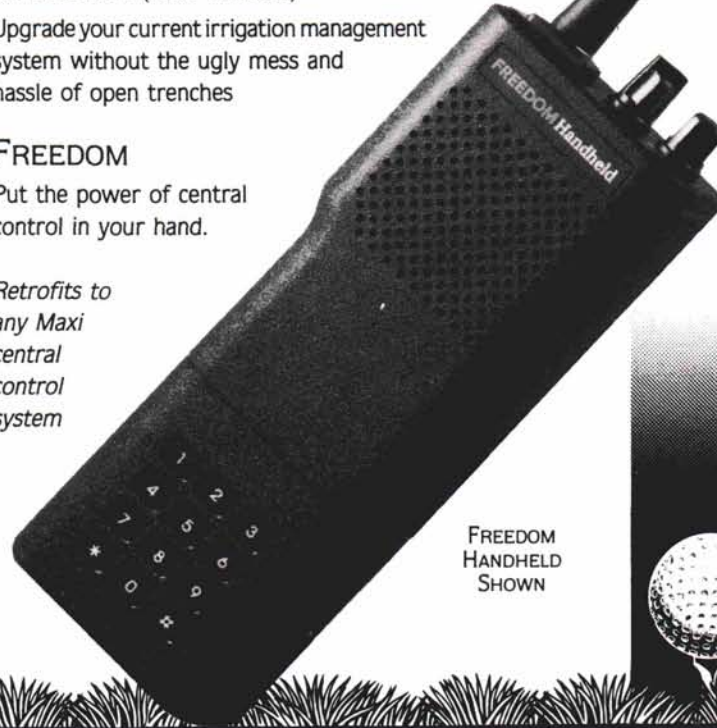
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UST Upgrading vs. Removal

Steven H. Berning

President

Accurate Tank Technologies, Inc.

I recently read an article about a UST removal which motivated me to write this article about keeping and upgrading your UST (underground storage tank) where fuel is needed on-site.

Removal of a UST can be an experience that is not pleasant. All that is necessary to keep and upgrade a UST is a state permit which is easy to obtain and takes 30 days. The upgrade can cost on average from as low as \$3,000 for one UST to as much as \$15,000 for two USTs, depending on size and makeup of the tank(s).

No state inspector is required on-site for the construction phase for most upgrades, unless repiping is desired by you and is a part of the scope of the job. Therefore, the state inspector will not be required (for most upgrades) on your property until the job is done and the final drive-by is performed by them to see that the permitted activity indeed took place. Usually little or no soil needs to be cleaned up with an upgrade. Generally, no soil samples are required for an upgrade since the tank site is not being closed out. Past fuel spills usually do not become a problem with upgrades; and, therefore, no EPA incident report, 20-day report and 45-day report will be necessary, as well as state report filing for reimbursement.

No consultants are necessary with upgrades if you select a state licensed contractor who belongs to IPECA (Illinois Petroleum Equipment Contractors Association) and is in good standing, has been successful with the upgrade business and has done UST upgrade work. Low price is not

*All that is
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and upgrade
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easy to obtain and
takes 30 days.*

always the cheapest job in the long run. Interview the contractor to determine their philosophy, history and quality of work.

After you are done upgrading your UST, you will have something when you are done—a fueling system to use—so you can get your work done safely and conveniently.

A special thanks to Greg Thalmann for his article in July, for promoting the use of MAGCS commercial sponsors and supporters. All of us appreciate this thought and support ■



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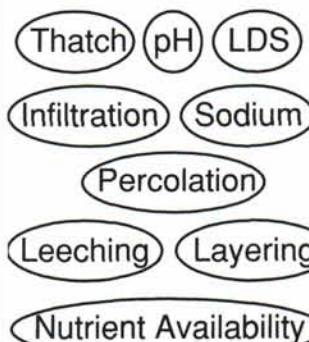
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The Naturalized Golf Course

(continued from page 34)

whether we are architects, superintendents, contractors, developers, or golf professionals, could recite from memory.

Our very inexperienced golf course ownership group, you see, had purchased a potentially fine, but still very raw, public golf course the previous spring. The original developers had dreamed, conceived, planned, financed, sweated, and finally constructed this golf course/real estate development from the ground up. They built this golf course at a much lower cost than most contemporary courses.

As the story goes, it also required a huge risk by Midwest Irrigation, who installed the irrigation, finish grading, and seeding, all with the real possibility of not getting paid for their work due to another collapse of financing. There was no capital for such luxuries as USGA greens, extensive grading and earthmoving, car paths, landscaping, sodding, a well-known course architect, or the routing, grading, and grassing plans that accompany such an architect. Needless to say, the clubhouse was, and still is, a glorified office trailer. This October will see us begin the construction of our new clubhouse—nothing fancy, but it will be very tasteful and functional.

After about four years, the dream of these original developers finally died. Financial problems forced them to sell off first the golf course, then finally almost all of their financial interest in the real estate development.

The sellers then were in the unenviable, but inevitable, position of looking back on “their project” in hindsight: what could have, and should have, happened

for them on their golf development journey did not happen, for a variety of reasons.

Many of the negative circumstances were just beyond their control; and they did not have the financial resources to keep “weathering the storm,” ultimately resulting in their selling the course to us. Of course, the golf course, which my ownership group acquired, was purchased at a very favorable price by us.



In doing so, the buyers assumed the debt of the seller and thereby “got them off the financial hook.” It’s an often repeated story in American business in which entrepreneurs sometime don’t reach the pot of gold at the end of the golf rainbow.

What was designed and ultimately built was a solid, 6,300-yard very playable golf course. There are some very easy golf holes, and there are some great, challenging holes. We have very large tees, which serve us very well. We have very large, easy-to-putt greens built of native soil. We have a very good, double-row Toro system and a very good pump station.

Over the past five years, these greens, tees, and fairways, ably grown in by Doug Eggert, now superintendent at the

Sanctuary in New Lennox, have developed quite nicely with Penncross surfaces. Today, of course, I’m sure that either Doug or I would probably make some different bentgrass choices. But all of us as superintendents play the cards dealt us in the most intelligent manner possible, and almost always produce playable results that our golfers do appreciate.

The original routing of this course did not utilize all of the available land, resulting in huge, out-of-play areas spread out over our 190 acres. In one sense, it’s a shame that the routing didn’t take full advantage of the landscape. On the other hand, that mistake permitted us to establish our pheasant habitat / prairiegrass / wildflower areas on a fairly large scale.

So, among his recommendations for our ownership group, Leon highly recommended that we incorporate “the natural look” into our rather large golf course. Initially, we were all thinking of fine leafed fescues along with wildflowers. There was not much talk of the prairiegrasses being used.

After a few months, one of our owners contacted Pheasants Forever of Grundy County. It seems that almost all of our owners were longtime boosters of PF. It also became quickly known to us that PF sponsored a pheasant habitat improvement program within the county, utilizing mainly prairiegrasses.

And, best of all, they were looking hard for landowners willing to convert idle land to wildlife habitat for “a long-term, indefinite period of time” and were willing to donate all seed and use of

(continued on page 22)