

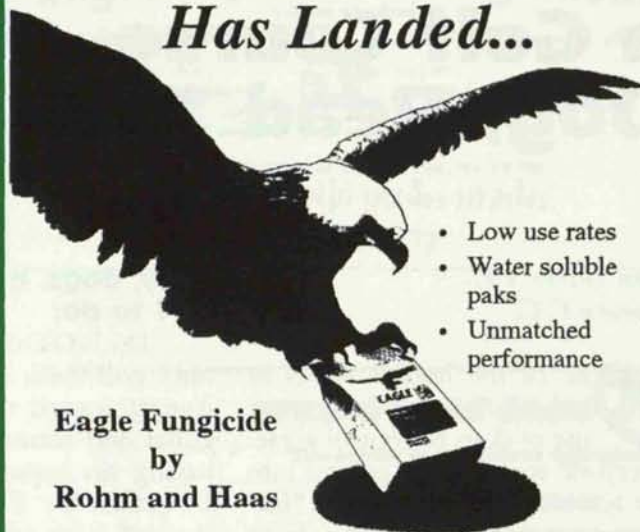


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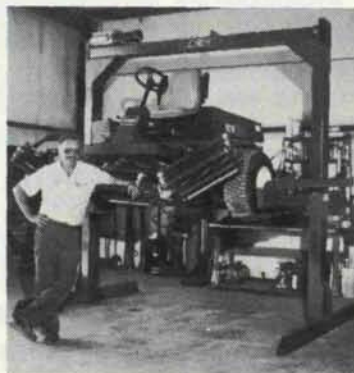
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If You Are a Golf Course Dog, Read This!

John Gurke, CGCS
Aurora C.C.

One of the hottest topics in our industry right now is the use of dogs to control geese. Everyone seems to be getting into the act, as is evidenced by the "for-hire goose chasers" we've been receiving literature from and the Border collie barrage ("Send check or C.O.D. for \$3,000 before midnight tonight").

Don't get me wrong, I am a staunch advocate of pretty much everything that's fashionable, from environmentally- friendly methods of pest removal to Audubon certification to cosmetic surgery. The thing about this is that with the means we are employing to achieve these ends, I have begun to take notice of the potential "risks" involved. If you were expecting a serious diatribe about the hazards and legal ramifications of dogs running rampant on your golf course, stop here—you ain't gettin' it. My purpose here is to relate a few experiences that some of our fellow goose-chasing, dog-using superintendents have had in an effort to merely entertain. So feel free to go to the "library," relax, and don't forget to give your extra green chairman copy to your dog. I suppose my own two pets, Dingo and Boomer, could fill this entire article with their exploits, but I am an equal-opportunity writer, so I have included others.



Okay, dogs, here's what NOT to do:

Do NOT chase, chew on, or bury golf balls. My first season at Aurora started with a very good golfer and future green chairman having his approach shot at No. 13 stolen by Dingo, who then chewed it up and buried it. This could have been a nasty scene had it been a midseason money game; but luckily, it was a leisurely game with his wife, so it cost me a dozen Titleists as retribution.

Do NOT kill foxes, squirrels,

ducklings, or any other animals deemed "cute" by those plaid-clad humans you can only see in black and white—ESPECIALLY don't do it in their presence! If you feel the urge to grab and shake something, make it a paint can.

Do NOT bite people unless they are in polyester suits and carrying a huge briefcase full of aerosol cans. No matter how adept you are at scaring off geese, members will not accept tooth marks in their backsides. Boomer has

(continued on page 38)

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Brian Loftin
Sales Executive

the Bull Sheet

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 15 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Fox Valley G.C.

June 25-28 — Motorola Western Open at Cog Hill G.C.

July 17-19 — Ameritech Senior Open at Kemper Lakes G.C.

July 20 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Hughes Creek G.C.

July 20-21 — Field's Classic at Merit Club

July 21-25 — U. S. Junior Amateur at Conway Farms G.C.

July 23-25 — Illinois Women's Open at Odyssey Club

July 28 — Midwest Regional Turf Field Day, Purdue University

August 6-8 — Illinois Open at Orchard Valley G.C.

August 19 — Turfgrass Field Day at University of Illinois

August 20 — Turfgrass Field Day at Michigan State University

August 27 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Palatine Hills G.C.

August 30 — MAGCS picnic and Cougar baseball game

September 12-17 — U. S. Senior Amateur at Skokie C.C.

The Editorial Committee has decided to go with another painting for our December 1998 cover of *On Course*. Are there other artists out there besides Peter Leuzinger who would like to paint a golf-related picture for our cover? If so, please contact the Editor or Fred Behnke by August 15. If there are several who would like to do a cover, we will have you submit a pencil sketch, and the committee will choose the winner.

We are looking for private clubs which will host a foursome with Mark Karczewski, our graphic artist, to play a round of golf at their club. To help your association, if you can have a foursome at your club sometime, please give Luke Cella, who has volunteered to head up the arrangements for Mark's golf, a call at 630-584-9225.

Congratulations to Dave Schlagetter on being elected president of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

The Mundelein Park District and the grounds crew at Steeplechase G.C. have voted to join the Teamsters Union. This may be one of the only golf courses in our area to have union workers. Ron Doruff is the new superintendent, and the vote took place just days after he started the job. Ron, congratulations on the new job, and good luck with the union.

Jim McNair, Orchard Valley G.C., and Robert Vaughan, director of the Fox Valley Park District, were

notified by the GCSAA that they had won one of ten spots in the Quad City Classic Pro Am Tournament, July 5-7, in Moline, Illinois. This was a contest sponsored by John Deere to recognize certified golf course superintendents and their employers who have made significant contributions to the role of the golf superintendent.

Bruce Birchfield has changed jobs and is now at Winghaven C.C., which is being built with plans to open in the summer of '99.

Terry Dilner, superintendent at Woodmar C.C., has been busy lately. He recently became certified with the GCSAA and is currently involved in an in-house bunker renovation project. Last fall, 21 of 56 bunkers were completed. He is also rebuilding and adding some championship tees to the 73-year-old course.

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to the John Clark family due to the death of John on April 3. John was the superintendent at Evergreen G.C. for 25 years and had retired in 1994.

The golf game at the June meeting will be two-man total (net). Play with whomever you want, but your two-man partner will be a blind draw. In addition, as a matter of rule this year, when we are playing a non-scramble event (such as this), regardless of the format or event, the low gross individual and the low net individual will also get a prize. In July, we will have the Senior Championship. Three Flights: Regular (everyone below age 50), Senior (50-59), and Super Senior (60 and over). All retired seniors play free.

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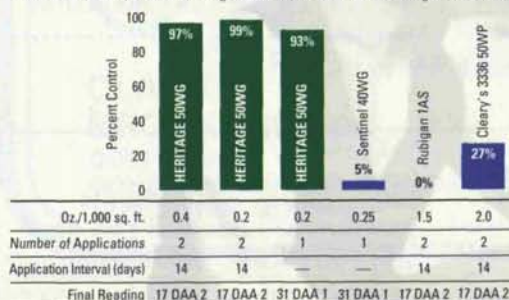
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Anthracnose¹ (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass

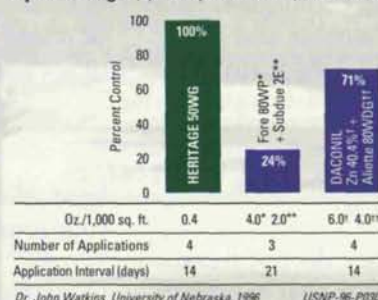


Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995

US 67-95-P354

¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Curvularia*.

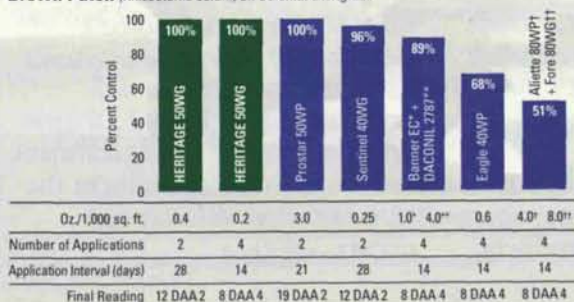
Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial Ryegrass



Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996

USNP-96-P030

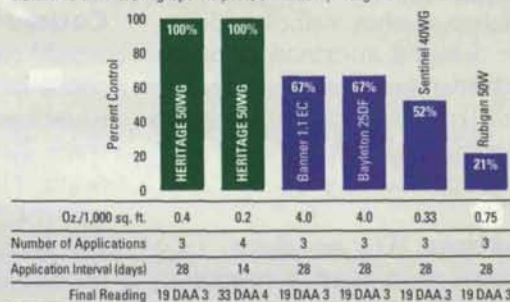
Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994

US 86-94-P356

Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994

US 86-94-P362

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On Course June 1998

35

the Bull Sheet

(continued from page 34)

Congratulations to Mrs. Ray (Jo) Gerber who turned 94 on June 12. Mrs. Gerber along with Mrs. Paul Burdett (Jim's mother) were one of the ones responsible for the women's program at our annual GCSAA conference.

Two of our members received some press time in the past couple of months. Jim McNair, Orchard Valley G.C., was quoted by Len Ziehm, *Chicago Sun Times*, on the use of softspikes on his course and how they are becoming pretty much accepted at so many other courses. Luke Cella, Pottawatomie G.C., wrote "Going Native on the Course" in *The USGA Green Section Record*, March/April 1998.

At the April meeting, 127 golfers turned out for the annual opening scramble. The winning teams from the April golf event were: Low Net—Dave Blomquist, John Gurke, Mike Mumper and Dan Sterr. The Low Gross team

consisted of Dave Louttit, Eric Swanson, Gene Thompson and Paul Yerkes. Fred Behnke was the closest-to-the-pin winner, and Tim Scott took the long drive contest. Congratulations and a BIG thank you to the entire staff at the Schaumburg G.C. Everyone enjoyed the sunny, but cool, afternoon. Additionally, thanks to everyone who contributed to the Leukemia Society by purchasing a mulligan. We'll see you June 15 at Fox Valley G.C.

The members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents would like to extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of William (Bill) Miller who died in his home in Wheeling on Friday, April 24, 1998, at the age of 86. Bill was the superintendent at Palatine Hills G.C. from 1969 to 1973, when he retired at the age of 62. Prior to that, he was superintendent at Pebble Creek G.C. in Palatine, an area now developed with homes and an office park. Bill was a dear friend

to many superintendents and will be greatly missed.

Dave Schlagetter and Chad Ball were in an auto accident April 30 while on their way to play golf with fellow superintendents at Bull Valley G.C. Both were hospitalized after the accident but were sent home that day.

Chad Ball of Conway Farms will be moving into a new maintenance building sometime this year. The new building will be 60 ft. x 180 ft., or 10,800 sq. ft., with all of it heated. A chemical storage building will be alongside that measures 20 ft. x 30 ft. Both buildings will be block with some vinyl siding.

Ray Kearney at Marengo Ridge C.C. is installing an Osmac system with touch net controls on nine of the holes. This system is replacing the 35-year-old one. It will have a new Flowtronex PSI pump station with the capacity of 1,300 GPM.

Understanding and Treating . . .

(continued from page 28)

Couch: No, they do not work. It has been shown that mechanical cultivation of aerification and verticutting is best to keep thatch levels below one-half inch. Consult your local state turfgrass specialists as they will provide more detailed information on thatch management. As with all biocontrols, you cannot maintain high enough levels for a long enough period of time.

Question: Why has there not been more work on these problems?

Couch: Drew Smith did a great deal of work, but we are dealing with a variety of causes for what is termed Localized Dry

Spot. We continue to look for solutions.

Question: Prostar provides excellent control; are there other products that may provide control of Localized Dry Spot and Fairy Ring?

Couch: Prior to Prostar, I have would recommend the use of sterol-inhibitors, but they needed to be used at high rates, and some associated phyto could occur. Heritage may also provide control, but I am not sure where the data was produced and who produced it.

Question: Why not use the wetting agent and Prostar together to make it easier?

Couch: The key is not being

easy. The key is solving the problem of Localized Dry Spot and Fairy Ring. The wetting agent set the soil profile to accept the fungicide. It is a process.

Question: Can you treat for *Rhizoctonia* at the same time since Prostar controls *Rhizoctonia* as well?

Couch: Since Prostar will be drenched in, I would follow up with another foliar treatment four days later, especially in the summer when *Rhizoctonia* occurs.



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If You Are a Golf Course Dog, Read This!
(continued from page 32)

done this twice to my knowledge, and both times were to the same person—former club president/Chamber of Commerce/Rotarian/basically bigwig-type without a sense of humor. Please save your master the embarrassment of having to be seen at the Sans-a-belt store buying replacement pants.

Do NOT get arrested. Your masters are plenty good enough at that. Kevin DeRoo's dog was snatched right out of the Bartlett Hills parking lot by the local constabulary, taken downtown, booked and printed. You guys don't EVER want to go through an experience like that—especially the cavity search part.

Do NOT eat everything your masters throw. I know you're color-blind, but anything dark in a shiny plastic packet that is tossed into a pond is taboo. According to the master of this particular dog, it takes about two weeks for Lesco Pond Colorant to fade completely off of a tongue.

Do NOT stay outside in a thunderstorm. Even if you're tied outside with a metal chain to a metal spike, figure out a way to

get inside. This dog, having survived countless squishings by various tires, rollers, etc. (thus his name, Speed Bump), could not survive the wrath of Mother Nature, which came in the form of a lightning bolt. Hopefully for him, the old adage is true, and all dogs DO go to heaven.

Do NOT eat lightbulbs, staples, screws, bearings, or any other neat, shiny things you might find on the floor of your master's shop. You don't like going to the vet anyway, and your master might just decide that the time is ripe for a new goose-chaser, and the only good news for you is that it will be your last shot.


Do NOT chase coyotes—you'll lose.

Do NOT act stupid. If your master is holding court with some of those black-and-white people you see on the course every day, and he says, "Blah blah," then sit down. If he says, "Blah blahblah," then roll over. If he seems mad and says, "Blah blah Bluck blahblah blah," it's time to go lay down in the office. Obeying these commands will greatly increase the likelihood that you'll grow old on this course (unless, of course,

you stay out in thunderstorms).

Do NOT roll around in your own waste. I personally can not fathom why any of God's creatures would do this on purpose, but for some reason, it seems to appeal to you guys. Thing is, it does NOT appeal to your master's masters (the black-and-whites). Once they've caught a whiff of you, you'll go from "the superintendent's dog" to "the superintendent's smelly dog," which is not in your best interest. On a related note, either learn to catch mice in your shops, or let the cat do it—just don't eat the big clumps of kitty litter! Those are not treats, but simply another way of showing your masters just how far along the evolutionary chain you've progressed (or regressed).

And finally: Do NOT forget why you are there—to chase GEESE. It's how your masters rationalize your existence to the black-and-whites. There are a thousand Border collies out there that are trained and ready to go, so don't get lazy.

Okay, now give this back to your masters, if you haven't chewed it up. 

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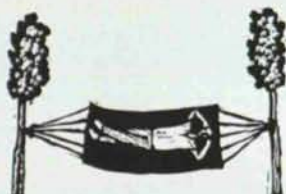
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