

Dry Weather Elicits a Deluge of Postings on MAGCS Web Site

While fall 1999 rewrote the record books, area greenkeepers went online to commiserate and share coping strategies with colleagues. The following are excerpts from comments posted on the MAGCS message board during the first two weeks of November.

Anyone else winterized their irrigation system and concerned about having blown it out too early? We have enough moisture in the soil for about one week without rain. We will be hauling water in our 1,500-gallon hydro mulcher in the near future if this unseasonably warm and dry weather continues much longer.

Oscar Miles
The Merit Club

Blew our system at Arlington Lakes the last week in October as we normally do. Have old VT II hydraulic and have no head control when it freezes. Started system back up on 11/5 because of lack of moisture. Not sure when I'll winterize it again. Blew nine-hole course on landfill on 11/2 and may turn this on again if dryness continues... In 20-something years have never seen it this dry in late October and early November.

Jules "Butch" Peuvion
Arlington Lakes G.C.

With tee reconstruction projects, a rather large sewer construction project (Village of Glencoe), tree removal (155 so far!), stump grinding, tree transplanting, etc. the dry conditions have been a bittersweet welcome. We too are experiencing rather dry conditions in fairways and roughs. I've watered greens, tees

and approaches moderately and fairways sparingly. Our water reservoir is dependent on rainfall to recharge and I can supplement with purchased village water but am trying to make it through without having to purchase anymore this year... I usually do not blow out until Thanksgiving week or later as we usually are doing something that requires sod to be watered. Trying to finish reconstruction of the last of five tees then I do hope we get some good rains before freezing conditions prevail. I don't suppose freeze-dried soil will fracture and aerate all that well. Hoping for hydration!

Don Cross
Skokie C.C.

Our system here at Midlothian C.C. is still live and very active. Three nights in a row we have irrigated greens, tees and fairways. We are also running roller-base sprinklers in our roughs and hand-watering our five newly sodded greenside banks. All of this with limited crew...while also maintaining suitable playing conditions for the membership. We have averaged around 80 rounds a day for the past week or so and it doesn't look like it will let up anytime soon! Oscar said he has not seen anything like this in 40 years of golf course management. Let's just look at it as a "CHARACTER BUILDER" for all of us, especially for all the other assistants out there who are trying to work their way up the ladder of success. Let's keep the faith and chalk this up to "EXPERIENCE."

Tony Frandria
Midlothian C.C.

We are going to winterize tomorrow. I have been watering the

soil a little each night this week due to the lack of moisture. Hopefully this week will be the end of 70-degree weather. We had 40 golfers on Saturday and 55 on Sunday.

Stacy Wallace
Northmoor C.C.

I had planned on blowing our systems out this week but with 70-degree temperatures forecast for the next several days, we will probably wait another week... Hope the mercury doesn't drop too fast. We had over 100 golfers a day on both Saturday and Sunday at two of our courses.

Kerry Satterwhite
City of Bloomington, IL

Assistant John recharged system this morning. Watered tees the past two days with water sprayed from hydro mulcher. Very, very dry fairways. John is running sprinklers as I write. Raphael is putting soaker hose and sprinklers back out and watering rough and new trees. Tentatively expecting to reblow system "turkey" week. How is everyone else faring during these exceptionally warm, dry and windy weather conditions? In 40 years of golf course management, I haven't experienced unusual weather conditions like this. Is this a result of the "greenhouse effect" and what are we to expect in Y2K?

Oscar Miles
The Merit Club

We here at Stonebridge C.C. watered almost everyday last week and early this week. We had no choice but to blow out the system today. I hope the temperature on Saturday is the end of the warm

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Bob Breen -N- Arrowhead Golf Club

Dave Braasch
Hughes Creek G.C.

Bob Breen, the 18-year superintendent of Arrowhead Golf Club, will be the host of our January MAGCS meeting. Not to sound too much like a personal ad, but Bob is 48 years young, happily married to his wife Angie of 25 years, and has two children: son John, 24, and daughter Mary, 13. He enjoys fishing and watching daughter Mary pitch no-hitters at her softball games. Asking price for this competent, versatile package: \$250,000/o.b.o. Just kidding, Bob.

Bob's prior experience includes working under the direction of Dave Meyer at both Indian Lakes and Nordic Hills back in the '70s. From there, he went on to become a spray technician for Sears Lawn and Leaf and Du Page Landscaping. To finetune his knowledge, he took several ornamental and horticultural classes at College of Du Page.

Built in 1925, Arrowhead is in its final stages of reconstruc-



Bob Breen, his wife, Ansela and daughter Mary.

tion, an initiative that began six years ago. Ken Killian designed the new layout, and bringing it to reality has been quite a project for the Bruce Company and Bob. The biggest challenge of managing Arrowhead's 27-hole layout during renovation, says Bob, was

to "maintain the 18 holes open to the public at any one time while simultaneously overseeing the reconstruction of the third nine." Fortunately, dedicated assistant Tom Byrne, Jr. has contributed enormously during the recon-

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How to Create an Equipment Replacement Program

Mike Mumper
Park Ridge C.C.

Editor's Note: Mike wrote this article during his recent tenure at Ravisloe C.C. Ravisloe's new superintendent is Ed Esgar.

How many of you have ever been asked, "What do you do during the winter?" Between a few of those much-needed breaks, this is the time we prepare and plan for the upcoming season and beyond. Here at Ravisloe Country Club, we are in the second year of a 10-year equipment replacement program. For those of you who have undertaken a similar program, this is the time to update the records on, and conditions of, the current inventory. For those of you who do not have a replacement program in place, this will be an overview of how I put my 10-year program together.

The first step is to write a letter informing the Green Committee of your equipment review and recommendations for replacement. Include your capital expenditures from the last five years or so to give committee members an idea of what you are dealing with. Ravisloe's previous five years' expenditures were a real eye-opener for the Green Committee as they realized that average dollars spent on capital equipment was \$11,750! Explain to committee members that a good replacement program will cut into such costs as labor and repairs.

From here, you should start planning what kind of report you will put together to present to the

Green Committee. At Ravisloe, I compiled a report that contained the following:

- **Equipment Inventory**—Obviously, several reasons to have an inventory exist, but in this case you will be able to determine and prioritize your equipment needs. List every piece of equipment your course has, as well as its year of make, model number, serial number, condition and any comments associated with it. Update the condition of the piece and any comments every year. Also, make sure that you add or delete equipment from the list appropriately.
- **Ravisloe Equipment Description**—In this section, I identified Ravisloe's most utilized pieces of equipment and gave each of them a brief description, history and replacement cost. I also included a color photograph of each piece so that the Green Committee members could actually visualize and therefore, better understand what was being described.
- **Capital Budget Survey**—I called nearly 20 other private clubs that were similar to Ravisloe or familiar to its members. I listed those clubs and their operations budgets for the year, their previous three-year average for capital equipment expenditures and their previous three-year

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How to Create an Equipment . . .

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average for capital improvement expenditures. This was another eye-opener for some of the committee members.

- **Ravisloe Expenditures**—I dug into my files and put together a list of our expenditures over the last 10 years. This was more than just a figure for a particular year. I listed everything individually, to illustrate exactly what was being spent on capital.
- **Future Equipment Requirements**—I organized this section in the same manner as the section featuring descriptions of Ravisloe's equipment. I listed pieces of equipment that would be needed in the near future. I described each piece, listed its purpose and cost and made some comments on how it would be utilized to make our operation more efficient. I included color photographs in this section, too. By the way, you can find such pictures in the equipment brochures readily obtained from any of our commercial representatives.
- **Equipment Replacement Program**—I developed a 10-year replacement schedule for Ravisloe. I simply determined our immediate needs and planned from there. Because of our lack of expenditures during the past five years, the numbers projected for the first couple years on the new schedule were fairly high, but the numbers tapered off after that. For the most part, the schedule received approval and the membership has been good about following through with it.
- **Articles on Equipment Replacement**—I included articles from various maga-

List every piece of equipment your course has, as well as its year of make, model number, serial number, condition and any comments associated with it. Update the condition of the piece and any comments every year.

zines that discussed how important a good equipment replacement program is. I attached these articles to provide me with backup support.

My experience bears out that equipment evaluation requires a joint effort from the superintendent, assistant superintendent and equipment technician. Don't be afraid to supply your Green Committee with too much information. If your report is professionally done, the members are more likely to respect and understand the information you are providing. As a matter of fact, our finished report constituted approximately 130 pages of information compiled into a 1" binder. The members appreciated our work and effort. If anyone would like to see a copy, please don't hesitate to contact me or Ed Esgar.



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A Splendid Evening . . . The MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance

*John Gurke, CGCS
Aurora C.C.*

The annual MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance took place on November 20 at Seven Bridges Golf Club, with Don and Geri Ferreri serving as our gracious hosts. The meal was excellent, and all who attended had a great time. Our own Gene Thompson and his band Grand Canyon provided live entertainment, which kept everyone on the dance floor throughout the night. Dave and Debbie Nadler again treated us to an open bar, for which we are extremely grateful.

If you have not attended this function in the past, you have been missing a very nice evening, as well as the opportunity for wives and significant others to meet and commiserate about the long season (which promises to be behind us soon). Thank you from the MAGCS to the Ferreris and Nadlers for their generosity, and to Donna Thompson for giving up her husband for the night so that we could enjoy ourselves.



Our host teaching (from L to R) Linda Anderson (Tim), Debbie Purpur (Joel), Cheryl DeRoo (Kevin) and Debbie Nadler (Dave) the Chicken Dance. Yikes!



Gene Thompson and Grand Canyon provided the lively entertainment.



Don and Geri Ferreri, our hosts.



Russ Stachlewitz and Jenny Dalton getting cozy.



Dudley and Marlene Smith.



Jim McNair and Diane Dickson enjoying a slow dance—the only kind Jim knows.



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George and Diane O'Hara discussing red equipment.

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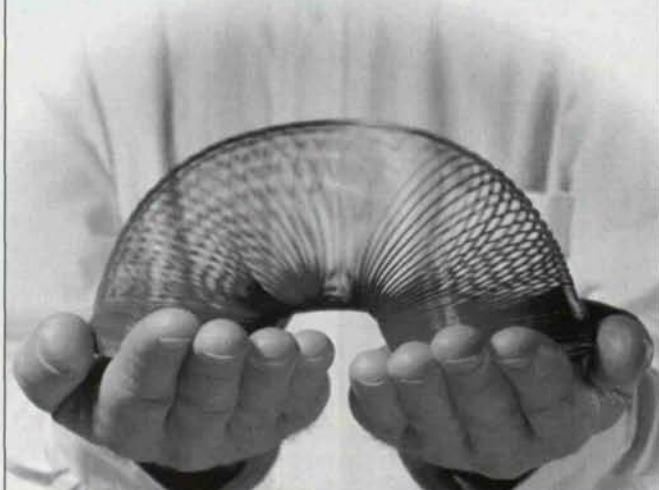
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Scenes From the First Annual West Side Holiday Party

John Gurke, CGCS
Aurora C.C.

The inaugural West Side Holiday Party was held on Tuesday, December 7 at Dave -n- Buster's, and the large turnout promises to make this an annual event. The party included an Italian buffet lunch, followed by games and goofiness. The private room had a capacity of 75, which will probably need to be bumped up for future years. Special thanks go out to all MAGCS members who had a part in arranging the event and whose generosity during the day was greatly appreciated.



Rick Uthe, Holly Gilmour and Scott Witte.



President Ferreri gets serious with Phil Taylor.



Kerry Anderson was so darn handsome that nobody wanted to be pictured with him.



Dan Sterr, Mike Mumper and an overly happy Joel Purpur.