

*On Course welcomes your letters on subjects covered in the magazine, matters of green industry interest and topics pertinent to the MAGCS/GCSAA. While each submission must carry a signature and identifying information, we will consider on a case-by-case basis withholding an author's name upon his/her request. Please note that the opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of On Course or the MAGCS.*

**Ed Fischer, CGCS,  
of Old Elm Club writes:**

I have many different thoughts about writing this letter. I don't want to seem like a know-it-all, and I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but with over 30 years of experience I feel it is about time that something is said about course set-up.

We have played many fine golf courses over the last five or six years at our MAGCS monthly meetings. All of the superintendents have presented a fine-conditioned playing surface for his fellow MAGCS members to play. But I have seen a disturbing trend to make the golf course too difficult to be enjoyed. Don't get me wrong, I like to be challenged, but not to the extreme. We don't need to be playing courses at over 7,000 yards, or have all of the pin locations so difficult there isn't any way to get to them unless the miracle shot is hit.

When I play golf, my first goal is to have a good time and enjoy the day. I will have a competitive game with the players in my foursome, but I think that we all want to enjoy the day and the golf course. Our members' golf abilities vary greatly, from a 0 to a 36 handicap, but the one thing we all have in common is that we enjoy the game and look forward to a great day. Lately, all too often, we tee off on the first hole and we find the markers near the back of the tee. We reach our second shot and find that the hole location is four steps onto the green and a 2-iron needs to be played downwind. Not much chance, but

it's the first hole. I take my bogey and go to the second hole. The next hole, say a par 3, the markers are back, playing 205, into a 20 m.p.h. wind, across water, through a narrow opening of trees. I can play that shot, but what about my partner, who is a 24 handicap?

The round continues and it becomes frustrating; every hole is playing long, and the hole locations are in very difficult positions. I go from enjoying my day to wanting it to end so I can go and drown my sorrows. I have had a bad day. Instead of my playing companions and I enjoying ourselves, all we can talk about is how this course wouldn't be set up this hard for a PGA event. My impressions aren't focused on the condition of the course, or the beautiful setting, but on how difficult the day has been. When I get back to my own course the next day and my members ask how I enjoyed XYZ Course, all I can remember is how difficult it was and how annoyed I became. My comments are not very flattering, and whomever I am talking to becomes turned off, thus their impressions are not good and their likelihood of wanting to play that course becomes less.

Gentlemen, let's put our egos away; remember, this is a fun game, and not everyone is a 0 handicap. When setting up our courses not only for outside functions, but also for our memberships, try to send the players away with a good feeling—make them want to play tomorrow. Our MAGCS tournament the last few years has been set

up too hard! It sure would be nice to see that someone shot 69 or 70 to win the tournament, and it would also bring a lot more competitors into the picture, not just four or five of our best players. **THE BEST PLAYERS ARE GOING TO WIN ANYWAY.** Set the course up so that everyone can walk away feeling good about himself, the course and his fellow superintendents.

**Paul Voykin, Briarwood  
Country Club, writes:**

Isn't it nice to get such a nice letter from our first lady of golf. Perhaps you might want to print this. John [Husar, *Chicago Tribune* outdoor writer who recently passed away] was my friend.

*Dear Paul: I was pleased to read "Overgrooming is Overspending, Revisited" in the (September) On Course. It brought back many fond memories, but what I really wanted to tell you is that several times over the years, John Husar mentioned to me that you were the one who first got him interested in nature and the environment, and he credited the time you spent with him and that of the other superintendents who helped educate him with preparing him for his long tenure as outdoor writer at the Tribune.*

*In case he never got around to telling you, I thought you'd like to know.*

*Sincerely yours, Carol McCue*

# Only With A Diamond

→ **Configuration** — Short wheel base tricycle with rear engine placement for ease of service. All wheels are powered unless in 2 wheel drive. Front wheel steering.

→ **Hydraulics** — Variable displacement piston pump with integral auxiliary charge pump for hydraulic PTO. Stainless steel tubes and heavy duty double braided hoses are used for routing hydraulic fluid. The front traction hoses are additionally covered by a stainless steel braided jacket. An oil cooler is provided in the charge pump circuit.

→ **Steering** — Front wheel steering with a single sided fork for ease of wheel removal and replacement. Steering is by enclosed spur gears with 7:1 ratio for light and positive control. This system is supported by 8 roller and ball bearings for smooth trouble free operation.

→ **Reliability** — Every product is backed by a two year bumper-to-bumper warranty. Diamond's exclusive Five-Star Service Program is designed to keep you up and running.



DIAMOND  
TRIKUT 5000  
Riding Greens Mower

**Diamond Turf  
Equipment Inc.**  
Nothing Kuts Like A Diamond

**MIDWEST  
TURF & TRACTOR**

(815) 469-8500 (708) 301-8500



2040 Lehigh Avenue  
Glenview, IL 60025

Telephone 847.724.8660  
Fax 847.724.8659

- \* Irrigation & Pump Station Design
- \* Irrigation Installation
- \* Drainage Systems
- \* Pump Station Installation
- \* Irrigation Pipe & Supplies
- \* Pond Aerators



"The Water Quality Company"

Testing • Evaluation • Treatment



Exclusive Distributor of the  
Prime Turf Series 900 Injection Station

For All Your Water Quality Needs Call:

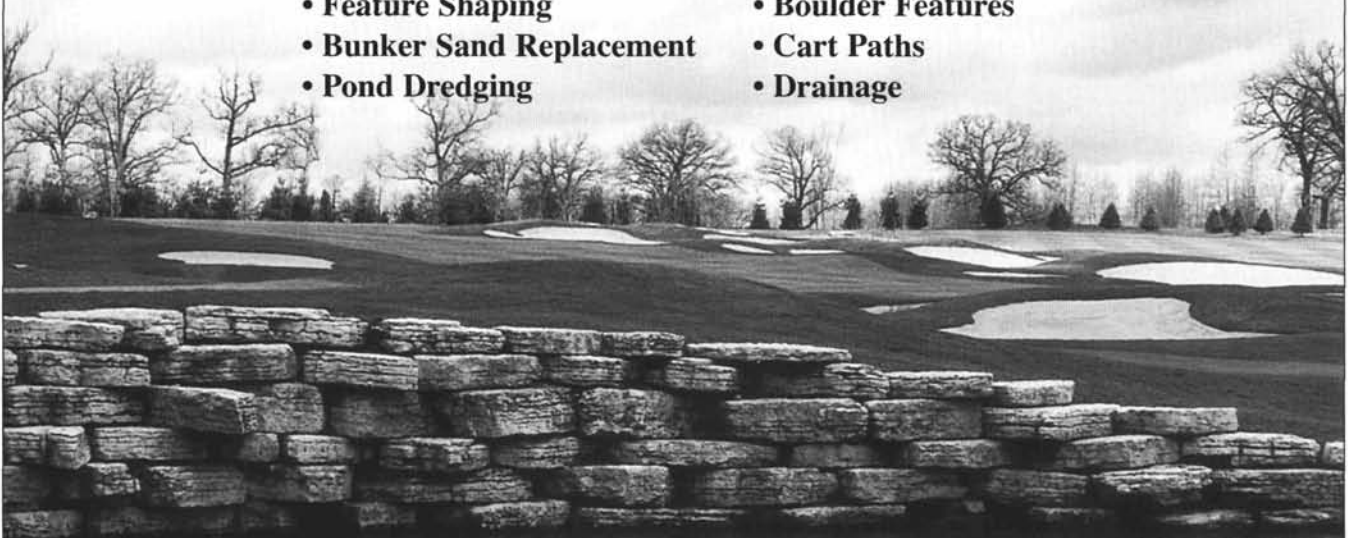
14200 S. Parker Road • Lockport, IL 60441  
(800) 677-8097 • Fax: (708) 301-3351

# Hollembeak Construction, Inc.

## Golf Course Construction and Remodeling

*"We believe in a quality job and take pride in our finished product."*

- New Construction
- Feature Shaping
- Bunker Sand Replacement
- Pond Dredging
- Pond Construction
- Boulder Features
- Cart Paths
- Drainage



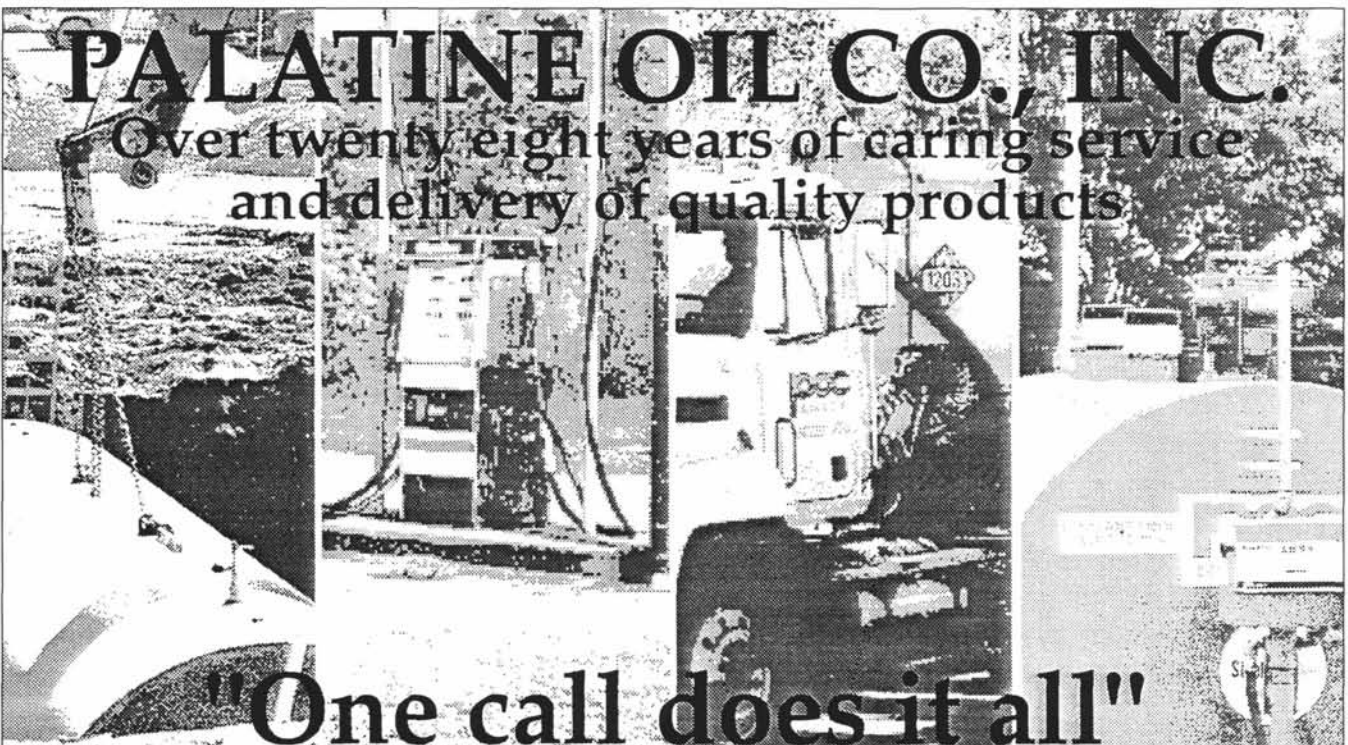
Mike Hollembeak

P.O. Box 103  
Big Rock, Illinois 60511  
Phone (630) 556-3891

Jeff Hollembeak

# PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

Over twenty eight years of caring service  
and delivery of quality products



**"One call does it all"**



PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

**847-358-3600**

P.O. Box 985, Palatine, IL 60078