



A Look at GCSAA's Limited Budget Outreach Program

As a director of GCSAA this past year, one of my tasks was to chair a committee known as the Limited Budget Resource Group. This group was formed in 1999 with the purpose of offering assistance to limited-budget facilities in an attempt to aid them in overcoming challenges and, as a by-product, grow the game of golf. In fact, the mission statement of this group is, "To help fellow superintendents enhance course conditions in order to help grow the game of golf."

I am sure that many of us can think of a facility near us that does not employ a GCSAA- or MAGCS-member superintendent. Some of these facilities may not even employ a "superintendent," but instead use summer help under the watch of an owner. It may be a par-3 course, or a small-scale mom-and-pop facility.

I was fortunate to have a committee of dedicated individuals. Most of the committee members were from limited-budget facilities where they wear many hats in the day-to-day operation. For them to give up several days of their time said a lot about their dedication to our profession and the game of golf.

I am now asking for your help in continuing their work and helping to make this program a success. Each chapter is being asked to identify volunteers to implement the program. I am sure that many of us can think of a facility near us that does not employ a GCSAA- or MAGCS-member superintendent. Some of these facilities may not even employ a "superintendent," but instead use summer help under the watch of an owner. It may be a par-3 course, or a small-scale mom-and-pop facility. If you sign on as an outreach volunteer, GCSAA will provide you with all of the necessary resource materials to conduct a course visit. This visit is intended to be an offer of assistance, not a critique of the facility.

It is important to note that this program is not a GCSAA or MAGCS membership drive. If eventual membership in GCSAA or the MAGCS is an outgrowth of this, it would be a secondary benefit. The goal of the program is to match experienced superintendents to those charged with the maintenance at these limited-budget facilities in order to provide technical advice and support as needed.

Essentially, each chapter is being asked to:

1. Develop a list of limited-budget facilities in its area, along with locations and contact numbers.
2. Develop a list of volunteer superintendents in the area.
3. Develop and maintain an inventory list of low-cost equipment that can be purchased by limited-budget facilities.

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4. Publicize the program at most meetings and encourage participation of volunteers.
5. Encourage meeting attendance by those superintendents employed by limited-budget facilities.

I hope that you can find the time to assist in the program's implementation. If you have any questions please contact me, Don Ferreri or GCSAA directly.



To Blend or Not to Blend . . . (continued from page 8)

place?" What characteristics allow for one grass variety to out-compete others in a blended stand? Is rhizome or root aggressiveness more important? Do disease-resistant varieties flourish in stands following disease outbreaks? Furthermore, what factors should be considered in selecting seed to use in a blend? Since the number of seeds per pound and percent germination differ from one variety to the next, and even between two seed lots of the same variety, we should be blending turfgrass seed based on seeds per pound and percent germination to achieve our desired percentages of varieties in a mature stand.

Clearly, a lot of questions remain to be answered concerning turfgrass ecology now that the technology for identifying individual plants has been developed.

Some of these questions will be answered soon, but using blends may still have some usefulness until we learn more about the subject. Determine the worst threats to turfgrass survival at your site and then choose grasses that have improved resistance or tolerance of those forms of stress. Make sure you consider the number of seeds per pound, percent of germination and aggressiveness of the variety before choosing your blend. A turfgrass manager must know what species are present in a given stand to achieve optimum performance. The same is true for varieties. Varieties differ greatly in their performance from one environment to the next, and not knowing the composition of a blended stand is a handicap preventing management from optimizing turf performance.



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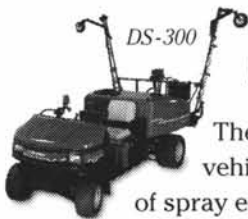
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Larry Flament



-N-



**STONEWALL
ORCHARD
GOLF CLUB**

The Flament family: back row, L to R, Larry's wife Lisa; Cristina, age 13; Larry; front row, L to R, Mary, age 9; Savannah, age 6; Ashley, age 12.

In Larry Flament's hometown of Waukegan, it was every young man's ideal to "scoop the loop" around Genesse Street every Friday and Saturday night. Larry had a blue '64 Chevelle that could really get up and go.

Stonewall Orchard Golf Club is situated over 230 acres of gently rolling terrain so specially suited to the game that Arthur Hills moved only 150,000 yards for 18 holes; that's roughly a third of the amount of soil that is generally moved these days.

In the summer of 1975, Larry went to work as a groundsman at Glen Flora Country Club, just two days after Randy Wahler began as superintendent. Under Randy's regimen, Larry quickly learned a new understanding and appreciation for "get up and go."

In 1980, Randy moved to Knollwood Country Club, and Larry came along as his assistant and right-hand man. The team of Wahler and Flament soon set the highest standard for golf course conditioning anywhere. And during all of this, Larry somehow managed to get an associate's degree in landscape and design, and his bachelor's in business administration.

In 1991, Larry made the move to superintendent of his own course at Hilldale Golf Club. From there, he moved to Eaglebrook Country Club. Then, in 1996, Larry's skills were employed by Crown Golf Properties as a construction supervisor and site superintendent for projects all over the country.

Larry values all of this construction and management experience for preparing him for his ultimate challenge at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club. And Larry has learned to especially appreciate

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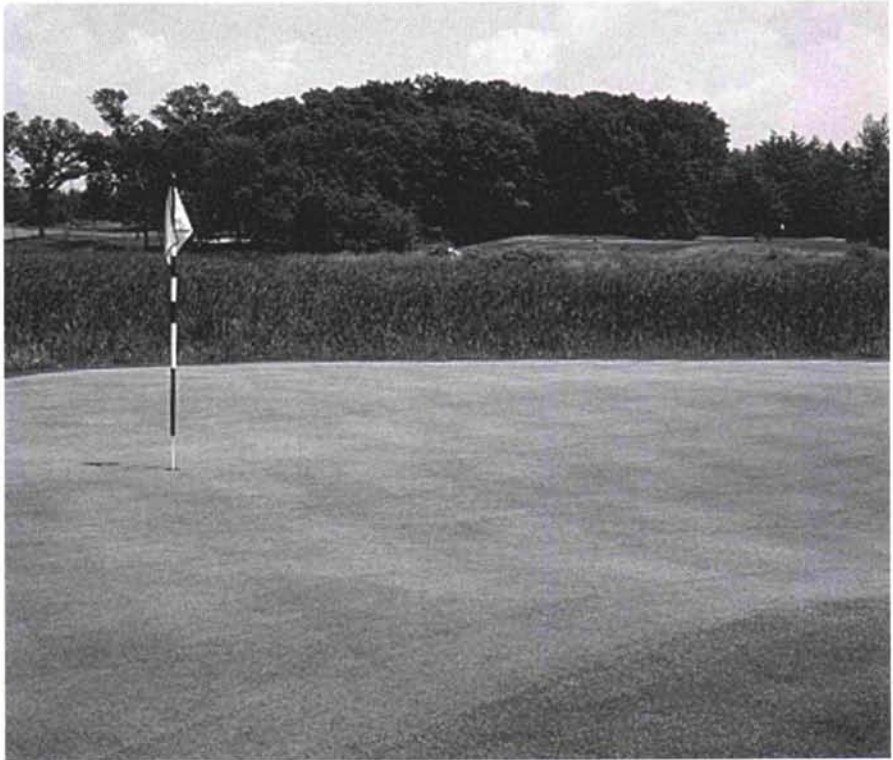


the friendships that he has forged during the course of his career. During his Glen Flora days, Larry made the fortuitous acquaintance of the golf professional, Bob Malpede. Bob and Larry go way back, but they probably never guessed, so long ago, that they would one day build a golf course together.

For many years, Bob Malpede worked on his personal dream of giving the Chicagoland golfer a top-notch public golf club. After meeting landowner Ben Sargent, and walking the Stonewall Orchard Farm, Bob finally discovered the ground he was looking for. Securing one of the nation's top golf course architects, Arthur Hills, to do the design work, and then bringing Larry Flament on to oversee construction, grow-in and management, was all that remained to complete the triumvirate. And my, what a masterpiece they have created!

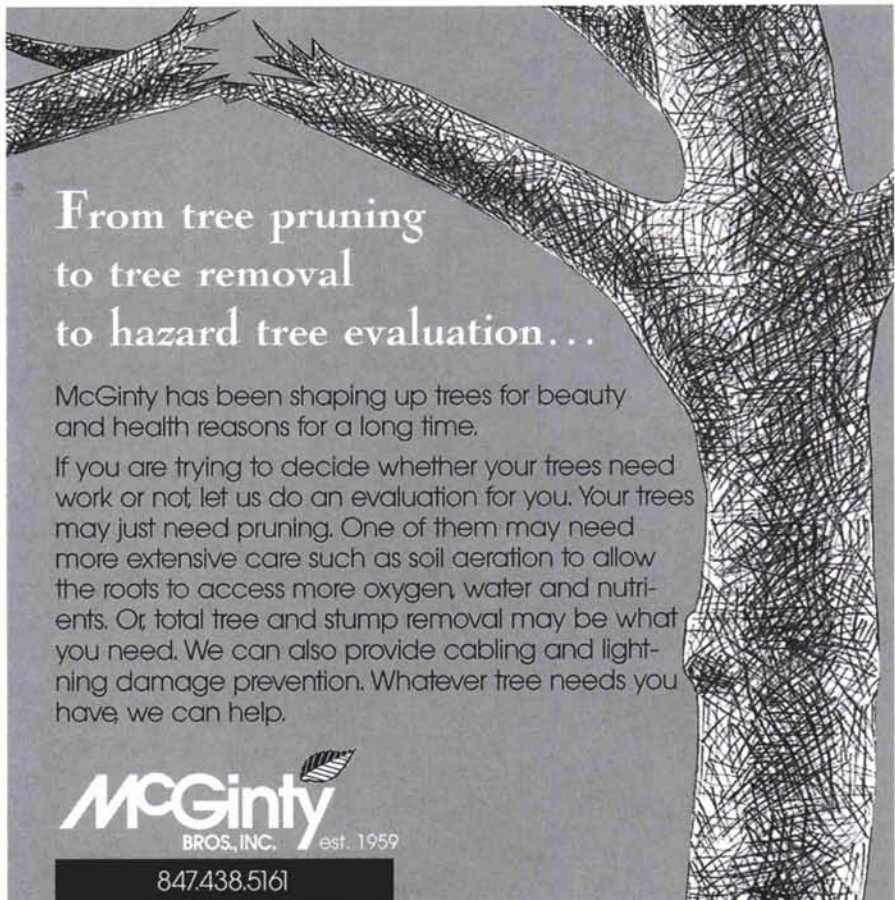
To begin with, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club is situated over 230 acres of gently rolling terrain so specially suited to the game that Arthur Hills moved only 150,000 yards for 18 holes; that's roughly a third of the amount of soil that is generally moved these days. At every turn, grand specimen trees greet the eye, ranging from clusters of old native oaks to literally thousands of pines all over the property. Moreover, virtually no pesky housing development cluttered the landscape. So the golf course was generously allowed the middle ground; the high ground was preserved as woodlands, and the low ground was left undisturbed as habitat for herons, egrets, wildflowers, swans, dozens of different species of duck and even sandhill cranes.

(continued on page 34)



Hole #13 at Stonewall Orchard.

(photo by Jim Trzinski/compliments of Waupaca Sand & Solutions)



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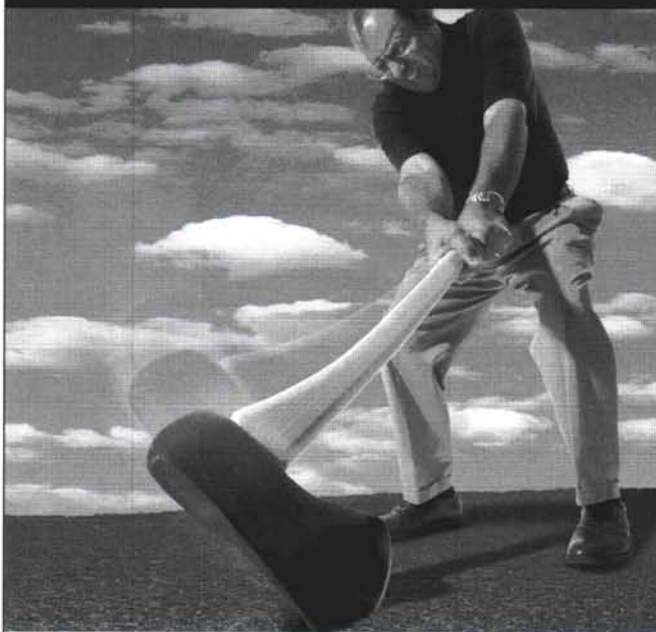
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The last foursome has just made the turn. It is a gloriously resplendent and cool July evening at Briarwood Country Club. The sun drops below the tree line; a slight breeze stirs, and the tall bluestem prairie grasses gently bat at the sinuous flight of so many butterflies. In the midst of all the pastoral tranquility, a senior greenkeeper is being severely scolded by the mother red-winged blackbird.

You may say what you will of the propriety in his constant cajoling and fun-loving jabs, but there are not more than four or five living greenkeepers today who have given more years, and more hours of service, to the art of our profession than Mr. Paul Voykin. Certainly no one has done more to promote an environment of harmony between the game of golf and the voiceless creatures who share its natural setting.

“Go away from my nest, you old weed-picker . . . why you . . . how dare you drive your cart so near my babies . . . just you come one foot closer and I’ll soil your ridiculous-looking safari hat.”

Paul Voykin snickers to himself as the matriarch swoops ’cross his path. A golfer now calls from the nearby green, “Mr. P., I just saw a paper cup lying on the fourteenth hole.” Paul shakes his head in mock incredulity, and calls back to him, “Why didn’t you pick it up, then?”

If the mother blackbird only knew what the members of Briarwood have come to know so well—that is, how much love and care this man has for everything within the scope of his 165-acre domain—she would probably alight on his broad shoulders and sing him a song of gratitude.

You may say what you will of the propriety in his constant cajoling and fun-loving jabs, but there are not more than four or five living greenkeepers today who have given more years, and more hours of service, to the art of our profession than Mr. Paul Voykin. Certainly no one has done more to promote an environment of harmony between the game of golf and the voiceless creatures who share its natural setting.

On this very evening, I am the guest of Mr. Voykin and he is proudly showing me around. I am especially keen to see his famed nature preservation areas and to hear his own account of what prompted him to develop them so many years ago. The following is just a sample, in his own words, of what I discovered about the ambassador and elder statesman of the nature-friendly golf course.

“All of the wonderful natural areas and prairies that you see at Briarwood started about 10 years after I came here. There was one time when I couldn’t cut a certain area that was well away from play; I was so busy that year and I just couldn’t get to it. When it got to where I could finally cut it, I noticed that there were some wildflowers growing up; things that I had not planted; they just came up from the ground on their own, and it looked so beautiful to me. I was so fortunate to have a green chairman who encouraged me to allow it to grow. He said, look Paul, we can just call this our pasture. I guess I was very lucky to have the right chairman at the right time.