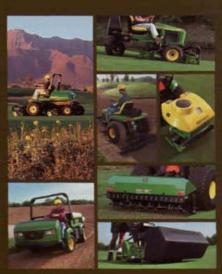
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the Bull Sheet (continued from page 30)

and the three-hole Short Course currently under construction at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont, IL. The contribution involved two 1-Pass single-passenger adaptive golf cars to be used by all the programs of the CDGA Foundation, giving people with disabilities the chance to learn and participate in the wonderful game of golf. After **Dr. Kane** and **Carl Hopphan** have finished laying all that sod, they might be the first two to need the 1-Passes.

Two MAGCS lambs have left the fold to pursue greener pastures— Rich Schau, formerly of Lesco, Inc., has resigned to return to one of his two previous careers, as national spokesperson for the Slim-Fast Diet Plan or as Carrot Top's opening act; while Jim Trzinski, formerly of Waupaca Sand & Solutions, resigned to pursue his dream of being a full-time professional photographer. Jim's work has been featured on this magazine's cover many times, and we hope to retain his services (at a very friendly rate) into the future. Good luck to both of you in your future endeavors.

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Also for sale: one Minnesota Vikings coaches jacket, size XXXXL. Call **Ed Braunsky** for details. Sorry, I had to do it . . .

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If You Are A Golf Course Dog, Read This!

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the June 1998 issue of On Course. We reprise it here with an all-new epilogue as an appropriate complement to our special "canine" issue.

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 entertain by relating a few experiences that some of our fellow goose-chasing, dog-using superintendents have had. 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 see only 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 on their backsides. Boomer has done this twice to my knowledge, and both times the victim was former club president/ Chamber of Commerce member/ Rotarian/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 master is 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 master throws. I know you're colorblind, but anything dark in a shiny plastic packet that is tossed into a pond is taboo. According to the master of a particular dog, it takes about two weeks for 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. One 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 light-bulbs, staples, screws, bearings or any other neat, shiny things you might find on the floor of (continued on page 34) 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 everyday, and he says, "Blah blah," then sit down. If he says, "Blah blah," then roll over. If he seems mad and says, "Blah blab bluck blah blah 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 cannot 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 interests. On a related note, either learn to catch mice in your shop, 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 master rationalizes 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 master. If you haven't chewed it up.

Epilogue

Nearly four years have passed since I wrote the "rule book" for proper golf course dog etiquette, and I have had the opportunity to observe my own dogs on "their" turf in that time. Keep in mind that during those years, the dogs have tacked on four years themselves, making them, in human parlance, "four years wiser." Yeah . . . believe this and you are probably one of those who say things such as, "Beauty is only skin-deep," or, "No, that doesn't make you look fat" or the ultimate, "I'm so happy your mother is coming to stay with us." The thing I've learned above all else about dogs is that they don't necessarily improve with age-they just get older and lazier. They do retain certain learned responses due to positive reinforcement, and they do drop certain other responses due to negative reinforcement; but that is where it ends. Pavlov was right on, brothers.

Cases in point: My dogs' habit of picking up golf balls and chewing them has been dropped due to the negative reinforcement of chewing through the covers and having thousands of rubber bands break loose in their mouths. They now associate golf balls with stinging pain and bloody mouths, and have consequently put an end to that particular behavior. Conversely, though, they still enjoy killing cute animals on the golf course because no cute animal, while being killed, has inflicted pain upon them. Their habit of ingesting shiny objects from the floor of our shop has been dropped due to the negative reinforcement of passing those objects through their bodies, be it via the conventional aft method or the more colorful frontal method. Further negative reinforcement-a visit to the vet-has helped wean them off this habit as well. However, they still roll around in whatever stinks-dead fish, animal parts, assorted goops and glops and of course, goose droppings. Now on this one, you would think is negative reinforcement this (smelling like a treatment plant), but no-this is a pat on the head, a cookie if you will, to a dog. Finally, and most importantly, my dogs have forgotten why they are here-to chase geeseand I have a theory as to why. In the 12 years that Dingo has been alive, she has never caught a goose. In the six years that Boomer has been alive, she has never caught a goose. That's 18 years combined spent chasing

The thing I've learned above all else about dogs is that they don't necessarily improve with age—they just get older and lazier.

something that has become, in their minds, unattainable. With no positive reinforcement, they have dropped the habit, and have enlightened me to the fact that I have dropped the ball. I assumed that the habit of harassing geese would remain with them throughout their days, but I did not diligently work with them to maintain this learned behavior, so now they must be retaught. This is no easy task, especially with a 12-year-old arthritic cripple who can't chase her own shadow, let alone a goose. But onward we go, trying to teach old dogs old tricks. So, if you are a golf course dog and have read this, tell your master to keep at you on this goose-chasing thing, or you'll surely forget. Oh, and by the way-Boomer and Dingo never have given up on herding the black-and-whites, so we just arm the members for their protection



At the January 10, 2002, meeting, the MAGCS Board of Directors:

- Discussed appropriate applications of the MAGCS logo, resulting in the consensus that members may use our logo so long as it is clear that the use of the logo does not state or imply MAGCS endorsement of a product or service and the logo is accompanied by the verbiage "member of" Requests falling outside these parameters will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Pending are development of formal guidelines for proper use of the MAGCS logo and further research into trademarking the MAGCS logo.
- Discussed a January 15 meeting between Luke Strojny, Brian Bossert, Don Ferreri and Robert Markionni, executive director of the CDGA, addressing aspects of the MAGCS move into the Midwest Golf House.

 Announced availability to members of soft goods (shirts, jackets) bearing the MAGCS logo via order forms at monthly meetings. With enough interest, this service may be added to the Web site as well.

Other news reported at the meeting included:

- Thirty-nine golfers from our chapter (same as last year) will participate in the GCSAA Golf Tournament in Orlando. Good luck, and bring home some hardware!
- On Course's operating deficit for 2001 was a lower-than-anticipated \$3,500. The transition to a full-color format resulted in higher production costs for 2001 than in years past.

- Tim Anderson, Membership Committee chair, will work with executive secretary George Minnis to analyze recent membership trends.
- Anyone knowing of a member in need of benevolence (i.e., members or their immediate family who have passed away or are seriously ill), please inform Brian Bossert so the MAGCS can send the appropriate condolences or encouragement.
- The 50th Midwest Turf Clinic will take place November 6 at Medinah C.C.



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Coyotes on the Golf Course

Referred to as prairie wolves by explorers and early settlers of this area, covotes were abundant here during the early 1800s but became scarce as the century progressed. Not until the early 1970s did coyotes make a comeback in Illinois, and their resurgence was dramatic; an estimated 30,000 coyotes now make their home in our state. Credit the covote's adaptability to the urban environment and the elimination of competing predators such as the gray and red wolves.

Not surprisingly, coyote sightings are frequent at Chicagoland golf courses. Superintendents generally possess a keen appreciation of nature and the wildlife populating their courses; coyotes are no exception, and as an added bonus, they are an effective goose deterrent. However, studies do bear out that coyotes may compete with or kill foxes, another welcome presence on the course.

Here, MAGCS member Jon Jennings, CGCS, describes coyote encounters at Chicago Golf Club and his own fairly representative stance on the covote issue.



We have had coyotes at Chicago Golf Club for a number of years. In 2000, there was a couple that had two pups. They lived on the west side of the golf course in a wooded section along the fence line. The coyotes roam a broad area in search of food. I have had calls from neighbors on all sides of the property stating they had seen the coyotes in their yards. The biggest concern was from neighbors that have cats.

This past year, only one or two coyotes were present on the golf course through the season. They have become so accustomed to our staff and golfers being around that you could get within 30 feet before they would run away. Last summer, as I was driving across the golf course, there was a coyote lounging on the front portion of the 15th green. A foursome of golfers was also hitting shots into the green. The coyote lay on the green even with golf balls landing all around. As the golfers walked towards the green, the covote stood up and sashayed off toward the driving range very nonchalantly.

The coyotes can frequently be seen hunting for rodents in high-grass

areas of the golf course. It is also common to find a pile of feathers on the golf course where a bird met its fate. Last spring, we had a pair of geese and six goslings wander into our pond on the ninth hole. They were present for about a week-and-ahalf before feathery piles were discovered around the pond. Needless to say, the covotes have reduced the workload of our Border collie.

We have had members offer concern about the coyotes on the golf course. I assure them that the coyotes have no interest in humans. Nevertheless, in August 2000 we hired a wildlife specialist to trap and relocate the coyotes. The coyotes made a mockery of the trapper. Every time a

den was found, the coyotes would move and avoid being captured. After a month, he gave up and the coyotes continued to wander the course undeterred. We have never had an incident where the coyotes approached a human. They have always run away.

I have not seen the covotes for a month or so. That seems to be their trend. They will disappear for a while, and then show up again. I feel the coyotes are very beneficial for the golf course. They have reduced the amount of nuisance animals and aside from their visual presence, they do not create any issues.

On Course . . . (continued from page 2)

to know we have the support of our commercial members. Please remember them when making this year's purchases. My final thank you goes out to Paul Yerkes. Paul continues to do a stand-up job putting the room together, completing all the legwork from soliciting sponsors to planning the menu, and securing the room. Make sure to stop and thank him sometime during the show.

For those of you attending the conference, have a safe journey to and from Orlando. Those who have chosen to stay home, keep warm and I hope to see you in March at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont.

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- On a daily basis and with few exceptions, top-notch superintendents make special decisions to be assured that their course is in the best possible condition it can be in for today, consistent with the usual daily deterrents. This mentality gives the feeling that every day is as special as the club's annual "guest day."
- With few exceptions, every golf course superintendent should have a personal "long-range professional plan" for his lifetime career and contributions to society. Keep in mind, too, that exceptional opportunities and options just might happen along the way. Think BIG!
- It's the man who learns how to hold his tongue who will probably also hold his job.





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MIDWEST PERSONALITIES



Name: Mark Kowaliczko, Joliet C.C. Date of birth: December 16, 1957 Place of birth: Joliet, IL Current residence: Joliet, IL Spouse: Diana (married 10 years) Children: Zenon, 9; Zachary, 7; Christian, 5; Chandler, 5 MAGCS member since: 1980 College/degree: University of Illinois, B.A. in ornamental horticulture Job title: Golf course superintendent My favorite childhood memory is: Endless summers spent outside playing My personal heroes: My parents, John Paul II, Sir George Solti, George Washington, Abe Lincoln, Winston Churchill My professional/personal mentors: My parents, Ted Mochel, Mike Nass, Carl Hopphan and Walter Fuchs, Sr. Favorite actor/actress: John Wayne/Maureen O'Hara Favorite musical performer: Chicago Symphony Orchestra Favorite cuisine/restaurant: Italian/Italian Village Favorite "pigout" food: Ribs from Miller's Pub Favorite professional/college sports team: Chicago Bears/Illini basketball Favorite pro athlete: Brian Urlacher Favorite pro golfer: Arnold Palmer My favorite place to play golf is: Joliet C.C. My handicap index: 9.8 My best/most memorable round ever: A 76 at Joliet C.C. was my lowest round ever posted. The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled: Venice, Italy The book I've been recommending lately is: Any of the Aubrey-Maturin novels of Patrick O' Brian The last great movie I saw: Lawrence of Arabia Favorite TV show: The Sopranos Favorite color: Blue In my spare time, I enjoy: Reading, music What I enjoy most about my job: Being part of a noble and ancient game-golf-combined with the noble and ancient science of agriculture What I dislike about my job: How professional golf tours dominate golf with their need for immaculate conditions and perfect lies. This creates unrealistic expectations among amateur golfers. I'm a Midwest member because: I'm proud of my profession and Chicago's place in it.



Date of birth: September 25, 1941 Place of birth: Evanston, IL Current residence: Kenilworth Spouse: Peter (married 35 years) Children: Nelson, 33; Win, 29; John, 29; Jamie, 27 Pet: Piper (Border collie) MAGCS member since: 1995 College/degree: B.A. & M.B.A., Northwestern University Job title: President My favorite childhood memory is: Summer visits to Wisconsin My personal heroes: My grandfather (he loved golf) My mentor: Ed Oldfield, golf professional Favorite musical performer: Neil Diamond Favorite restaurant/cuisine: Love to eat-anything Favorite "pigout" food: Dessert-chocolate! Favorite professional/college sports team: Chicago Bears Favorite pro athlete: Lance Armstrong Favorite pro golfer: Runner-up to Tiger Woods My favorite place to play golf is: Every place I play My handicap index: 4 My best/most memorable round ever: At River Forest C.C., where I won Chicago Women's District Golf Association tournament. The most interesting/exotic place I've ever traveled: Italy, to play golf The book I've been recommending lately is: How to Play Golf by Tiger Woods The last great movie I saw: Legally Blonde Favorite TV show: Friends Favorite color: Red In my spare time, I enjoy: Golf, golf, golf Three words that describe me: Energetic, driven, hard-working What I enjoy most about my job: Introducing compost to superintendents What I dislike about my job: Firing people I'm a Midwest member because: Compost is such good stuff-I want everyone to know about it!





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