

teams. So not only had he overseen another successful event, which he has been doing since 1963, but a share of the winnings had found its way into his pocket.

Here's the deal: Bob and Jo Weitzel own the Caladonia Country Club lock, stock and barrel. It is a 6,500-yard layout built around and over Mallochs Hill which is the highest point in Livingston County. Not many holes go straight up or down the 140-acre hill, but those that do feature 100-foot elevation changes. The course has bluegrass/fescue fairways and bentgrass greens that roll 10 on the stimpeter. Par is 72 and every hole has trees on both sides of the fairway.

The scorecard lists Alan's brother Scott as the director of golf, Bob King, PGA Pro and Ernie Baker, superintendent. Sadly what the scorecard doesn't report is the architect. That would be none

other than Bob (Money Ball) Weitzel. Having purchased the farm in 1959, it took Bob five years to open the first nine holes. The second nine opened in 1968. Bob was not only the architect, but also the contractor and superintendent. It was a family business from the beginning, with Bob and Jo doing everything and the five Weitzel children pitching in from the time they were old enough to pick up a rock.

The club hosted the 1995 State Senior Ladies Championship and annually hosts the Bob Weitzel Two-Man Scratch Best Ball and the Caladonia Charity Classic which has the highest purse for golf pros in western New York. \$30,000 will be paid in the 2003 event.

Every hole on the course is a treat to see and play. There is not one hole that is not a "keeper." The greens are undulating for the most part and slope from

back to front for drainage purposes. When I asked Bob how he routed the course, he said he got advice from his brothers, Johnny and Jay, both of whom were golf professionals and George Meyers, a local pro, who told him to work "with the hill" and keep the straight up or down holes to a minimum. I also asked him how he came up with the greens complexes, and did he have a surveyor assist him? "No," he said, "I just eyeballed them."

What great eyeballs. Standout holes for me are the par-4 7th, 9th and 17th holes and the par-5 18th. All of these holes go up and down the hill and have the most dramatic elevation changes. I guess I like the holes that are so different from our Florida flatlands. The backdrop for the 18th green is the two-story Weitzel home complete with a white, 4-rail fence.

Caledonia is a farming

community of about 4,000 people located 30 minutes from Rochester and an hour from Buffalo. It has one grocery store, one drug store and no traffic lights. It has several topnotch restaurants and friendly people who move at an easy pace. It also has a solitary man on a tractor mowing roughs in the dusky light of the setting sun. Bob is mowing his own course. The course he built and nurtured for the past 40 years.

Bob loves his wife, his children and golf.

In the last four decades, he and Jo, sons Scott and Toby (the food and beverage manager) have created paradise. It's a true heaven on earth. With hard work, dreams and dedication, fairy tales do come true, especially in Caladonia.

Already having been invited back again next year must mean we, unlike fish, did not begin to smell after a few days. Susi and I can't wait.

I think after public speaking and writing articles, the thing superintendents dread the most is answering surveys. It doesn't matter whether it's about budgets and benefits, pesticide use, education topics for meetings or what

ting out fires that we have forgotten how to employ fire prevention on a larger scale. Fire prevention depends on education and learning good techniques and those in turn depend on good data about the fire potential in your area of expertise.

Data for regulators to make informed decisions on pesticide risk assessment can come from surveys on the topics or products of concern.

The U.

S. Environmental Protection Agency is responsible by law for reassessing all the chemicals we use on our golf courses. If these assessments of risk and benefit are done using outdated or overly conservative computer models and assumptions (as unfortunately they are) then the fate of some of the most broad-spectrum and economical products is determined by the application of faulty data. How is EPA to know any better?

Recently Dean Graves at the Chevy Chase CC in Washington, DC held a Regulator Day at his course and gave about 70 EPA regulators a tour and discussion of golf-course maintenance practices. When a particular product was being discussed, it turned out that EPA, based on a computer

model, was figuring twice the number of applications on twice the number of acres that Graves was applying in real life. EPA admitted their models and assumptions were off base but, without data, they didn't have any way of changing or correcting the model. That's why we need to have some data-gathering surveys on pesticide use, and you'd better be willing to chime in or learn to do without some of your key products.

We need to fill the data gaps at EPA by conducting surveys that report our chemical use by product, amount, frequency and treatment area. Sounds like a lot of surveys doesn't it? I can see you screwing up your face right now.

But come on.

You probably know, off the top of your head, how many pounds, gallons, quarts, pints and ounces you apply to your greens, tees and fairways per acre. I know you know how many acres of each you have to maintain, and you also know about how many times a year you apply certain products.

Putting all the information down on paper will go a long way to helping local, state and federal environmental protection agencies do two things. First it will put our actual use of products into a ball park they can envision, and, second, it will help to defuse the ranting and raving from environmental activists about all the

tons of stuff we use.

My personal experience in the past has been that I have gotten minimal feedback on products like Dursban, Nema-cur and MSMA when I sent out simple surveys to characterize use amounts and treated acreage. I don't mind telling you it is discouraging when we try to make our case and defend a product and you won't take the time to total up your application amounts and acreage. I get very frustrated when products are cancelled because of political expediency or by risk assumptions based on faulty data. But in the absence of good, verifiable, current information, I don't blame EPA entirely for the results. We the end users have a bigger stake in the fate of the products we use than anyone else. The manufacturer will naturally come down on the economic side of the product. The regulators will use the most conservative, worst-case scenarios if they don't have better data. Where are they going to get that data? They should get it from you so the data will be correct and meaningful. The GCSAA Environmental Institute for Golf will be making an effort to fill those data gaps at EPA in the days ahead. When that survey comes in the mail or by e-mail, either fill it out or forfeit your right to complain about losing another efficient and effective product that helps you do your job.

And the Survey Says...

GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS

things would you like your chapter to do for you? Surveys require some soul searching that many turfgrass managers just don't

want to contemplate. Don't get me wrong. Superintendents plan ahead all the time. But it seems like the planning is focused on one area - avoiding problems, not solving them. We have become so successful at put-