

# Trees: Tough to live with, yet you can't live without

By DR. R. JAY STIPES

Can anyone imagine a golf course devoid of trees? Just turfgrass, perhaps with a sprinkling of woody and herbaceous ornamentals? Despite the agonizing they sometimes cause golf course superintendents, I think not!

Trees figure prominently in the names of approximately 275 country clubs in Virginia alone. There are Lonesome Pine, Cherry Hills, Burning Tree, Cedars, Cedar Crest, Longwood, Chestnut Creek, Cypress Cove, Dogwood Hills, Evergreen, Glen Oaks, Great Oaks, Tall Oaks, Holly Hill, Oakwood, Pinecrest, Poplar Forest, Roundwood, Stumpy Lake, Willow Brook, Woodlawn and others.

Trees are focal points, bold statements, spectacular benchmarks, historic markers for generations of golfers. Trees just happen to be the only living links to the historic past.

And golfers enjoy, remember and often savor the beauty and "permanence" of handsome specimens that they remember



Dr. R. Jay Stipes

over a lifetime of golfing.

For many, trees become "old friends" that they "know" and pass on their golfing rounds.

Family generations frequenting the same golf courses see the same trees standing as silent sentinels. Great grandparents, grandparents, parents, sons and daughters and grandchildren have known the same tree on some old golf courses.

A very large, old and venerable elm at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y., recently succumbed to Dutch elm disease [see story, page 1]. This tree was well known by President Eisenhower and other famous persons of the past and present.

Its necessary removal has left a gaping hole there.

In addition to historic landmarks, trees do more for us than we would ever realize. The bumper sticker that exclaims "Trees Can Save the Earth" may be more profound than just an advertisement for the forestry folks.

Trees exchange clean air for foul in vacuuming up carbon dioxide and other

gaseous wastes and give essential oxygen in return. They also "excrete" pure water through the transpiration process.

They serve as screens for ugly sites and irritating noises. Erosion control is difficult, if not impossible, on certain sites where precipitation is excessive on some types of soil.

They certainly enhance real-estate values! Try selling a house with a treeless landscape compared to one with nice, mature, beautiful specimens, especially in warm climates. Much real estate can only be sold when forested.

Most of us love birds, and trees provide shelter and food for many of them, not to mention other wildlife. Trees are aesthetically unique and essential in providing varied interests in different shapes, sizes, colors and dimensions. They also provide a sense of health and permanence, a part of that subliminal or subconscious linkage to the good earth from which we came. They impart a sense of belonging, therapy and health, and tend to lessen our fear of mortality as we mingle with strong, sturdy, old specimens.

Trees are nature's best air conditioners. Some houses or other buildings are only

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## Royce Richardson, 67

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Royce R. Richardson, 67, a native Arizonan and resident of Paradise Valley, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital here on March 7. Since 1985, Mr. Richardson served as president and chief executive officer of Farmers Marketing Corp., a wholesale seed business based here.

Mr. Richardson's career in agriculture and seed production spanned 40 years. Born on April 27, 1925, in Miami, Ariz., he served in the Navy during World War II before attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he earned his bachelor's degree in range management.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Richardson established a marketing cooperative with Bermudagrass seed growers in the Wellton-Mohawk Valley that helped unite and stabilize the Bermudagrass industry, enabling it to become a crop of significant importance and contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy. He was vice president of Valley Seed Corp. of Phoenix; president of Pacific Seedsmen's Association; board member of American Seed Trade Association; board member of Western Seedsmen's Association; and president of the Arizona Crop Improvement Association, where he served on the Pure Seed Advisory Committee at the time of his death.



Mr. Royce Richardson

Mr. Richardson leaves his wife of 45 years, Tink; two sons, Royce Rene Richardson and Sheldon E. Richardson; and two grandchildren, all of Paradise Valley. The family has requested that donations in Mr. Richardson's memory be made to either the American Cancer Society or the Royce R. Richardson Memorial Fund, which will be used to endow a scholarship at the University of Arizona. Donations should be mailed to Farmers Marketing Corp., c/o Elaine Jordan, 3501 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, Ariz., 85040.

## Letters

### BAVIER MADE A DIFFERENCE

To the editor:

North American golf superintendents typically recognize their colleagues from the Chicago area as trend-setters in our profession. Some of the finest golf courses are located in the greater Chicago District, and there is keen competition among superintendents to provide the best possible playing conditions for the golfers. As a result, there are so many excellent courses in and around Chicago that the entire PGA Tour could be played there over the duration of the summer season. Courses in this area are in excellent condition, and would require little preparation by superintendents for any PGA event.

Recently, a Chicago area superintendent became a distinguished and significant contributor to the industry. Michael Bavier, from Inverness Golf Club, wrote a letter that later was published by *Golf Course News*. He expressed a concise and skillfully worded criticism of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's proposed bylaw changes. The letter was widely acclaimed, and coagulated support on the part of superintendents to defeat proposed changes.

Bavier's letter in *Golf Course News* was the impetus necessary to galvanize support for the defeat of these proposed bylaw changes. The proposed changes would have altered the direction of the associa-

tion. These include the ability for the Board of Directors to regulate dues, change voting procedures (from chapter voting to individual balloting by mail), establishing regional liaisons, and numerous other changes.

GCSAA has elected Randy Nichols, superintendent at a top-notch 36-hole golf course near Atlanta, as its new president. Two incumbent directors, who had supported the proposed bylaws, were not re-elected. Apparently, the GCSAA is returning to its roots and is concentrating on assisting superintendent members.

Gordon Witteveen  
Board of Trade Country Club  
Toronto, Canada

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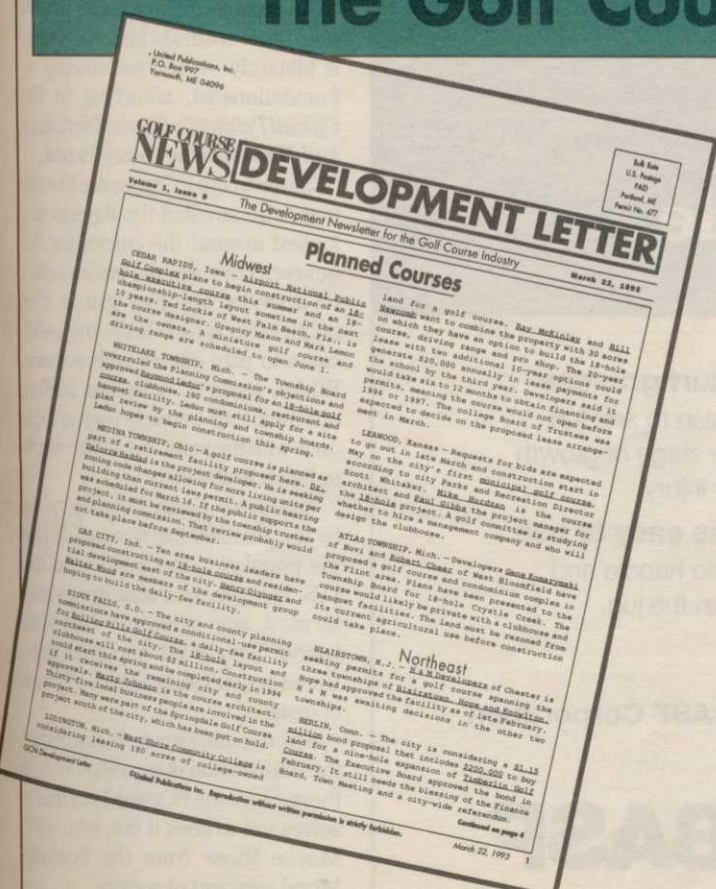
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THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY



## Stripes on trees

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endurable because of the shade provided by trees. Think of energy savings. And, lastly, at life's end, they serve as valuable fireplace and woodstove fuel.

### IT'S A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

Now, the flip side of the tree story is the "hate relationship" as encountered by superintendents who have no "free lunches" in their care of the grounds which includes trees. Trees are continuously shedding creatures. They drop bark, branches, leaves, flowers and

fruits onto the manicured turfgrass.

Some need continuous pruning, feeding, and pest and disease management. Also, in heavy soils where trees are "seeking" moisture, oxygen and nutrients, roots often surface, causing a big problem.

Storm damage sometimes becomes a management pain.

Also, on many golf courses, the faulty choice of certain tree species results in tree care that could have been avoided had good counsel in tree selection been obtained. Soil compaction resulting from golfers' foot traffic and golf carts becomes problematic in some cases, and soil aeration becomes essential to

good tree health.

Are trees on golf courses worth it all?

I think even the cynic would have to agree that they are. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure in tree culture and maintenance on golf courses.

Knowledgeable consultants in tree care are extremely important resources for superintendents, since turfgrass and not tree management is often their mainline work and expertise.

Tree culture, technically known as "arboriculture," is a rapidly changing field, and new science and art are forthcoming daily.

## Phillips: Military course of action

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(D-Ohio). DeConcini (D-Ariz.) originally submitted this legislation last summer, withdrew it, then reintroduced it in January 1993.

Now the opinions: This is a ridiculous bill, with all due respect to DeConcini. For the past five months, I've talked to 30-odd people involved in maintaining and managing these military layouts, which number 249

nationwide. The overwhelming consensus says security would be compromised, especially if the course were managed by a civilian entity. Most military superintendents indicated the courses could be more broadminded with their public play policies, but private management is out of the question.

Caveat: If the base is closed, all bets are off.

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## Leslie commentary

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name.)

Let's concentrate on our similarities, on those things that pull us together. Even if it hurts, let's tell the truth, not distort it with unbridled rhetoric. That way, even if we disagree on things, at least the facts will be laid out — not buried in shades of truths and untruths.

Two major problems I see: 1) the normal PC's belief in "biocentrism" and his/her/their stand against "foundationalism."

Biocentrism is the doctrine that every species has equal intrinsic value and that planet earth cannot be viewed solely as a resource for human beings. It is the central tenet of the so-called deep ecology movement, and is typified by the view of John Davis, editor of *Earth First! Journal*, that "eradicating smallpox was wrong. It played an important part in balancing the ecosystem."

Foundationalism is the doctrine that inquiry or thought can actually be grounded on pre-given principles that are true beyond mere belief or assumption. Postmodern analysis, PCs say, shows that no such principles or truths exist, and that any attempt to establish or prove they do is merely an exercise in self-constituted logic.

An example: The statement "We hold these truths to be self-evident" is blatantly — and pathetically — foundationalist, according to *The Official Politically Correct Dictionary and Handbook* by Henry Beard.

Some of the PC types are like the man who smelled the flowers and looked around the corner for the hearse. They are the environmental activists who play games with politicians. Which leads the politicians to play games with science. Which leads to scientists pulling out their hair because they are the ones with the facts. Yet no one wants to listen to the facts.

Example? Earth First's goal is, by the year 2000, to have made half the population feel guilty over the U.S. lifestyle. Has that group performed any scientific research lately? They want impartial data. But they don't want to take 10 years of tests.

The dilemma we are in is not that the information is unavailable. It is there. Since the PCs won't put themselves out to seek it out, who will? Maybe those from the Socially Moral segment of society.