

By TERRY BUCHEN

GALENA, Ohio — John H. McConnell, when he conceived the Double Eagle Club here, always felt that everyone should have lots of fun, all the time. With this concept in mind, the club does not have portable tee markers on each teeing ground as players are allowed to tee off wherever they please.

To conform with the U.S. Golf Association Rules of Golf, there are two permanent tee marker/bronze yardage plaques on each teeing ground with a total of four different lengths on each hole, stretching to 5,300, 5760, 6,450

Having fun while conforming to marker rules

and 7,100 yards, respectively.

McConnell, on his many trips to Scotland, noticed that many of the golf courses would allow play from anywhere on the teeing ground, with the exception of "Medal Day," when one set of portable tee markers would be put out, on a typical course, one or two days a week.

Then scorecards would be turned in, just on those days, for handicap purposes!

Double Eagle does not put out portable tee markers routinely.

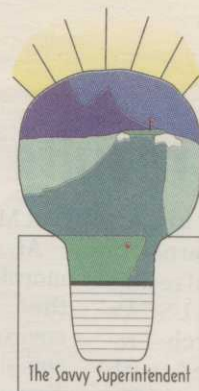
If a member or guest wants to turn in a score, they may tee off up to two club lengths behind the permanent yardage markers that are slightly below the turf so a tee mower can easily mow over them.

This concept has proven extremely popular, with the only downfall being that most humans are creatures of habit. As an example, some players will decide before the round begins that they will tee off five paces in front of each permanent yardage

plaque. But by the 3rd or 4th hole they start teeing off at the yardage plates or slightly behind.

To help scatter the traffic, a large boulder — near the 1st and 10th tees — has been fitted with a bronze plaque bearing this inscription:

"For your golfing enjoyment you may tee off wherever you like. Please avoid play from between the yardage plates. Have a good round."



This has helped scatter the divot traffic more and more. Some groups elect to have the team who won the previous hole select where the entire foursome will tee off on the next hole; or they all will

tee off far forward while playing into the wind and towards the rear with the wind at their back.

Golf course architects Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish were excited about this concept from the get-go, as it works quite well on this course, that opened in 1992. Only 4,000 rounds were played in 1994.

This idea is definitely a conversation piece as it always provides a friendly spirited debate about where to tee off from next!

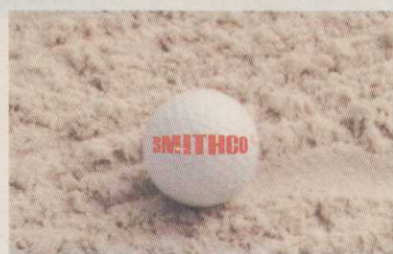
You need hydrostatic drive, reliable performance, low cost and the best surface finish of all.



Sand Star Hydro II



TWIN - PHASE RAKING SYSTEM



SUPERIOR SURFACE FINISH

Meet our new Sand Star II Bunker Rake... with two-wheel hydrostatic drive that really performs... power-to-spare from its 16 hp Vanguard engine... superior raking system that delivers ultimate playability... all at a very special price. See it - it outshines the others.

ALWAYS OUT FRONT

SMITHCO

WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Visit Us In Island #1326 At The GCSAA Show

Brown at Dunes

Continued from page 32

Back at Wild Dunes, Brown is fighting black layer problems on greens at both golf courses.

"It's related to poor quality irrigation water and heavy traffic," he said, "particularly on the greens of the Links course. We'll be working to alleviate that to whatever degree we can primarily through strategic aerifications and heavy top dressing and water quality issues."

Brown supervises a full-time staff of 21 spread over the two courses at two separate maintenance facilities. He has an assistant superintendent on each golf course, who each have a foreman and a crew of equipment operators. A senior technician and mechanic works at both courses. Brown adds about six people during the primary part of the growing season, which for Bermuda grass is May to September.

Another new natural maintenance task for Brown at Wild Dunes are the resort's namesake — acres of natural and manmade dunes.

"I'm hoping to provide a higher level of management in weed control and cultivation of the key desirable plants," said Brown. "They have such a tremendous visual impact. We feel that's one we can really enhance."

With his annual taste of the real big time each spring at Augusta National, Brown said he'd love the opportunity to prepare for a major event at Wild Dunes sometime soon. The last major event was the USGA Senior Amateur on the Links course in 1985, although the courses have been host to several state and regional amateur championships.

"I enjoy tournament preparation," he said. "It's another opportunity to be in a position where you're challenged and can feel a very focused accomplishment."