

# Wright

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pretty much every night. We water the fescues every two to three nights and don't use as much fertilizer."

Wright hasn't sprayed the fescues with fungicides since the Paintbrush opened five years ago. The fescues get a little disease in the spring when it's damp and cold, he said, "but that grows out when it warms up."

While the Pulpit features closely cut tees, greens and fairways and nicely trimmed bunkers, the Paintbrush is old-style, including sod bunkers. Those bunkers have to be rebuilt every once in awhile, Wright said, adding: "I've replaced some of them already, but others are perfect. There are some that will definitely have to be done every five or six years. At St. Andrews [Scotland] each year they rebuild one-third of the bunkers."

When fescues were planted at the Paintbrush it was an experiment, he said. It had been used at the Links at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula in California, but the weather conditions there caused major problems. "The site here is perfect for fescue, being open, windy and dry," he said. "We don't get much rain here, not compared to the East or West Coast."

Five years into the experiment it is a success.

Another factor that separates the two courses is the earth-moving involved. Hardly any ground was moved on the Paintbrush, while the 1st hole alone at the Pulpit cost \$1 million to build and involved building seven tee boxes, a pond and a fairway-length, 4-foot-high stone wall.

"The Pulpit is starting to look like the surrounding terrain again," Wright said. "A lot of the ridges and scrub trees are coming back. I would think in 10 years people will look at it and not be able to tell so much soil was moved here."

One attribute significant to the charm of the Paintbrush has also been significant to the work of the crew there: stone walls. "We add a half mile of stone wall each year," he said.

When the British-style clubhouse was built, they wanted herb gardens, roses and a stone wall around the clubhouse.

Once the wall was built, "we thought it looked pretty good, and it evolved from there," Wright said.

Wright's assistants, Scott Clayworth at the Paintbrush and Bob Rodrigue at the Pulpit, have crews of 21 and 24, respectively, to keep things in shape.

And they are doing so today with more sophisticated and technical tools than 1970 when he graduated from a teachers college in Nova Scotia and went to work for Gordon Witteveen, who was then at Northwood Golf and Country Club in Toronto.

"I think the superintendent has put a lot of pressure on himself," Wright said. "We cut greens shorter than ever, fairways shorter than ever. We've got a lot better tools to deal with it, but still we live on the edge. If you cut the greens another 1/16 inch higher you wouldn't put so much pressure on yourself."

"The green cut that short is under a lot of stress," he added. "Computerized irrigation has helped us a lot."

What new advance would help the most?

"Conditions at many courses are close to perfect ... I think research into controlling diseases better will help. And if they ever come up with a control for *poa annua* it would be tremendous. It has to happen. If they can prevent seed-head production, they can control *poa*."

And all these advances intensify the competition with colleagues.

"There are so many well-conditioned golf courses around, you're always striving to be better than your neighbor," Wright said. "That's a fact."

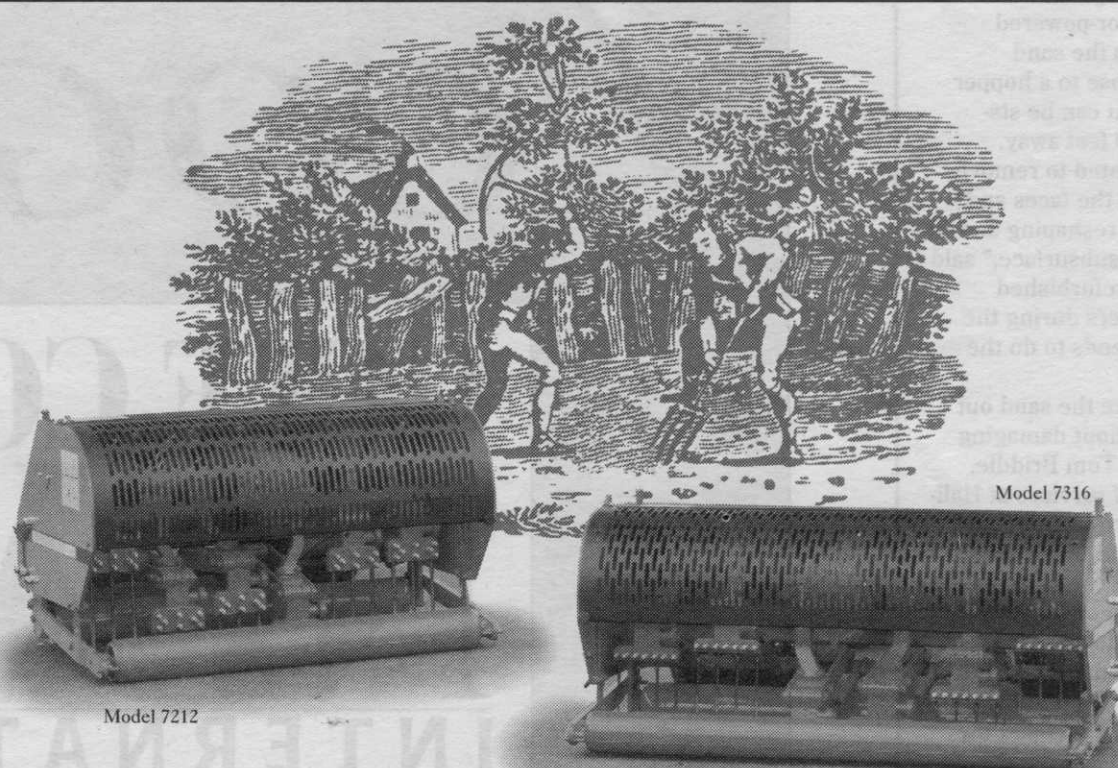
## Portland CC gains Audubon certification

FALMOUTH, Maine — Portland Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of Audubon International, and endorsed by the U.S. Golf Association.

Portland Country Club is the first in Maine and the 95th golf course in the nation to receive the honor.

"We are very proud to have achieved certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and to have the Portland Country Club on the right course for the future," said former golf course superintendent and current independent turf consultant Patrick Lewis.

Lewis and his successor, James Christie, stressed the invaluable efforts of their crew, area volunteers and support from their club's membership as cornerstones of the project.



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