

# New book, *Microgolf Primer*, reveals the ropes for a backyard track

By MARK LESLIE

"Fifty feet or five hundred yards make no difference: the challenge is the same, the reward just as satisfying when the ball finds the bottom of the cup."

With this in mind, and with his micro-course layout in place, Brian L. McGonegal decided he would share what he had discovered about building and maintaining a backyard 18-hole "micro

course." The result: the book *The Microgolf Primer: Raise Golf Acres in Yards*.

Using a plot of land 65 by 50 feet, McGonegal shaped two greens and 18 teeing stations, affording chip shots from 17 to 50 feet.

Working with writer David C. Enger, McGonegal lists the necessary equipment (amazingly little) and the par-

ticulars of creating a green and keeping it and its surrounds in playing condition. Hazards, green contours, angles and distances are all considered in these pages.

McGonegal said his personal Dream Links Microgolf course "is for me the reality of a daydream and a rebuttal to the naysayers."

Saying he has offered avid golfers a

challenge and improvement of their short game, he added that a few golfers ever appear intimidated by his course's difficulty.

...  
*The Microgolf Primer: Raise Golf Acres in Yards* by Brian L. McGonegal with David C. Enger, 87 pages, softcover, \$24.95. Available from Microgolf Press, 209 Rockwell St., Jackson, MI 49203.

## Estate golf courses flourish

Continued from previous page

even walk-behind mowers can be expensive, Silva said, adding: "You have to spray the green, or use a granular fungicide. It will need some form of top dressing at some point. Because they don't get much foot traffic, don't get necessary top dressing, and are getting cut higher, they can thatch up."

In the case of Rees Jones' client across from the Atlantic Golf Club, who hired his own superintendent, or the Winged Foot member who has a landscape company care for his grounds, maintenance may not be a concern. But even the wealthier people don't always keep up with maintenance. Paulson, for instance, sold his property and the buyer has not maintained the three holes to golf course quality, Kirby said.

Osborn feels he has the answer with his Estate Golf greens, which he has been installing for three years. The artificial turf, he said, putts like real turfgrass and its speed can be set even after it is installed.

The speed of the ball roll can be changed by rolling the green with a sod roller to make it faster or brushing it to slow it down. "Our average is nine to 10 [Stimpmeter speed]," Osborn said.

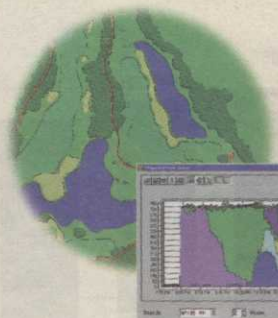
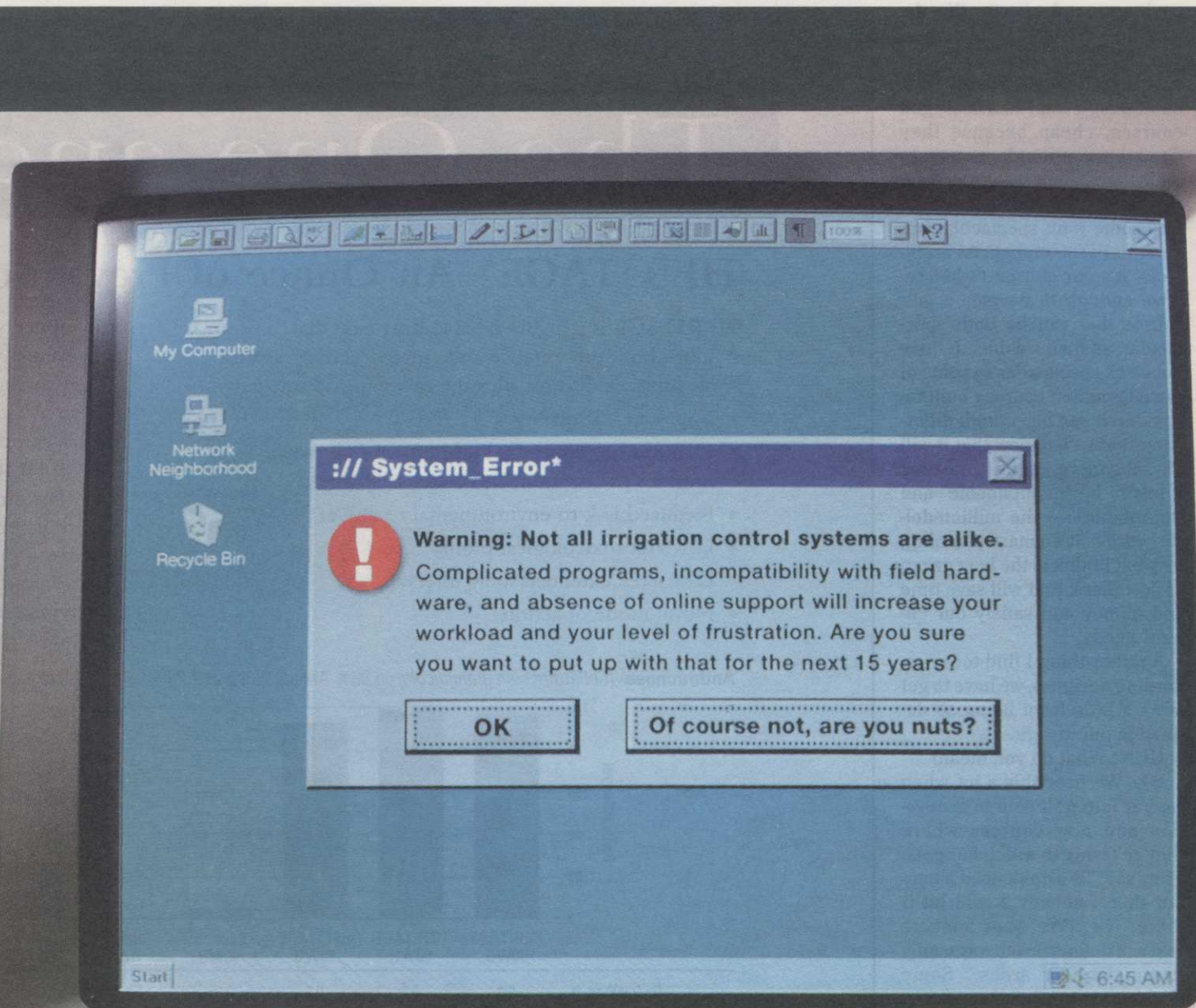
Osborn said a 4,000-square-foot artificial green "will accept a 190-yard shot."

"We try to build it within the undulations you would get on a normal green," he added. "We don't want to get into wacky golf. The majority of our customers are low-handicap golfers and they want the true green. We give them uphill, downhill, sidehill and straight putts."

Furman University agreed, hiring Estate Golf to help build its new women's golf facility.

But most backyard courses are still built by single homeowners and apartment complex developers.

"Instead of a pool, they put in a green in the backyard," Osborn said. "You can have a hard time selling a house with a pool, but not with a green. That's the hottest amenity."



## COMPARE THE SITEPRO CENTRAL CONTROL SYSTEM TO ANY IRRIGATION CONTROL SYSTEM

You'll find there's no comparison. SitePro™ has better graphics, more flexibility, and more options – designed and tested by customers like you. Plus, SitePro is backed by technical support that's always within easy reach. Ask your Toro distributor for a demo or visit us at [www.toro.com/golf](http://www.toro.com/golf).

© 1998 The Toro Company

**TORO**

IRRIGATION