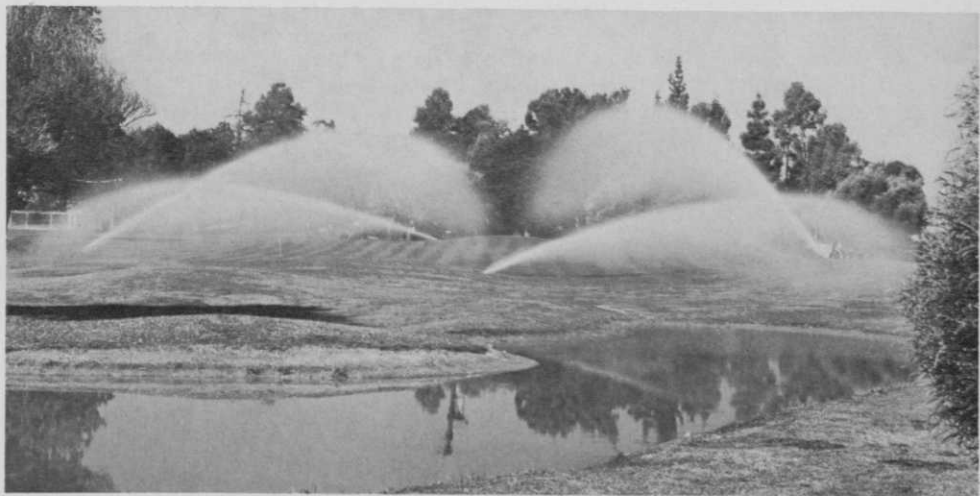


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Soil Conservation District aids golf club

When White Birches GC needed technical help in building a pond and drainage ditch, Hancock SCD supplied it.

Five years ago the White Birches Golf Club in Ellsworth, Maine, was no more than a dream—a dream of Mrs. John Raymond, whose husband was considering the purchase of 58 high rolling acres, land which looked clear across to Cadillac Mountain on Mount Desert Island in one direction, and Schoodic Mountain in the other.

Within a year, under the direction and ownership of John and Georgia Raymond, White Birches, a small public course in the executive-size bracket, had brought the great game of golf within the means of the townspeople and had become an added recreation attraction to the many summer vacationers in the area.

Now owned by PGA professional Gene McNabb in partnership with John Raymond, greens and fairways have been improved each year under the able direction of superintendent "Bud" Staples.

Without a doubt the most spectacular improvement was brought about in the summer of 1965 when Green No. 3 was moved and partly surrounded by a picturesque pond. Mr. Raymond, treasurer of the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District made up of over 100 local cooperators, knew of the technical advice available to the cooperators of the District, and knew, too, that the laying out of farm ponds is a specialty of Richard Duncan, work unit conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service assisting the local Soil & Water Conservation District.

With Mr. Duncan's supervision, the pond was laid out, and in spite of a period of prolonged drought in the

northeast, has held water at the prescribed level. The pond is used for irrigation and fish and is of aesthetic value as well.

In addition to the pond which was called for in the conservation plan developed by White Birches and the Soil & Water Conservation District, a waterway was called for to control runoff. Previously, water flooded adjacent fairways to Green No. 3 and did not allow early playing. The new waterway was designed to prevent this flooding and pass the water safely around the new green.

In this connection and to the amazement of many players who "sidewalk superintended" every move, the ditch was installed. Most ditches of this type usually are installed with a grader or bulldozer and then new turf is established. However, the turf in this area was in excellent shape and it seemed a waste to ruin it and establish new.

Something different had to be done. What about saving the present turf? It was decided to try it, so a turf cutter was used and the turf was rolled up like so many rolls of stair carpet, 180 yards of soil removed, and the rolls of turf replaced.

More ditching will be done when the budget permits—and even this one would have been impossible to accomplish without the help of the Soil Conservation office and its trained technicians.

As a result of this improvement, White Birches Golf Course is playable earlier in the spring, which is important in a part of the country where winters are so long. •

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THE BEST OF GOLFDOM

What to plant for course landscaping

*Besides the clubhouse area,
tees and greens can also
be successfully beautified.*

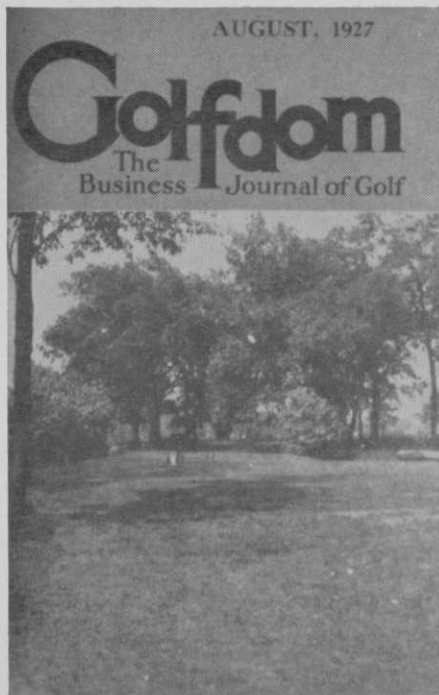
By M. A. POTTENGER

It has been the common practice of most golf clubs to develop beautiful landscape in and around the clubhouse proper and to beautify a few of the outlying borders with shrubs and trees.

Plantings around tees and the sides of greens may be bordered or enveloped with trees, shrubs, evergreens, hardy perennials such as Peonies, Iris, Phlox. Spring flowering bulbs also may be used to their greatest advantage.

We will take for an example an imaginary border surrounding any of your tees. In most cases these borders may be laid out with a combined planting of trees, shrubs and flowers from twenty to thirty feet deep, surrounding three-fourths of the tee, giving a planting area equal to a strip of ground twenty to thirty feet wide and one hundred to two hundred feet long.

This planting may consist of those flowers which are most beautiful at close observation, such as Pansies, Violas, Primroses, Hardy Pinks, Linum, Gailardia, Aquilegias (Columbine), Shasta Daisies, Foxglove, Canterbury Bells, Bleeding Hearts, Sweet Williams, Lupins, Forget-me-nots, Platycodon, Scarbiosa, Sedum, etc.

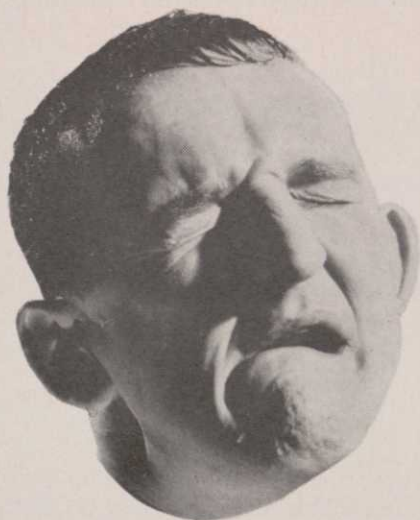


Mr. Pottenger, at the time this story was published (GOLFDOM, August issue, 1927), was the head of one of the country's big nurseries. He had highly successful experience in working with greenkeepers who were landscaping their courses. His approach to the golf course as a thing of beauty—and not just a test of golf—is certainly something we should not overlook in this jet-and-hurry age.

Evergreens of the dwarf grafted types, which are very beautiful as single specimens, may be planted in clumps in and about the tees. A bird-house erected near the end of the clump, a few rock plants and very small rock garden effects may also be added about the tees. Nothing is more soothing and interesting than a small pool with goldfish close to the benches where you sit while your opponents are driving off from the tee. All these little points of interest add to the pleasure of golfing. They help the loser as well as the winner to enjoy the rounds.

Honey Locust is without question the most valuable tree to be used in and about landscape, as this is the only family of trees that the writer knows of which gathers its nitrogen from the air,

Continued on page 86



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COURSE LANDSCAPING

Continued from page 84

the same as clovers and other leguminous plants.

The shrubs to be used in these borders about the tees may consist of all the standard varieties that do well in the community where the golf grounds are developed, as little attention needs to be paid to their height of growth or the season of bloom.

Where the course from the tee to the green is a distance of three hundred yards or more, it is quite reasonable to assume that there would be very little slicing of balls that would interfere with a planting setback 30 yards on either side of the green, and about even with the front edge and extending back even or a little past the back of the green. Where these borders are subject to having a ball dropped in occasionally, large plants such as Peonies, clump planting of Hollyhocks, Anchusas, Delphinium, Aconitum (Monkshood), Rudbeckia Purpurea, Phlox should be used, with liberal

Continued on page 90



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COURSE LANDSCAPING

Continued from page 86

ground space in and around the plants.

This selection of plants is beautiful at long distances, and is readily admired while traveling the course in routine of playing. Shrubs such as Tamarix Altheas, Standard Lilacs, Auralia, Hardy Hydrangeas planted at liberal distances apart will be found most effective and desirable for these plantings. Umbrella trees, Weeping Mulberry, Cutleaf Weeping Birch, Bechtel's Double, Flowering Crab, Mountain Ash are the best trees to use in and about these borders.

There is nothing so effective as a spring flower, as Tulips. They are in a class by themselves. The cottage Tulips are much more effective and last better in the perennial border. Owing to the fact that tulip bulbs should stand until the foliage dies away naturally in order that the bulbs develop properly for the next year's bloom, they should be placed in small plantings of about two and one-half feet square, twenty-five bulbs in a place, fairly deep in the border, where

the foliage will be hidden by other perennials growing up in and around them for a second blooming season. Late blooming Perennials, such as Phlox, Platycodon, Monkshood Hollyhocks, Lilies, Chinese Delphinium, Belladonna and Bellamosumare, are some of the best perennials to fill in these spaces with. However, any annual may be used.

In order that your landscape may have the best chance for development, the ground should be spaded up and allowed to have two or three rains, and be thoroughly pulverized before planting. As to the best time to plant, we have noted very little difference provided the late planting is planted deep enough that it does not heave out during the winter from freezing and thawing.

A light covering of mulch to prevent thawing will help to prevent plants from heaving. Such plants as Phlox, Delphinium, Peonies, Aquilegia, Platycodon Anchusa, Hibiscus, Salvia Azurea, Monkshood, all the bulbs, including Lilies and Tulips, may be completely covered, and one should not lose a single plant. •

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