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Circle No. 128

What's New?

While browsing on the GCSAA show floor, you might encounter these products

Greens mower ▶

The Toro Co. introduces the Toro Greensmaster Flex 21, a walking greens mower with a cutting unit that flexes forward and back and side to side around the bedknife centerline. The Flex 21 closely follows the turf without scalping, even on severe undulations, according to the company.



The greens mower features a cutting unit that allows cuts as low as 1/16 of an inch. The cutting unit also operates independently from the traction unit and can be easily removed.

For more information, contact 952-8888801, www.toro.com or **CIRCLE NO. 203**

Compact mower ▼

Ferris' 1000Z mower tackles tight places in cutting widths of 48 inches and 52 inches. It features fans that are mounted directly to the hydrostatic pumps, allowing the pumps



to run cooler and extend the life of the hydraulic system. The mower's foot-operated deck lift allows for convenient and safe hands-free operations.

For more information, contact 800-933-6175, www.ferrisindustries.com or **CIRCLE NO. 204**

Soil conditioner

Diamond Pro introduces Eagle's Choice, a line of soil conditioner, manufactured by firing raw clay material in a rotary kiln at more than 2,000 degrees, producing a stable porous ceramic granule. Eagle's Choice granules contain 66 percent pore space, 60 percent/40 percent non-capillary to capillary pore space, which improves water, air

and nutrient control within the root zone.

For more information, contact 888-867-6727, www.diamondpro.com or **CIRCLE NO. 205**

Beverage vehicle

E-Z-60 has improved the design of its Refresher, a golf course beverage and snack vehicle, by combining its design with Haulster, White Truck and WorkHorse 1200 utility vehicles. The resulting lineup — the Refresher Haulster, Refresher® White Truck and Refresher 1200 — now has storage capacities up to 810 cans, 86 pounds of consumable ice and 2.2 cubic feet of trash.

For more information, contact 800-241-5855, www.ezgo.com or **CIRCLE NO. 206**

Bunker drainage

Infiltrator Systems offers the QuickPlay bunker drainage chamber to improve bunker drainage by minimizing washouts, sand displacement, puddling and ponding after storms. The installation of QuickPlay drainage chambers allows for faster return to play and reduces costly bunker maintenance, according to the company.

For more information, contact 800-221-4436, e-mail drainit@infiltratorsystems.net or **CIRCLE NO. 207**

Syringe system

Reelcraft Industries offers its DGM Syringing System to help superintendents have a better way to syringe greens. The system is underground and enclosed in a vault next to a green with only the cover plate exposed to the eye. A simple pull on the hose to syringe and a tug when you're finished returns the hose underground.

For more information, contact 800-444-3134, www.reelcraft.com or **CIRCLE NO. 208**

Topdresser ▼

Earth & Turf Co.'s new hydraulically driven topdresser, the MultiSpread 300, spreads a variety of materials. Its capacity is 22 cubic feet, and a brush or beater spreading system can



be chosen with spread patterns from 36 inches to 72 inches. All spreading adjustments can be made easily without the use of tools.

For more information, contact 888-693-2638, www.earthandturf.com or **CIRCLE NO. 209**

Spreader

Lesco introduces the Commercial Plus Stainless Steel Spreader, which features an injection-molded polyethylene hopper to resist corrosion and a large 5:1 sealed gear set for excellent application performance. The spreader also has a positive, spring-loaded shutoff plate which opens to a pre-set calibration setting.

For more information, contact 800-321-5325, www.lesco.com or **CIRCLE NO. 210**



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Circle No 129

Achieving a Milestone

Chalk one up for veteran assistant superintendent Myles McLaughlin, who has brought Devereux Emmet's off-the-wall design back to life at Huntington CC

**STORY & PHOTOS
BY GEOFF
SHACKELFORD**
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

While planning a trip to Long Island, N.Y., I noticed an Internet discussion group post by architect and golf writer Tom Doak that referred to the restoration work taking place at a little-known Devereux Emmet-designed course, Huntington CC in Huntington, N.Y. When Doak labeled the restoration work at the 1910 design as “other-worldly,” it became a must-see layout

for me — especially since it's in a region containing more great courses per square mile than any other in the world.

What you'll find at Huntington is not only other-worldly architecture, but some of the most interesting restoration work taking place in any world. The architect and shaper behind the return of the eccentric Emmet's off-the-wall design is the club's assistant superintendent of 28 years, Myles McLaughlin.

During his tenure at the club, which started when he was 23, McLaughlin has handled about every job imaginable for former superintendents Charlie Rupert and Phil Anderson and current superintendent Glen Creutz. McLaughlin's specialties have ranged from irrigation to anything having to do with heavy machinery, and each winter he oversees maintenance of the club's beloved outdoor skating rink.

But seven years ago, when several fairway bunkers had become “decrepit,” McLaughlin was given the task of putting them back into working order. In doing so, he found an old aerial photograph of the course. The fascination with restoring Emmet's design had begun.

“I'd always had the instincts to do the work, and finally decided that this was what I was going to try to do,” McLaughlin says. “Then

Continued on page 66



In 28 years, Myles McLaughlin has performed about every job possible at Huntington Creek. These days, his dog Bunker accompanies him on projects.

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**“Emmet Devereux
was as good as
any of the old
architects. He
was brilliant.”**

— Myles McLaughlin

Continued from page 64

I started finding out more about Emmet. I knew his design at Garden City. I realized that at one time we had just as much great architecture at Huntington — a great routing and a more challenging course. Plus, the green chairman at the time was a member at Garden City and understood what a classic course looked like, so he helped pushed it through.”

The “it” McLaughlin refers to is the written master plan he compiled after being given the official go-ahead to research the course and make his argument for restoring much of Emmet’s original design. The report is as thorough as you’ll see from any architect’s office. But because McLaughlin felt secure enough in his job and passionate about the Emmet design, it’s a more honest and forthright presentation than most committees will ever receive.

“The reasons why trees were allowed to disrupt Mr. Emmet’s idea for the Huntington CC course are really beyond the scope of this text,” McLaughlin wrote in the 28-page master plan. “It is not my province, nor is it my intent, to

question the politics, personalities, friendships, and perhaps most importantly, lack of knowledge and/or concern as to the architect’s original creation. I would say, however, that all of the above have in effect conspired to totally alter what, to my mind, was a brilliantly conceived golf course.”

Continuing the honest analysis of the design, McLaughlin made one point that many superintendents might want to borrow in trying to convince members that they should remove trees: “If one subscribes to the theory that trees are ‘90 percent air,’ how can they logically be an absolute means of protection from an errant shot?”

Through his research, McLaughlin pieced together the complex evolution of a layout that saw an 1910 Emmet design, followed by a late-1920s redesign and lengthening by Emmet’s design partner, Alfred Tull, who also implemented more changes in the mid-1930s.

“When a man has created something so unique, so ingenious, it is almost incompre-

Continued on page 68

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THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CHOICE.

Continued from page 66

hensible that anyone would tamper with it," McLaughlin wrote. "The fact that a governing faction of any club can do as it sees fit is in some ways immutable. But a healthy respect for tradition, and also for the artist involved, should always be paramount in one's thinking. Clearly, from 1955 on, it was not."

The key selling point to McLaughlin's plan may have been his personal knowledge and passion for the course. However, it didn't hurt that he could testify to how the bunkers had changed in the last 25 years.

"Contributing to the alteration of the shapes of the original bunkers was the introduction of the mechanized 'trap rake,'" he says. "This machine first appeared on our golf course around 1975. This is easily verified, as I was the first to use it."

Still unsure whether to proceed, the Huntington green committee sought the opinion of restoration specialist Ron Pritchard, who responded positively to McLaughlin's plans.

So armed with the approval of the green committee to proceed one hole at a time under the eye of Creutz, the restoration of Huntington began six years ago.

McLaughlin has only two more holes to complete (along with a few more trees he hopes to take out). Visiting the course today, the trained eye notices that McLaughlin's earliest work appears less dramatic than his more recent efforts. As members have seen the improvement in the design (and the value of memberships soaring), they have gradually embraced the work and given McLaughlin more freedom with each hole undertaken.

McLaughlin was able to bring back some of Emmet's and Tull's wackier features, which include quirky fescue covered mounds, a blind bunker and corner hole locations that will surely earn a few complaints from careless golfers.

Even though the course's evolution has been constant with the addition of trees and the subtraction of design character over the years, McLaughlin has managed to bring back the key features while preserving those that had survived. The project has also allowed Creutz

to focus on the course's excellent day-to-day condition, something that tends to suffer during in-house projects.

Huntington CC has several standout holes that any golfer would love to play. Five stick out as must-see holes for architecture aficionados:

- The par-5 seventh features a green in the spirit of the Road Hole at St. Andrews, only angled differently.

- The dogleg right, par-4 second and eighth holes are classic two-shotters featuring some of the finest bunkering on the course.

- The par-4 10th hole, whose green was originally part of a par 3 and was ultimately converted by Tull to today's long, rambling par 4, rivals anything on Long Island in challenge and interest.

- Maybe the finest of all the holes at Huntington is the fescue-lined par-4 16th. It features a blind approach for all but the most perfectly placed drives, with a recently restored green that has brought back several dramatic hole locations and a false front.

As his restoration work nears its end, McLaughlin's interest has turned to music and giving guitar lessons in his spare time. He's keeping an eye on his blonde Labrador and Huntington assistant, Bunker. But McLaughlin is also thinking of moving on after 28 years. His brother runs a successful trucking company in Arizona, a place where McLaughlin wouldn't have to handle snow removal as he does during nasty winters at Huntington.

In addition, he has had a few offers to help out on other restoration jobs, some of which pique his interest. But he knows that none will capture his heart like Huntington.

"Emmet was as good as any of the old architects," McLaughlin says. "He was brilliant. Our original 1910 course was probably even more impressive, but [the members] wanted to lengthen it back then and some of the original character was lost. It was my challenge to get it back as close as possible, and when I'm done there's nothing left for me to do here."

Then McLaughlin talks about the possibility of obtaining another aerial photograph from 1910. Maybe the photograph will show some really wild stuff on the course that could be restored, McLaughlin says. Then he wouldn't leave Huntington after all.

"As long as I'm creating, I'm happy," he says. "So who knows?" ■



McLaughlin's key selling point to restore the course may have been his personal knowledge and passion for Huntington CC.

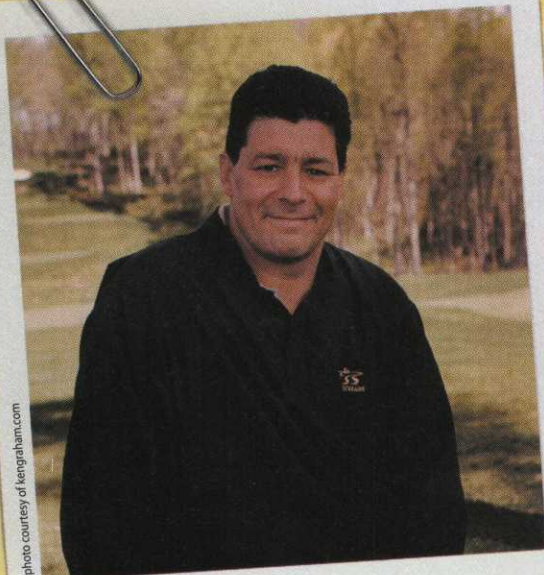


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Circle No. 133

Golf Branches Out with Sticks For Kids

BY PETER BLAIS

Ten-year-old Bradley Williams lives near Shawnee GC in downtown Louisville, Ky. He plays the three-hole junior course at Shawnee frequently. Before walking to the first tee, he checks out one of the 15 free sets of junior clubs provided through the Golf Course Builders Association of America's (GCBA) Sticks For Kids program.

"We have to watch him, though," Shawnee's pro Kevin Greenwell says with a chuckle. "He'll take four or five clubs from every set and put them in his bag. I'll say, 'Bradley, it gets kind of heavy carrying that many clubs.' And he'll say, 'Oh, OK.' Once in a while, he'll even have a left-handed club in there. But he has gotten other kids involved from the neighborhood, and they seem to have a great time."

Williams is one of thousands of kids who have benefited from the Sticks For Kids program, which has provided 28 U.S. courses with junior golf equipment and raised roughly \$100,000 to help underprivileged youths take up the game, according to Lee Hetrick, GCBA executive vice president.

"We use the clubs for clinics and provide them to some of the inner-city kids playing the course here," says Greenwell, who believes many of Shawnee's junior golfers would never have gotten involved or stayed with the game if not for the availability of the program's equipment. "Some of the sets fill the void for kids aged 6 to 10 and the rest for kids 11 to 15. We had about 3,500 rounds played on that [junior] course last year, and the clubs were used quite often."

This is exactly what GCBA envi-



The Sticks For Kids program introduced underprivileged kids to golf.

sioned when it started Sticks For Kids four years ago. The mission of the program is to provide as many children as possible with:

- A set of clubs to use while learning to play the game.
- A set of clubs to use as many times as they want while saving to purchase their own sets.
- A chance to experience a sport that teaches etiquette, discipline, integrity and honor.
- Competitive courses to play.

James Kirchdorfer, president of ISCO Industries LLC of Louisville and a former GCBA president, is chairman of the program.

"We were looking for something we could do as builders to promote the game of golf," Kirchdorfer says. "Our idea was to make golf clubs available for kids to play."

Kirchdorfer is a part owner of five courses in Kentucky and Indiana. He made the program available at his properties and recruited the city of Louisville's three golf facilities — Shawnee, Sun Valley and Bobby Nichols golf courses. He also donated

much of the irrigation and construction equipment used to build the three-hole junior facility at Shawnee, which is located in a disadvantaged portion of the city. "My other courses aren't necessarily in disadvantaged areas," Kirchdorfer adds.

Landscapes Unlimited President William Kubly, who helped found Sticks For Kids, has aggressively marketed the program in his home area of Lincoln, Neb. Other sites are scattered across the country.

"We're looking at where we want to take the program," Kirchdorfer says. "Wherever we have a program, we want a GCBA member to monitor it and get some credit."

In order to get involved:

- Participating courses must have active junior programs. The Sticks For Kids program may establish, enhance or replace current programs.
- Courses that receive new clubs or monetary support from the program must have active collection and refitting programs of used clubs for junior golfers.

Continued on page 72