



For Golf Course Book Lovers, *The Course Beautiful* is a Book You'll Want

By Monroe S. Miller

Just about the time you think you'll never see more or better new golf course books, another "must have" hits the bookshelves in bookstores all across the country and you have no choice but to buy it.

In the case of *The Course Beautiful*, it might be the best of the recent releases. The book is a collection of essays by A. W. Tillinghast, one of the greatest golf course architects of all time and creator of well known golf venues like Winged Foot, San Francisco Golf Club and Baltusrol. My interest is amplified by the fact that Tillinghast did a masterplan for our golf course in 1936 and I have a set of his original drawings in my office.

Albert Warren Tillinghast was quite a prolific writer. A little over a year ago the USGA reissued a set of golf fiction written by Tillinghast—*Cobble Valley Golf Yarns and Other Sketches* (1915) and *The Mutt* (1925). I have a set of these books and although they aren't great literature, they gave me nearly as much reading entertainment as any other golf books I have read. Tillie was a great story teller and clearly enjoyed sharing his thoughts with other people.

The Course Beautiful not only has dozens and dozens of short essays—I believe many of them were originally magazine pieces—on topics golf course superintendents will enjoy; it is filled with excellent old photographs and original AWT sketches that complement his writing and emphasize his opinions. Among the essays I predict you will especially like are *Poa annua* (52), *Maintaining Green Fairways* (51), *The Story of the Gang Cutter* (50), *Steam Roller Days* (49), *The Kilkenny Cats* (48), and *The Green Chairman* (46). The chapters 46 through 53 cover topics pretty specific to us, although he touches on sand, trees, and a host of other subjects

we hear about from players every day. AWT also expresses pretty clearly a lot of the principles that guided his design of golf holes. It makes for fascinating reading.

This book, which I recommend without reservation, gives readers a number of lessons in golf history. Tillinghast, although American born, learned much of what he knew about golf and golf course design from Old Tom Morris and from the Old Course at St. Andrews.

The Course Beautiful is a great bedside book. The chapters are short and complete and you can read a few before dozing off at night. The jacket to the book is excellent and appealing, but the cover itself is one I would have done a little differently. But that matters little, given the terrific content. It was put together by three members of Baltusrol—Bob Trebus, Richard Wolffe and Stuart Wolffe. They uncovered a wealth of information about Tillinghast while they were working on a centennial history for their club. This work they have given to golf will be appreciated by all who partake.

While on the subject of books, I guess you could call this development "a sign of the times" or "inevitable". You are now able to buy books from your computer screen.

Like some other golf courses in the state, we on are the net. Much of what goes on there is, to me, a waste of time. But if you pick and choose, you can harvest some information that has value in the operation of a golf course.

At Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com>), you can browse and buy books from the convenience of your shop office. You cruise the aisles from your computer screen, searching by title, author, subject or keyword. You pay by credit card, and books are delivered to your door. They brag, "if it is in print, it is in stock." That seems like a near impossibility until you learn that their inventory is in the million-plus range! People report finding books at Amazon they have been searching for years.

Shipping charges are offset somewhat because they discount at about 10%. But those are incidental to me. I like going to book stores, seeing the volumes I am thinking about purchasing, feeling the heft of a particular book, waiting in line for a book signing, drinking coffee while shopping, and dozens of other intangible pleasures. Nevertheless, I plan to search through Amazon one of these days. I let you know what I find out. Or, better yet, one of you should let me know what you think! 🍷

**TORO
3000**



**TORO
3000**

Golf Course Hydroinjection

Bill McMillan

Serving Central Wisconsin

2 MACHINES
PER COURSE

800 490 TURF

DAY OR
NIGHT