

## BURL GOLF CLUB ADDRESSES THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE 80'S

by TOM E. NATZEL  
Superintendent Burl Golf Club

Burl Golf Club is located west of the Twin Cities metro area in Mound. The course consists of 255 acres ranging from open gently rolling land to wooded peat land. The layout offers golfers the opportunity to hit away, while demanding varying degrees of accuracy. It also contains many forms of wildlife including ducks, pheasants, fox, deer and very busy beavers!

Because of the expanding membership now reaching 320 active members, the Board of Directors made the commitment and realization that a full time superintendent was definitely needed to keep up with the demands of the general membership. Previously the superintendent was hired seasonally with routine maintenance and projects being done during the prime golfing time, including evenings and weekends. Being only part-time also left little time for the superintendent to do anything but the basic routine maintenance. As you can imagine this caused a great deal of conflict within the membership.

Upon my arrival as superintendent in late October 1984, I scrutinized the course and began drawing up a priority list of projects which changed more than a few times over the first two months. However, thanks to the unseasonable nice weather two large projects were completed in November and December. Then my attention turned to the equipment, maintenance facility and golf carts. Spending two months of work on winterizing the shop building which also only operated during the golfing months and desperately required some insulation and a good source of heat.

With that accomplished I started on maintenance and repair of the equipment. Here to with the change over from a part-time to full-time superintendent many procedures were changed as well. Previously golf carts were operated as is until they ceased to run at all. Equipment repair was done largely by a repair shop which can be costly and leaves you at the mercy of the repair shops time schedule. Thus leading to my next project, the hiring of a mechanic to work on a preventive maintenance program and to set up a shop facility that will be able to undertake all and anything that could and will arise with equipment repair.

There are many changes that have been made and that are yet to come. All of these things have not gone unnoticed and the board and members are anticipating (and expecting) a very much improved golf course in the coming years.

These changes would not have been accomplished if the club had not realized their potential and the importance of taking the steps needed to meet the demands of the golfer in the 80's. The sacrifices that were made by the club so that all available capital could be directed into my budget for course improvements, winterizing the shop, tools and new equipment purchases are very positive steps toward improving the golf course and playing surface. This can be used for the growth to an even larger membership and new events. Hopefully other smaller clubs will realize their full potential and make some positive changes in the 80's.

## HANDS ON TRAINING FEATURED AT ANOKA AVTI

Horticulture is more than just planting trees and puttering around in a greenhouse. It's identifying plant diseases. It's irrigating and fertilizing rows and rows of thriving greenery. It's building and maintaining public and private golf courses. It's designing and constructing the grounds of businesses and public property.

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"People are so misled by horticulture. There are so many myths about it. But there's a lot more to it than the average person realizes," said Dick Robinson, Horticulture Technology instructor at Anoka AVTI.

Students enrolled in Robinson's program at Anoka AVTI quickly learn of the reality behind the myths as they indulge in first-year courses as varied as plant protection, turf management, math, computer operations, insects, weeds and plant materials, equipment operations, arboriculture, and landscape design.

The location of Anoka AVTI's landscape career center, behind Anoka High School, is almost as obscure as the definition of horticulture itself.

"We've got more than 100 acres of prime real estate along the Rum River," said Robinson, "but no one knows we're here. We encourage people to come down and look around and see our plants and use our golf course," he added, referring to a five-hole golf course, designed and maintained by AVTI golf course management students.

It is on those 100-plus acres that students get a real working knowledge of the science of horticulture.

"We're very hands-on oriented. That's the purpose of our large campus--students are continuously revamping our grounds and upgrading it," Robinson commented, "The students think they come here to work. Yes, they do, but they're learning at the same time."

Students learn as they explore the natural and manmade materials which affect plants and examine characteristics of common Minnesota plants. Also, during the first year program, students learn to identify insect problems and recognize damages and diseases affecting plant materials.

Students really "get their hands dirty" in the soil studios where they gain an understanding of different soils found in Minnesota and learn to recognize how plant material benefits from specific soils.

Weed control and identification is another important area of instruction for horticulture students.

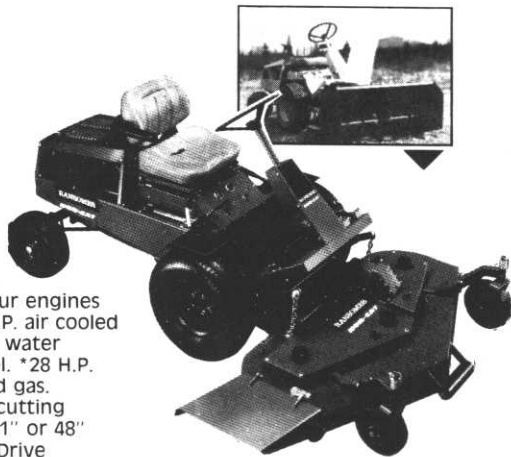
After finishing the first year of study at Anoka AVTI's horticulture technology program, complete with five weeks of on-the-job training, students are fully qualified to enter the industry as a horticulture aid. A second year of specialized courses is also available to equip the student for entry into a specific field of horticulture, such as landscape, turf and golf course management, parks and grounds maintenance, and horticultural business management.

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In the landscape program students develop skills necessary for the production, use, distribution, and maintenance of ornamental plant materials. Specialty areas include nursery production, landscape construction and design implementation, and garden center operation and sales.

Students who choose to enroll in the second year turf and golf course management program will be part of the only program of its kind in the five-state area.

"We are very unique because we offer a comprehensive turf program. The only other place that offers turf management is maybe a four-year college, and as part of our program we run and manage our own five-hole golf course that is open to the public at no charge. We totally rejuvenate the entire course as part of the training," Robinson said.



Students in Anoka AVTI's horticulture occupations program learn to use heavy equipment and machinery as part of their training.

This practical, working experience helps students become familiar with sprayers, fertilizer spreaders, mower operations, disease and weed identification and control, and irrigation installation.

In the parks and grounds maintenance specialty, students acquire advanced skills and techniques involved in maintaining industrial grounds, parks, cemeteries, recreational fields, and related areas. Areas of study include pest identification and control, arboriculture, first aid, turf management, building and grounds maintenance, communications and human relations.

Students successfully completing the parks and grounds maintenance program would be employed at state, federal, and local parks, cemeteries, industrial grounds, and recreational areas.

The second year horticultural business management program of study is completed in Anoka AVTI's Business and Sales Careers Program, after finishing the horticultural aid program at the landscape center. The program is designed to prepare students for management positions with training in accounting, credit and collections, and supervision.

Landscape design, turf and golf course management, parks and grounds maintenance, horticulture business management. The variety of horticultural careers is surprising.

"People think it (horticulture) is all planting and greenhouses. But, as you can see, it's not. It's much more," Robinson commented.

Anoka AVTI's landscape career center was the site of the 1984 Minnesota Green Industry Expo and will again host the expo on June 19, 1985.

"The greens expo is like a trade show for the different equipment. It gives the participants a chance to look at and operate the equipment available in the industry, and they can do all that right on our golf course," Robinson explained.

Participants in last year's expo included the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Minnesota Street Superintendents Association, the Minnesota

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Park Supervisors Association, the Minnesota Society of Arborists, the Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors, the Minnesota Hospital Groundskeepers, the Grounds Supervisors of Area Colleges, and the Minnesota Cemeterykeepers Association.

"The expo is open to the public and the building and sites are open for tours," Robinson added.

Anoka AVTI's horticulture program draws students from across the five-state area and beyond, according to Robinson, and, he says, "We're here to serve the industry. We have lots of flexibility. Students can work for an employer and then come to school in their off hours.

"It used to be that we had a lot of students who were high school kids going to school because someone told them to. Now, they're coming in here to better their talents. They're already working in the industry, but they'd like to upgrade themselves a little bit. We offer the flexibility they need to suit their educational needs," said Robinson.

A career in horticulture is a challenging one, and one that has some specific qualifications as Robinson emphasized, "You have to have a love for plant materials and for the outdoor life. If you don't like high humidity and warm temperatures, then you better stay in your air conditioned office."

But if you're ready for the outdoor life, if you're ready to get your hands dirty, and if you're not afraid of hard work, look into one of the many varied fields of horticultural study at Anoka AVTI.

## ASSOCIATES CORNER



On May 1, 1960 Bartley Supply Company was founded. That same day we started working with the installation of a new sprinkler system for the Sauk Centre Golf Course. Since that first system 25 years ago, Bartley Supply has worked with over 130

golf courses throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota providing designs and materials for watering systems and pumping stations.

Starting out primarily as a distributor for Cresline Plastic pipe and Fairbanks Morse pumps, Jerry Bartley, our company's founder, soon became a Master Turf Distributor for Rainbird in the State of Minnesota. During the 1960's Bartley's grew rapidly and expanded its distribution to a full line of plumbing, heating and water well supplies. In 1972 Bartley Supply founded "TOP LINE", a national merchandising program for plumbing and heating contractors.

As we branched out into many product lines we never lost interest in the Turf Irrigation Industry. Today Bartley's continues to maintain a separate sprinkler department working with golf courses, installation contractors and engineers to design and provide irrigation systems and pump stations that keep pace with today's technology and our customers growing needs.

Headquartered in St. Cloud, Minnesota Bartley's also has branch outlets in Brainerd and Alexandria, Minnesota. The wide range of products we distribute and the number of dealers we work with enables us to provide truck delivery to all areas of the state on a regular basis.

Continually striving to provide better service, we recently began stocking a full line of larger horsepower pumps and motors (up to 40 HP!)

Besides distributing a complete line of Rainbird and Hunter Irrigation Products, we also stock pipe, fittings, parts and accessories through 8" diameter. The success Bartley Supply has enjoyed over the past 25 years is directly related to the strong emphasis we place on providing our customers with high quality service. With continued emphasis on our customers' satisfaction we are confident the next 25 years will also be most successful.

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