

COMBATING WATER PROBLEMS

by SCOTT LIESTMAN
SUPERINTENDENT
RUM RIVER GOLF CLUB

Rum River Golf Club is a small nine hole golf course located in Princeton, Minnesota with the Rum River running adjacently. Since its beginning in 1953, we have had a problem with flooding. In the mid 1960's the membership constructed a dike that is still in tact today, but just hasn't solved all of our problems. There has always been some seepage through the dike and our floodgates are not completely watertight. Every time the river comes up, enough water seeps in to create a large pond in the middle of our fourth fairway and create a channel of water about forty yards wide across our sixth and seventh fairways. Thus limiting our play to only several holes. This condition would occur two to four times yearly causing us to lose two to four weeks of revenue a year. So the question was, what should we do?

We proposed to build a new pond on the left side of our fourth fairway, and use the fill from the pond to raise our problem areas. There was little if any opposition from the board and stockholders, so our next question was when do we do this major reconstruction? Mother Nature helped us with the answer. In June of 1984 we received 10.5 inches of rain in eight days and were completely flooded causing us to shut down for a period of almost four weeks. When the water finally receded we had six acres of dead turf. The time was now.

We began by measuring and marking all of our areas to be filled and used a transit to figure the depths and grades of fill and estimated that we would need approximately nine thousand cubic yards of earth moved. We then staked and measured all of our sprinkler heads that would be covered over so we could relocate them with the least amount of effort. Next we received bids from several construction companies and decided who to go with. I drew up a contract stating each area to be worked on and that each area worked on was finished only when all grade readings were approved by myself.

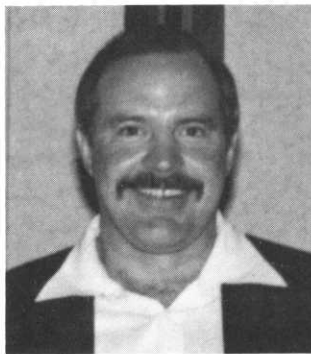
The heavy construction began the second week of August and ended about the first of September. We then finish graded each area and seeded with Athletic Pro at a rate of 150 lbs./acre on fairways and 100 lbs./acre on roughs using a Jacobsen overseeder. A balanced fertilizer was applied at a rate of 1 lb./1000 sq. ft. in some areas prior to and in some areas after germination. Germination was excellent and areas first seeded around September 1 were playable late this past fall. Areas seeded around the 15th of September I feel will be playable by mid May. There was one

seeding on September 20th that may have been too late for adequate bluegrass germination due to cold weather that came early. We still have about one acre of drainage ditch that we were unable to seed because of the wet fall. When the weather would not allow us to seed any more we installed 6100 feet of drain tile which all flows into our new pond. The pond in turn overflows into the river when the river drops low enough to open our flood gates.

It didn't take long to find out if our project did what it was supposed to for the Rum River left its banks again late this fall. The water that always backs into the course was contained quite well in our new pond. I see no reason why all nine of our holes will not remain playable throughout the season also with the use of carts. We feel that our club will be able to open one to three weeks earlier in the spring and that we now can avoid having water problems every time we get a heavy rain. This project cost us about twelve thousand dollars, but we feel we should be able to recover this within three years with the playing time gained.

Because of all the rain we had this past year, I have worked with the National Weather Service Hydrology Department in trying to get Princeton as a river forecast point. Thus hoping to enable us to know when the river should crest. At this time, Anoka is the farthest point North that any forecasting is done on the Rum River.

1984 was a very busy and interesting year for me, but it has come to a close. Now I look ahead to 1985 to see what loose ends to clean up from last year and what new projects to take on this year. I hope you all have as great a year as I am planning to have.



EDITOR'S CORNER

FRED ANDERSON, JR.

Winter got you down? Tired of looking at your shop walls? All fished out? Well, I'm here to help you get rid of the winter blues. You have many options that are very enjoyable and quite inexpensive. For those who live in the Twin Cities area or get to visit on a regular basis, the following attractions will help recharge your batteries and help keep your mind off your ice greens or desiccated greens at least for a few hours. continued on Page 7

- 1) Take a tour of the State Capitol
- 2) The Walker Art Center
- 3) The Minnesota Zoo
- 4) Minneapolis Institute of Art
- 5) The Guthrie Theater
- 6) The Ordway Music Theater
- 7) The Science Museum of Minnesota, home of the Wm. McKnight Theater (this is a must).

As you can imagine this is only a partial list but you get the idea. All you have to do is pack up the kids and wife and go.

Again, thanks go out to many people which include Dale Caldwell and the staff at Town and Country for hosting the Dr. Vargas Seminar (also to Dr. Stienstra for keeping Dr. Vargas here an extra day). It seems like we just learn the name of a disease and after a few years, it gets a facelift and the name changes. I guess it's progress. Thanks also go to our HOLE NOTES writers, Boots Fuller, Mankato Country Club; Kurt Erdmann, Rochester Golf and Country Club; Scott Proshek and Bob Adams, New Prague Golf Club; Stan Kinkead, National Mower Company and Scott Weiler,

Foley-Belsaw Company. It's contributions from you, the membership, that will continue to make the HOLE NOTES strong and interesting.

Washington D.C. was this year's site for the G.C.S.A.A.'s Annual Conference. It's been a long time since I've had to sit and take notes in a classroom type environment for three days and then walk through miles of suppliers' booths full of everything from fish to computers. It seems to get bigger and better every year. Some of my members think I'm on vacation!

Get your calendar ready and mark down the following dates: The Mini Conference is March 11 at Majestic Oaks (flyer has been sent). I've talked to Randy Nelson, Arrangement Chairman, and the following are our 1985 monthly meetings sites:

April 15 - New Prague Golf Club, Scott Proshek and Bob Adams, host superintendents.

May 13 - River Falls Golf Club, Scott Ainsworth, host superintendent.

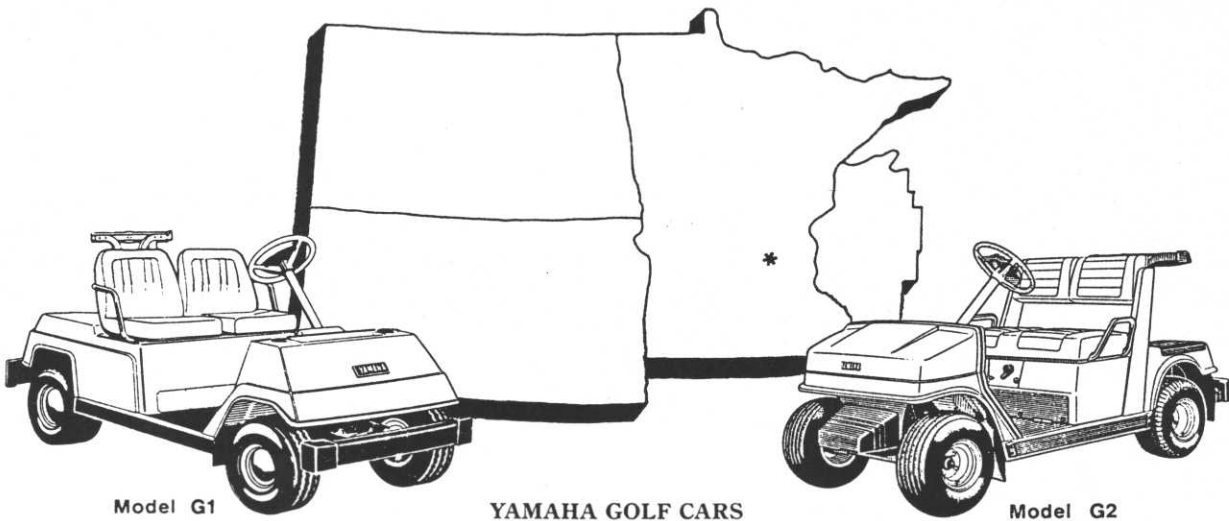
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June 19 - Turf Expo

June 30 - Annual Picnic

July 8 - Northland Country Club, Mike Netzel, host superintendent.

Aug ? - Island View Country Club, Mark Poppitz, host superintendent.

Sept. 9 - Guest Day Scramble at Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chris Hague, host superintendent.

Oct. 7 - Golden Valley Country Club, Mike Olson, host superintendent.

See you at the Mini Conference!

ASSOCIATE'S CORNER

by JIM LESTER
EGEBERG GOLF CARS

Egeberg Golf Cars started in the golf car business over twenty years ago as a distributor for Harley-Davidson. In those days they were a strong motorcycle dealer for Harley-Davidson and had no interest in selling golf cars. But the factory kept prodding until they convinced Egeberg's to give the golf car line a try.

Over the next ten or so years the decision to enter the golf car business proved to be a good one. That decade saw the emergence of the golf car as a viable and growing part of the overall golf course picture. While at the same time, those years signaled the beginning of the end of the dominance Harley-Davidson motorcycles once enjoyed. This flip-flop in sales strength between the cycle and the golf car brought about a stronger emphasis toward the golf course market by Egeberg's.

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