

Golf Course Architects Urge Developers to Involve Superintendents in Construction

The president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects has called on developers to involve golf course superintendents in the construction of their courses.

"We try to get a superintendent involved at the start of construction so he can act as a project liaison, help interpret plans for the contractor and make suggestions that will ease maintenance," said Clark. "For example, if we create a design that is difficult to maintain, he can bring it to our attention while changes can still be made."

With the superintendent present from the start of the project, it becomes easier to maintain the course according to its design, Clark said.

"Working together during the design and construction phase enables the superintendent to learn the intent of the original design," he said. "As the golf course evolves, the superintendent can help ensure that the layout remains true to the architect's original intent."

Education also enables a superintendent to become better acquainted with the purposes and perspectives of a golf course architect, Clark said.

"Being informed is 90 percent of understanding each other," he said. "The best ways to stay informed are through continuing education, attending conferences and exchanging information during the construction process."

Although few superintendents have the opportunity to be in on the development of a course from the beginning, they can always check the original plans to learn the architect's design strategy, Clark said.

"We must look to the superintendent to make sure we don't forget that the golf course must be maintained," said Clark. "We sometimes need to be reminded that a slope we've designed has to be mowed twice a week."

Architects also depend on the superintendent to monitor construction progress. "The superintendent has a lot of authority during construction," said Clark. "The contractor has to realize that he must satisfy the superintendent."

It's also important for the superintendent to be on site so he sees what goes underground, he said. "In particular, he needs to oversee the installation of the irrigation system and confirm that the greens, for instance, have exactly four inches of gravel, two inches of barrier layer and 12 inches of mix. When we leave a course, it's in his hands."

Remodeling projects offer an ideal opportunity for superintendents and architects to work together, Clark said. "One of the first things we do during a remodeling project is get the superintendent and pro together to ask what they would suggest be improved," said Clark. "They are the ones who are there every day, so they know the course's strengths and weaknesses. We utilize this type of input to develop the master plan which is the blueprint for the project."

—OGCSA Newsletter



(3)

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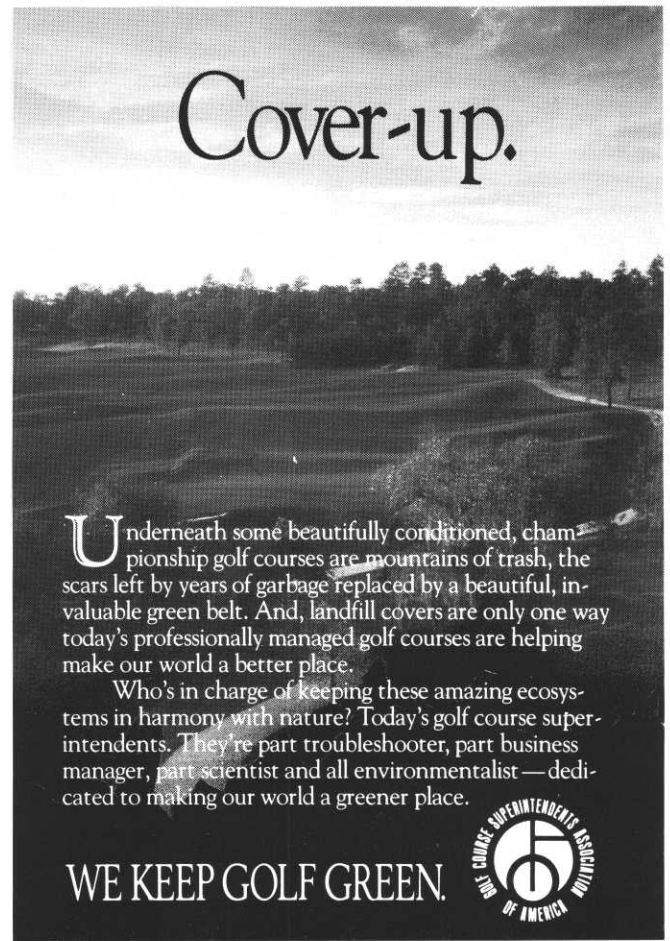
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"Sniglets"

It is hard to believe but there are probably a few people out there who still do not know what sniglets are. A "sniglet" is a word that should be in the dictionary but is not. A trait I inherited from my mother is a love for words to the point that I am more than willing to make up my own to fit the situation. Some of my favorite sniglets for golf courses are as follows:

- **Funkers** - Funkers are funky bunkers that show up on the golf course within a month of the new green chairman taking office.
- **Fumps** - Fumps are funky humps that are left when funkens are filled by these subsequent green committee chairman.
- **Oughtabees** - Oughtabees are tiny little trees or misplaced trees that appear on the golf course after someone rode by the area and commented "there oughta be a tree there".
- **Law of Hydromagnetism** - Having worked on many a sprinkler, one of my favorite sniglets is the Law of Hydromagnetism. This is a little known law of nature that states that the sprinkler closest to the control box will always be pointed directly at you (since the last bum that ran the controls turned the head off just prior to getting wet).
- **USGAA** — An acronym for the rapidly growing organization — United States Golfers Against Aerifying.
- **Poanasaurus** - Small herbivorous dinosaur that consumed mass quantities of *Poa annua* on a daily basis (now extinct).
- **Proscrastronomics** - the economic discipline that dictates that if you postpone equipment purchases long enough, you will no longer need the equipment.




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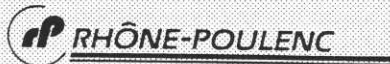
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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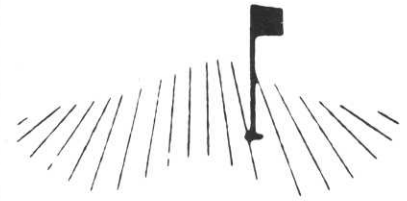
NEW MEMBERS—OCTOBER 12, 1992

Robert Blaukat	Rum River Golf Club	Class	BII
Dennis Salwei	The Howe Company		F

RECLASSIFICATIONS—OCTOBER 12, 1992

Richard Anderson	Ridgewood Golf & Country Club	B to A
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Mike Olson, Membership Chairman



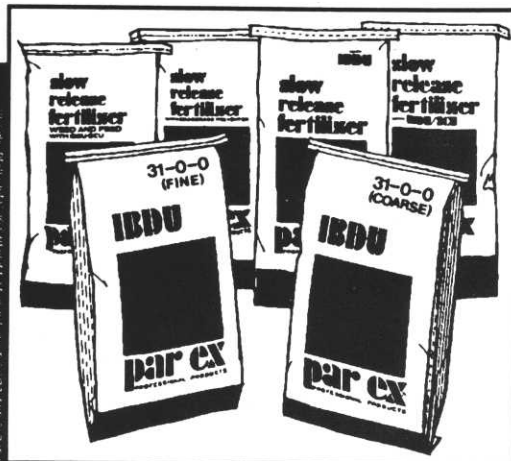
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As a new member of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to as many of the general membership as possible. Over the months to come, I'm going to personally contact and meet as many superintendents as I can. That's going to take some time.

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Dennis Salwei

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Construction Dilemma—

(Continued from Page 19)

The greens will take about 12 weeks to cover well enough to tolerate a reasonable load of traffic, say a pace equivalent to 35,000 rounds per year. This puts your opening date in September or October, a downtime of around 6 months.

Now let's assume you are planting bentgrass greens in the Midwest. Ideally, you would plant in the fall, giving the best two growing periods (this fall and the next spring) to mature. A good target for most Midwest locations would be September 1. Again allow the contractor around 60 days, starting construction July 1 (this never happens since EVERYONE has a July 4 tournament). The maturing process on bent greens will in most cases mean waiting until the following Spring to open. April 1 is usually a safe bet. This means approximately 9 months of downtime. However, remember that these months include December, January and February, typically very slow golf months.

There are many instances where courses have opened much earlier (and much later) than the dates I have described above. Sometimes you are blessed with ideal growing conditions and the turf matures very rapidly.

Sometimes there are no rain days to slow the contractor and he finishes in less time. Sometimes everything just clicks into place.

On the other hand, sometimes you feel like Murphy was an optimist. First, the plant generating the sand falls behind. Then the contractor can't find the right equipment locally because he is building a new mall across town and every truck for 100 miles is already rented. Of course, as soon as the mix is put

on the greens, a good old "Texas Toad Floater" comes along and washes mix, coarse sand and gravel into the next county. The seed or sprigs you ordered are nowhere to be found. The members are ready to use the superintendent as pre-plant fertilizer, and the contractor and architect are pointing cans of methyl bromide at each other. Murphy never built greens.

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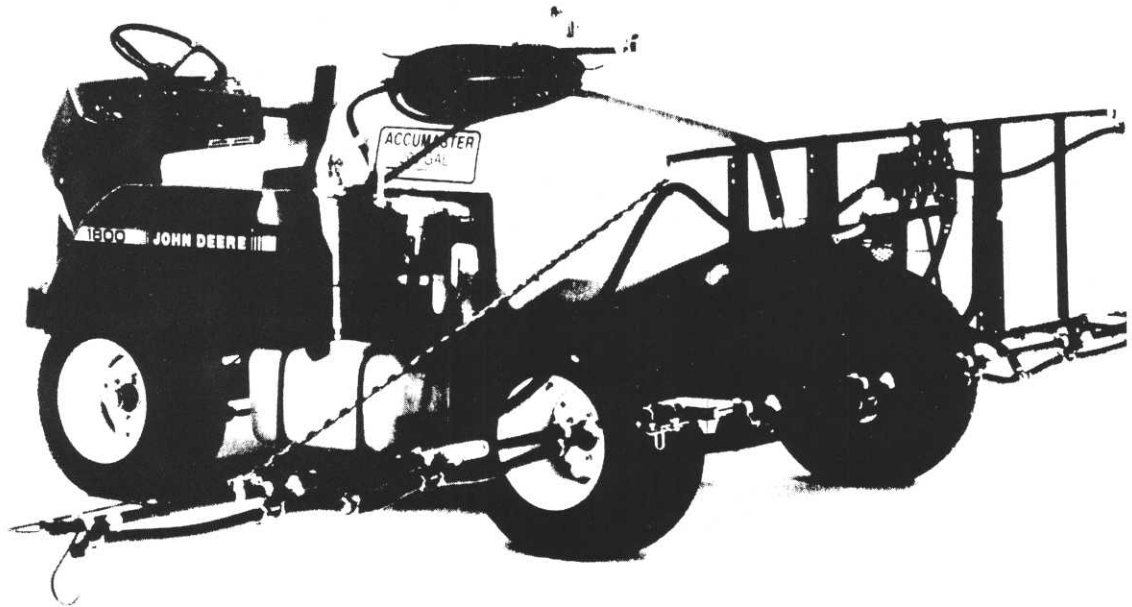
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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club



Where does professionalism start? Does it start when you enter your vehicle and arrive at your place of employment? Does it start at the MGCSA's Annual Turf Conference and Show? On November 18th, let's make sure that professionalism takes place at the Northland Inn and Conference Center. A suit and tie is strongly recommended as appropriate dress. The Conference and Education Committee has done a fantastic job rounding out the Educational part of the Conference. So, when the speakers are explaining ways to make our jobs easier, please listen to what they have to say. You might find a new and exciting way to manage your golf course.

A passing note to all CGCSers, at the end of the Conference there will be a test for you to take. When you pass the test, you will be given credit for .5 DEUs, towards your recertification with the GCSAA.

* * * *

When I heard the sounding of the "S" word in the weather forecast, it made me think of last year and not having my winter patch disease fungicides down or final application of topdressing on. What's the weather going to do this month? I don't think there is anyone around who can tell exactly what's going to happen from one day to the next, but that doesn't mean that I'm not glued to the forecast at 6 p.m. or 10 p.m. This year every golf course around will be put to bed long before the first permanent snowfall.

* * * *

What will I remember about 1992? The cooperation received from the members of the MGCSA when soliciting articles, the Board's input on *Hole Notes*, a sunny afternoon in September with my T-Line Chipper and the sixth hole at the Lafayette Club, never putting your thumb between two four-foot pipe wrenches going opposite directions at high velocity, breaking ninety, the GCSAA's response to the KARE-11 newscast, the very positive attitudes that all Golf Course Managers have, the preparation that all MGCSA monthly meeting host Golf Course Managers go through in order to host a monthly meeting.

* * * *

In case you are wondering, this is my final installment as Editor, and it has been a busy year although I don't think I lost anything off the top of my head. I can't afford to anyhow. We, as Golf Course Managers, are a unique breed, we are Environmentalists, we understand that everyone who plays our facilities mows their yards at 5/32" or shorter, It's Always Greener On The Other Side Of The Fence Country Club down the road has greens that are always stimping at 192" and their main-

tenance budget is slightly less than a dollar eighty. Why do we do it? Well, someone has to! But, look at the enjoyment that we reap. Sometimes it is such a good feeling to go out for a course tour the day before the "Big Event." It's enjoyable to entertain a couple close personal friends on a Wednesday afternoon. Once a month you can get together with 70 or 80 good friends and hash out the last month's events. That's what is great about the MGCSA. You're never more than a phone call away from some type of help, be it a fellow Golf Course Manager or an Associate who can get you the latest on equipment or plant protectants. The MGCSA is there to help the members. The idea of member involvement is not new, but member involvement is necessary to make the MGCSA bigger and most certainly better. You will know when the time comes to get involved, because it will be a subject or idea that you really believe in.

* * * *

Congratulations to Jeffrey and Susie Churchill with the addition to their family, Spencer Claire.

* * * *

Thanks to all Associate Members who contribute to the betterment of the MGCSA.

— Dale Wysocki
Editor

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