

Canada Geese—

(Continued from Page 9)

Evaluate the Problem

Try to define the problem specifically. Are geese obstructing the golf game or is their excrement causing complaints? Is the problem occurring only in certain areas? Is goose feeding or feces causing turf damage? Are you dealing with resident geese or a migratory population? Your method of control will be most effective if you define the problem, narrow down zones of damage and effectively communicate with golfers.

Survey Your Course

Survey your course to determine how you might actually be **encouraging** geese. Where are geese problems most prevalent? Do these places have open water that borders an in-play area? Do you mow grass right down to the shoreline, thus providing geese with the view they prefer? If the answer is Yes, then you are providing great geese habitat.

Feeding Geese

Do any golfers or homeowners feed geese? Have they done so in the past? If this is the case, the geese on your course have probably grown used to people and their numbers may have increased due to the artificial food supply.

Nesting

Are geese nesting on the property? Where? How many pairs are raising young? If geese are just starting to get established and there are only one or two pairs, now is the time to think about goose control.

Migration

Do geese seem to be a problem only in fall and spring? Do you have large flocks landing on your lakes or ponds in autumn? This indicates that your course is being used during migration. In the fall, family groups gather in small flocks, leave their breeding grounds and fly to "staging areas" along the route south. These "staging areas" of open water habitat provide a place for geese to rest and feed between long flights. If geese are mainly using your course during migration, time is on your side and patience is warranted. Before long, the geese will move on.

Wintering

Are geese primarily spending the winter on your course? If this is the case, you are likely providing habitat for a migratory goose population.

Reduce Your Frustration

It is important to recognize that it is extremely difficult to control nature. If your goal is to remove every goose from your course, you will likely end up frustrated, angry and unsatisfied.

However, there are things you can do to try to lessen the impact of geese and discourage them from overrunning the course. Be realistic in your attempts to control geese. You

will have much greater success if you try to strike a balance between Canada geese and the needs of golfers and maintenance personnel.

Choose the Most Effective Control Measure For Your Situation

Control measures fall roughly into three categories: barrier methods, scare tactics and intervention. Some combination of these may prove most successful. Remember, the easiest time to deal with geese is **before** they start nesting. Be ready in early spring when geese begin to breed. Even if they are well-established on the property, preventing them from nesting will break their successful breeding record and discourage them from returning or staying.

Barriers

- **Monofilament line or wire.** String monofilament line or wire around the edge of your ponds where geese are most prevalent. The wire should be approximately six inches above the water line. Several courses have found that two rows of string, one at the water's edge and one about two to three feet in the water, are most effective. The string will not interfere with golf play, but will deter geese from easily walking onto the course.

- **Aquatic vegetation.** Rather than mow right to the water's edge, plant aquatic vegetation around lake and pond margins. This helps to disrupt the expansive view, acts

(Continued on Page 13)

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Canada Geese—

(Continued from Page 11)

as a physical barrier and provides excellent habitat for other more desirable wading birds and wildlife.

Scare Tactics

• **Explosives.** Explosives have been tried with very limited success. Usually, geese will fly away for awhile and then return when things calm down. In addition, the very effectiveness of explosives — noise — will not only disturb geese, but golf course neighbors and golfers themselves. Unless you're interested in putting on a fireworks display every morning, choose another method.

• **Bird scare tape.** Mylar bird scare tape can be tied to stakes near ponds, but is of limited value for geese control. Remember, geese are big birds that don't scare easily.

• **Pistol launcher.** A single-shot pistol launcher, similar to a starter's pistol, can be used to frighten geese. Diligence is important with this method. Geese must be stalked in the early morning or evening until they feel threatened for their safety and leave.

• **Dogs.** Many superintendents have successfully used dogs to chase or stalk the birds. The gently, but energetic nature of the English setter makes this dog a good choice. If you are interested in finding out more about English setters, contact Charles Martineau at Whippoorwill Country Club, 150 Whippoorwill Road, Armonk, New York 10504, telephone (914) 273-3755. Mr. Martineau breeds and trains English setters, and has found them to be most effective in dealing with Canada Geese on his golf course.

Intervention

When other control methods have failed and golfers will no longer tolerate geese on the course, local authorities should be contacted to help you deal with Canada geese. Your local department of wildlife can help you determine the best method of intervention. This may include permits to disrupt nests or eggs, physical relocation (trap and transfer) or hunting.

Never destroy Canada geese without a permit. Canada geese are protected by law. Not only may your course pay large fines for killing geese, the resulting negative publicity can be devastating for your course and your profession.

Education

If geese are a problem on your golf course, you must not only deal with the geese, you must also effectively deal with golfers. Communicate what you know about Canada geese natural history and goose control. Use your newsletter to let people know what strategies you have employed or plan to implement to minimize nuisance or damage.

Finally, recognize that you are not alone. Many superintendents are struggling with the same problem. Encourage golfing organizations to which you belong to open a dialogue with the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife. Wildlife biologists are conducting on-going research about Canada geese. They are interested in learning more about why migratory populations are declining while resident populations are on the rise. Communicating your observations can result in positive progress toward striking a balance between golf and geese.

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The Importance of Repairing Divots

Course Etiquette — It's Everyone's Responsibility

A famous college basketball coach once said that recruiting was like shaving — miss just one day and you look bad. It could be said that golf course management personnel, especially superintendents, feel the same way about golfer etiquette on the course.

Golf Course etiquette is an all-encompassing term that refers to demeanor, adherence to course maintenance rules, and dress, among other issues. However, most associate golf course etiquette to the concept of ball mark repair and divot replacement. Take a moment to consider what a course would look like if patrons were excused from replacing divots or fixing ball marks for just one day. A well-managed facility would look like a battlefield.

Golf course personnel are unanimous in stating that, as a whole, golfers still do not do an adequate job in repairing their ball marks and divots. Despite the presence of posters, notes in newsletters and announcements in meetings to serve as reminders, most facility managers believe the message can never be repeated too much.

This becomes an even bigger issue as the game expands to include more juniors and those who have recently picked up the sport. Instructors and experienced golfers should be diligent in teaching the how and why of golf course etiquette. Failing to teach golfers the proper techniques now creates future problems.

The basis for ball mark repair and divot replacement is for competitive and agronomic reasons. Balls that land in unrepaired divots place a golfer at a disadvantage, just as having to putt over a ball mark. By leaving turf damaged (unrepaired), it becomes susceptible to disease and/or infestation of weeds, resulting in a lower quality of playing surface. This necessitates the need for attention by golf course superintendents and their staffs, thereby taking them away from more pressing duties. As a general rule, a ball mark repaired within 10 minutes will heal with a smooth surface within two or three days. An unrepaired ball mark may take as long as three weeks to heal, but the result will be an uneven surface.

Because grass varieties differ from course to course, and from fairways to the rough, the best rule to follow in replacing divots is to check with the golf course superintendent for the particular policy. As a general rule, replace any divot on the course unless there is a sand or sand/seed mixture provided in a container on the golf car. Typically, the divot is replaced on any course with bentgrass or bluegrass fairways. If you are playing on a course with bentgrass fairways and bluegrass rough, you must pay particular attention to the materials in the container. If just sand is provided,

then fill the divot hole and tamp down the sand with your foot. If a sand/bentgrass seed mixture is provided, divots in the rough would not be replaced so as to not contaminate the bluegrass with bentgrass seed. In Bermuda grass fairways, generally sand is just used.

In replacing a divot, the policy is to replace the divot so the grass can send down new roots. If so, replace the turf in the same direction it came out, and tamp down firmly so the mower won't pull it back out.

—GCSAA

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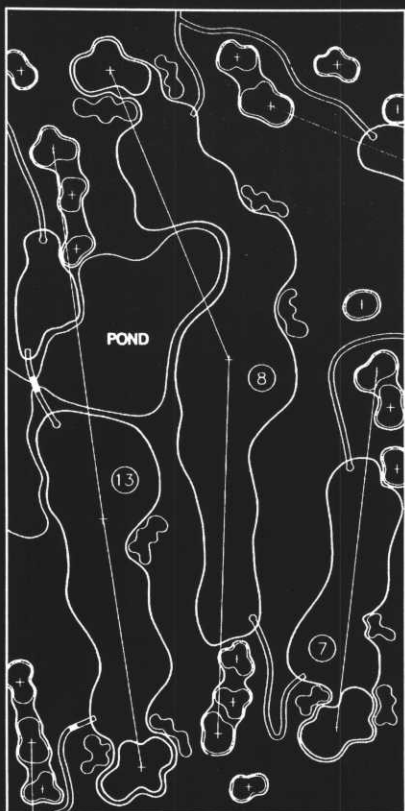
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The Infamous Sea-Serpent

In reference to the Charles Erickson article appearing in the April issue of *Hole Notes* it was implied that Mr. W.F. Brooks and Charley Erickson had invented the irrigation device known as the "Sea-Serpent." Since necessity was appreciated far more than money at that time, many so-called inventions were sold to manufacturers for a new suit of clothes or some form of barter gift.

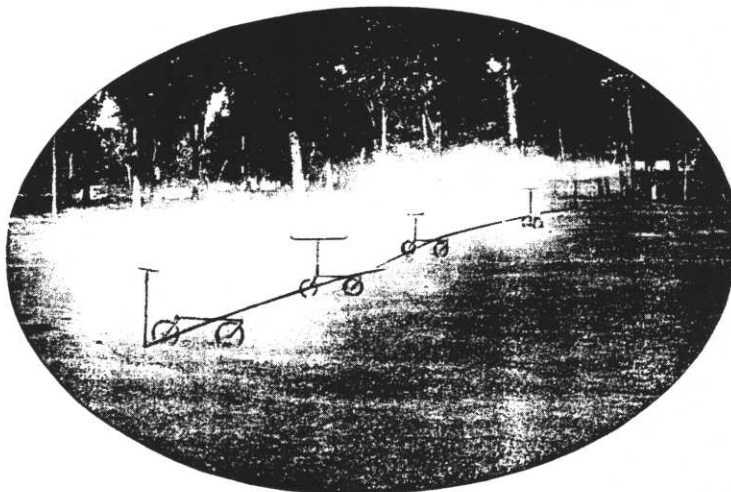
Scotty McLaren of the Toro Company was an astute dedicated employee and had remarkable rapport with golf course superintendents throughout the United States. Scotty knew what was needed in the field and often brought back to Toro ideas that made handsome profits for the company.

We are assuming that somehow Toro was given permission to manufacture the Sea-Serpent.

In 1931 the following advertisement appeared in a golf supply catalogue supplied to us by Stan Kinkead from the "National Mower" archives.

These are assumptions as proposed by Jack Kolb. If anyone has more definitive information, we would be very happy to receive the details.

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HAS YOUR ADDRESSED CHANGED?

Remember, if you have changed jobs or changed houses, the MGCSA would like to get your updated phone and address information to keep records current. The new membership roster will be printed in July 1999.

MGCSA MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 15, 1999

By Michael Brower, MGCSA Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Rob Panuska reported that the MGCSA investment portfolio is at an all-time high of \$157,148. The \$20,000 which was approved by the Board to be moved from money-market to Janus Capital Growth Fund has been completed. Discussion about the operating budget for the next fiscal year. Final review will occur at next month's meeting and be approved.

Communications

Letter from the MGA inquiring about MGCSA strategic plan for the next 10 years. Discussion about what should be in this plan. Executive Committee will give input and relay to MGA. GCSAA letters received with regard to upcoming delegates meeting and a call for nominations, a thank you to MGCSA for supporting the Platinum Tee Club, and the results of the membership survey. Thank you from the USGA for support of its research program. Letter from the Minnesota PGA asking for nominations for the Golf Hall of Fame. Discussion on possible nominees followed.

Arrangements

Jim Johnson reports that he is currently looking for sites

for next year's golf tournaments.

Business Office

Scott Turtinen reported current membership numbers as follows: Grand total — 918; of those, Class A & B — 394; Class C & E — 282; Affiliate — 149; Life — 62, and Honorary — 31. Turtinen also suggested that the MGCSA participate in KFAN radio's "Tee to Green" segment on Tuesday evenings. Public Relations Committee to address this issue.

Conference and Education

Michael Klatte, CGCS, reported on MTGF conference speakers. Dr. Watschke will not be able to attend; most of the other speakers have been confirmed and plans are going along smoothly.

Editorial

Turtinen reported that Kevin Schmidt forwarded an outline of the new respirator requirements gathered from the OSHA manual to be published in *Hole Notes*.

Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation

Michael Brower reported that much of the previous MTGF monthly Board meetings dealt with constitutional changes. Objectives, organization and membership issues more clearly stated in new constitution. MTGF Expo '99 & Benefit Golf Tournament is set for July 20-21 at the University of Minnesota. Golf will be at Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf Course and the Expo will be held at the St. Paul Campus. The Expo will include equipment demos, tours of the gardens, turf plots, hot houses and labs. MTGF will be donating some of the proceeds to the GCSAA Student Chapter at the University.

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JULY 12

Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club
Host: *Steve Schumacher, CGCS*

AUGUST 12

Heritage Links Golf Club
Host: *E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS*

SEPTEMBER 12

Cragun's Resort
Host: *Tom Kientzle, CGCS*

OCTOBER 11

Albion Ridges
Host: *Brooks Ellingson*

DECEMBER 8, 9 & 10

MGCSA Annual Meeting
MTGF Conference & Trade Show
Minneapolis Convention Center

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS: MAY 10, 1999

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Patrick J. Franklin, CGCS TPC of the Twin Cities	A - GCSAA
11070 Radisson Rd., Blaine, MN 55434	
W: (612) 785-0696	
Jason M. Ruhoff Koronis Hills Golf Club	C
415 Richmond St., No. 3, Paynesville, MN 56362	
W: (320) 243-6112	
Nathan Weisel McCarthy Well Company	Affiliate
506 Elwood Terrace, Shakopee, MN 55379	
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RECLASSIFICATIONS

David L. Calder Silver Creek Golf Course	C to B - GCSAA
Brad Deyak Koronis Hills Golf Club	C to B - GCSAA pending
Chris Schellenberg Wayzata Country Club	Student to C - GCSAA
Robert Stern Pebble Creek Golf Club	D to C

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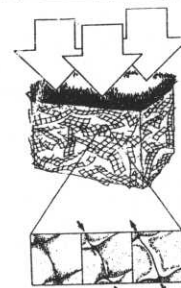
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Deacon's Lodge Gears Toward June 18 Opening

Finishing Touches Being Put on New Arnold Palmer Course, Clubhouse in Breezy Point

By RALPH TURTINEN

Another major golf course — Deacon's Lodge at Breezy Point — is nearing completion.

All signals are go for the June 18th opening of the fabulous Arnold Palmer course, named after his father and located on Weaver Point Road seven-tenths of a mile north of the entrance to Breezy Point Resort.

"Tee time requests for June 18 and other dates have been coming in regularly, and we're almost full for the first day," said Head Golf Professional Mark Neva. "Carpeting is being laid, the asphalt parking lot has been completed, the pro shop is being stocked, landscaping is nearing completion and the course is almost ready for play."

Deacon's Lodge, which utilizes five tees and plays anywhere from 6,964 yards from the blacks to 4,766 yards from the reds, is a golfer-friendly course with huge fairways, one as wide as 71 yards, that should keep the pace of play moving properly.

"But don't think it's just a walk in the park to play," said Neva. "It's attractive, it's varied and is an excellent test of golf."

Three lakes, gnarly waste bunkers, an attractive assortment of white Ohio sand bunkers, various wetlands,

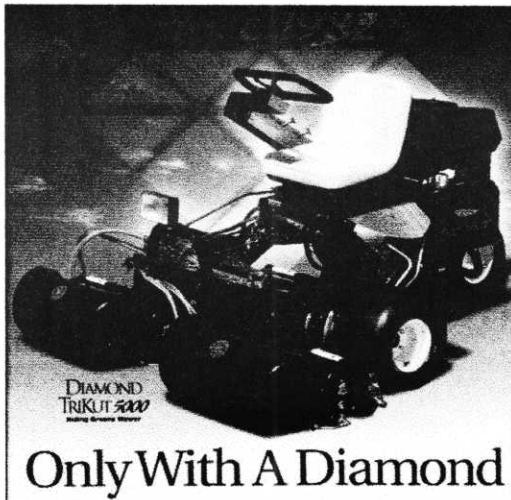
challenging greens and a pleasant assortment of white and Norway pines, birches and oaks lining the fairways make Deacon's Lodge visually interesting as well as challenging. Because of the design, players should have the same feel for each hole with proportional challenges emanating from virtually every tee.

"No matter what their handicap, golfers should plot their way around any course, but particularly at Deacon's Lodge because of its design," said Neva. "They also should enjoy the fact that several of the greens have up to 20 feet of bent grass fringes, occasionally allowing some putting on approach shots."

Cart paths parallel all fairways, some of which have crowns that periodically will enhance driving distance.

Each hole has its own character, but among unusual ones are the opening par 4 with its horseshoe-shaped tee box and its mirror image, the 10th; the par 3 seventh, with two greens separated by a pair of Norway pines, the 15th with its gigantic waste bunker and the scenic par 3 17th, going over marshland with an attractive lake in the background.

(Editor's Note: A more in-depth article about the development of Deacon's Lodge will appear in the July issue of Hole Notes.)



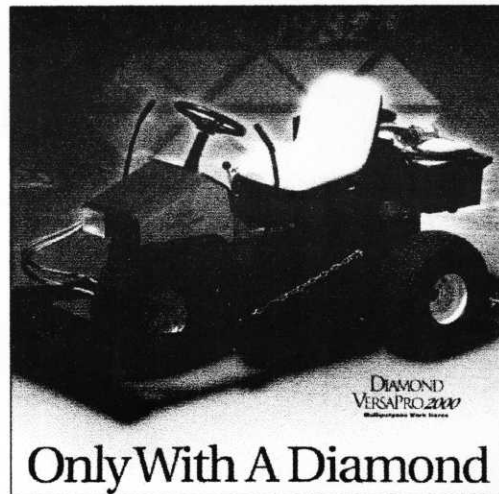
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