

## New Golf Course Water Recovery System Concentrates on Getting the Grass Out –

(Continued from Page 19)

As a contributor of this article, Western Water Products, Lake Forest, CA, announces the introduction of a new water recovery system designed specifically for golf course applications...The LITTLE SUCKER Wash Water Recovery System.

In the real world, golf courses pose a particularly difficult problem for wash water recovery applications due to high amounts of dirt and grass clippings. Grass clippings, if not removed, create conditions allowing organic fermentation to occur. Also, green algae and other micro-organisms will bloom out of control. If not removed, grass clippings can cause severe odor problems and damage high pressure wash equipment.

With the addition of a Grass Catcher Filtration Tank to its' already successful LITTLE SUCKER wash water recovery system, Western Water Products has created a system which eliminates the majority of grass clippings from the water with a unique easily cleanable series of filter-strainer baskets.

In a typical application, Western Water Products recommends the wash pad be designed to include a trench drain, sand trap and/or single hopper bottom pit. The Hopper Bottom Pit is a unique design offered only by Western Water Products and when combined with their exclusive Independent Sludge Removal System pulls additional grass and dirt from the pit and deposits it

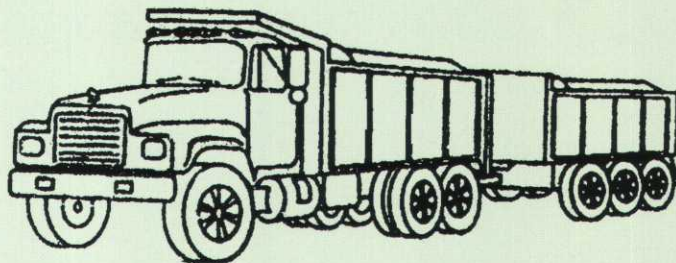
in an easy to clean Above Ground Mud Hopper. Also, with the introduction of this new Golf Course Water Recovery System, Western Water Products also announces the introduction of a pre-formed Hopper Bottom Pit and Grate design which can be located in the center of the wash pad or off to the side. The pit is large enough to accommodate both a Transfer Pump and a Heavy-Duty Sludge Removal Pump.

The **LITTLE SUCKER** utilizes 14 proven water recovery technologies, and with the addition of a newly designed Double Redundant Grass Strainer System, the LITTLE SUCKER is able to overcome the major problem in golf course applications of eliminating grass from the waste water. Elimination of grass has been a major problem in the past with other systems, because it was so difficult to remove and created a breeding ground for algae and other odor causing organisms. The secret to Western Water Products success is two fold.

1) Western Water Products utilizes an exclusive pit "Sludge Removal System" and has developed a unique hopper bottom pit design to promote the collection of sludge at a central point for easy removal.

2) Western Water Products has also developed a "Double Redundant" Grass Strainer Technology incorporating two grass strainers in the pit and two in an above ground "Grass Catcher Tank" and positioned them all in series for maximum grass removal.

(Continued on Page 23)



# LEITNER COMPANY

*Specializing in Soils for Golf Course Maintenance & Construction*

Soil mixing and processing specialists.

Supplying the Golf Course Industry with soil and sand products for over 50 years.

From 10 yards to 10,000 yards - material to specification for topdressing and construction.

Quality - Reliability - Experience

MIKE LEITNER

**LEITNER COMPANY**

945 Randolph Avenue ~ St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

**(651) 291-2655**

PROUD SUPPORTER OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION THROUGH THE MGCSA



PIN PLACEMENTS. MSDS.  
CART RULES. WEEDS.  
WATER TABLES. BILLS.  
LOGISTICS. MEMBERS.  
EQUIPMENT. DRAINAGE.  
DIVOTS. TOURNAMENTS.  
INSECTS. BUNKERS.  
REALLY HARD WORK.  
REALLY GREAT REWARDS.

So much to think about. Allow us to offer something valuable that doesn't take much thinking at all. Accolades®. For simply doing what you do each day and including Bayer products, you can earn points redeemable for great rewards like equipment, free products, computers, or other business tools. You can even donate your points as a contribution to a turf association of your choice. Call or log on today. And let the Accolades Rewards program help make your day.



1-888-456-6464  
AccoladesRewards.com

M03449BES © 2003 Bayer Environmental Science. Printed in U.S.A.



Stephen Kimball  
Sales Representative  
(515) 965-0587



## The Little Sucker-

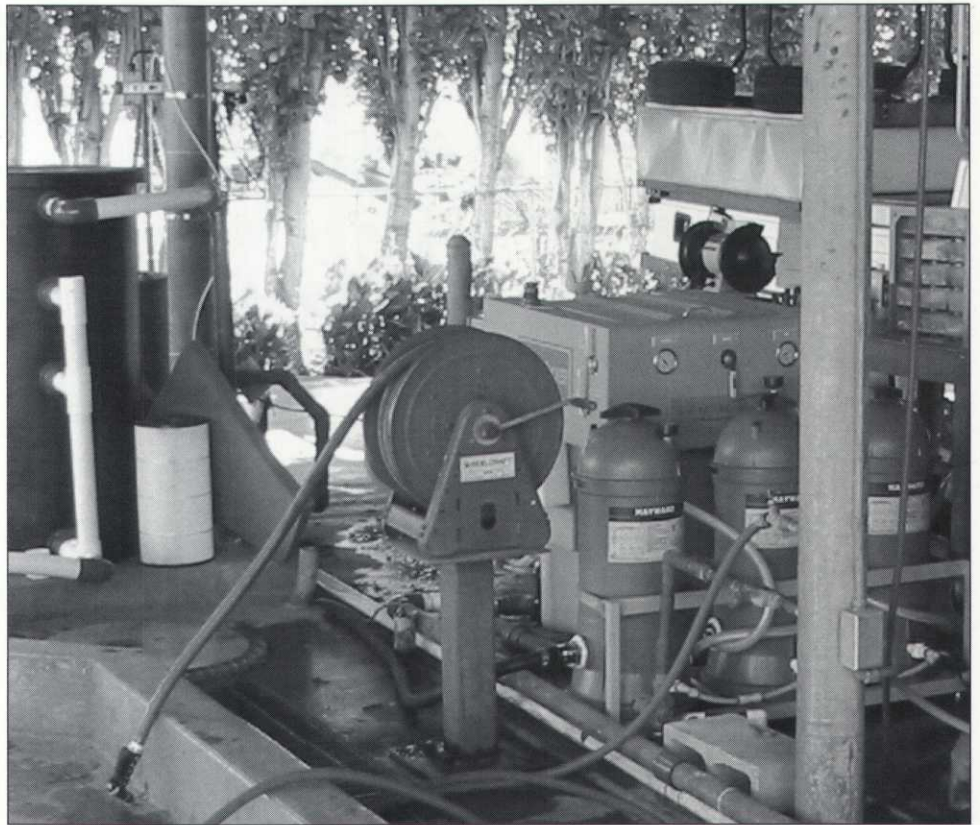
(Continued from Page 21)

Kapolei Golf Course, Hawaii: The LITTLE SUCKER Wash Water Recovery System with Grass Catcher (right).

The result is that the complete system is easier to operate, provides cleaner wash water without a major odor problem, and maintenance has been limited to an average of 1 hour a week. These systems are easy to install, easy to operate and easy to maintain. They take up less space, come ready to assemble and the complete Golf Course System is competitively priced below the competition's partial system.

(Editor's Note: For more information in reference to this article by Roger K. Tychsen, please contact Western Water Products 949-581-8998.)

### The Little Sucker



## QUALITY SUPPLIER OF TURF

- Washed and Regular Turf (Sod) in 1<sup>1/2</sup> yd. or up to 55 yd. Big Roll Size (42" Wide)

### TURF TYPES:

- ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS BLEND
- SPORTS TURF BLUEGRASS/P. RYEGRASS BLEND BENTGRASS



For Quality Turf Contact:  
(763) 674-7937 • FAX: (763) 674-7044

8651 Naples St. N.E.  
Blaine, MN 55449

### MEMBER

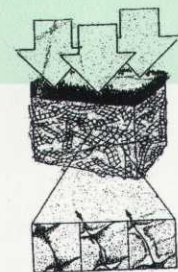
NCTGA	MGCSA
MSTMA	WTA
SDGSA	ISTMA
MTGF	TPI

## QUALITY CONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTION

- Golf Courses • Sports Fields



NETLON® ADVANCED TURF SYSTEMS  
Self cultivating means healthier turf  
and better drainage



NETLON® MESH ELEMENTS AND MIXES  
For Compaction Resistance on cart paths,  
sports fields and other high use areas.

For Quality Construction & Netlon® Products Contact:  
(763) 784-0657 • FAX: (763) 784-6001



# Premier

commitment to

# Quality

irrigation, inc.

*Providing Quality Golf Course & Athletic Field Irrigation*



new course  
**Construction**



**2 YEAR WARRANTY**  
ON ALL NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS



- **New Golf Course Construction**
- **Certified Irrigation Contractor**
- **Licensed, Bonded & Insured**
- **Flexible Installation Schedule**
- **Financing Options Available**
- **Renovations, Additions & Upgrades**
- **Pump Stations & Retrofits**
- **Fountain & Aerators**
- **Repair & Service**
- **Winterization & Start-ups**

Premier Irrigation, Inc. is the only irrigation contractor also to be licensed by the Minnesota State Board of Electricity as a Class "A" Electrical Contractor.

This distinct advantage allows us to do all our own electrical work without involving other subcontractors

renovations,  
additions &  
**Upgrades**



**Premier** irrigation, inc

Hastings, MN 55033

Call to Schedule a Free Site Visit

621-480-8857 • 651-480-8854 Fax



## Under the Gun—

(Continued from Page 23)

have bermuda grass that can survive that heat or bentgrass which is much more tolerant of the pressures than annual bluegrass."

But while golfers are stuck with the heat, and to some extent with the limited watering regimes mandated in many municipalities, they can still make smart, informed choices about the conditions they expect to find at their clubs. That can make all the difference.

Rossi regularly lectures clubs and related golf organizations on this subject (he was one of the featured speakers at the MGA Foundation's Presidents' Council last fall), hoping to persuade golfers not to get too greedy in their pursuit of quality. "My message is simple," he says. "Superintendents are being pressured to provide U.S. Open conditions on a daily basis, and that's just not a tenable situation. If golfers continue to pressure for these conditions day-in, day-out-and we're talking about green speeds on the order of 10.5, 11-what they do is narrow the superintendents' margin for error."

Superintendents learn quickly. "When you're maintaining putting green turf, or any turf, at that state, and you have one little thing go wrong, it's like balancing on a razor," says Chip Lafferty, the superintendent at Rye Golf Club in Westchester County. "You're going to fall off."

In Lafferty's case, falling off meant losing his job as superintendent at Wykagyl Country Club, also in Westchester, after a tough 2002 season. It reached its nadir in early July—just prior to the arrival of the LPGA's Sybase Big Apple Classic—when the power failed and he was unable to pump water for two days straight when the temperature was pushing 100 degrees. The club later hired two outside turf consultants, who basically confirmed what Lafferty had been saying all along: "We were trying to get the greens rolling at 11 every day and you just can't do that in the heat of the summer. It's something I'll never try again," says a sadder, wiser Lafferty, who managed to land on his feet at Rye.

This is largely a regional problem. When Rossi tells superintendents in other parts of the country about our green speeds, "they basically fall off their chairs," he says. "[The obsession with fast greens] is on the two coasts and, to a certain extent, in the Chicago area."

In some ways, green speeds are just one more silly status symbol, like fast cars or how high a floor you live on. "It's comparisons," says John Carlone, the superintendent at Meadow Brook Club on Long Island. "Golfers love to have each other over for member-guests and compare things: My greens

are better than yours. My fairways are better. My bunkers are better than yours. It's like who has more hair left when they are 55! Is it really that important?"

Well, members think it is, largely because they can afford to. The Met Area has the most high-ticket clubs in the country, and when you've paid a king's ransom to join, you expect a lot in return.

One wonders what pleasure super-fast greens hold for the average member. Lafferty was curious enough to perform his own little study. On successive Saturdays he timed members' rounds. "I had the greens at 9.5 one weekend and the speed of play was about four hours," he says. "I kicked them up to 11.5 the next weekend and it was 5:25. There's a direct correlation to pace of play."

And, surely, to score. You have to wonder about the golfer who'd willingly add strokes to his score, plus an hour of precious time, in order to boast that he's playing greens rolling at 11.5. "It's an ego thing," says Tim Moraghan, the director of championship agronomy for the United States Golf Association and a member at Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey. "Members and sometimes superintendents like to be able to say, 'My greens are always at 11.' Well, good for you. I hope you can maintain it because you have turf-grass on the edge, and it's like any of us: You push, push,

(Continued on Page 26)



**FIELD EVENT WINNERS** at the Scholarship Scramble were, from the left, Bill Irving, Marlow Hansen, Jeremy Walker and Mickey Saatzer. Walker won long drive and the others were closest-to-pins.



**GILL  
MILLER** INC.  
*Golf Course Architects*

**Design • Renovation • Master Planning • Practice Centers**

122 North 2nd Street • River Falls, WI 54022 • 715-425-9511 • e-mail: [info@gillmiller.com](mailto:info@gillmiller.com)

visit our website [www.gillmiller.com](http://www.gillmiller.com)

Member: *American Society of Golf Course Architects*



## Under the Gun—

(Continued from Page 25)

push, push, and the next thing you know, you're sick."

The Metropolitan Golf Association, through its championships, has been trying to set a more forgiving example. At last year's Ike Championship the decision was made to cut the devilish greens at Montclair to 9.5, no faster. "And the result was a great championship," recalls MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola. "We were able to use all of Montclair's classic hole locations, the pace of play was fast, and on a 6,500-yard course, just one player broke par."

Where have the unreasonable expectations come from? "It's demand from members who watch the Masters on television in April," Carlone says, "and say, 'Why is our course not like Augusta National?'"

In his role with the USGA, Moraghan knows better than just about anyone why not. "First off, you don't have hundreds of volunteers helping out," he says. "You don't have a huge budget. You don't have all the equipment companies bringing stuff in. You don't have two or three agronomists on call, and you don't have a couple of pathologists from the local universities coming in to help out." And, he could have added, you don't have a whole year to prepare for one week of peak conditions.

Mark Kuhns, the superintendent at Baltusrol and a newly elected board member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, has a slightly different take on things. He says that, in a way, superintendents themselves are to blame because they set such high standards for themselves and have become so good at what they do.

"Yes, the bar is higher than ever before [for superintendents], but the equipment's much better too," Kuhns says, noting with a chuckle that 26 years ago, when he got his first job as a super, at the Ligonier Country Club in western Pennsylvania, the club's water source was an old railway freight car which caught rain water. "The way I knew the tank was filled was whenever water was running over the top." He now relies on computer-automated irrigation that covers the entire course. "Don't blame only the members," he concludes.

"We all feel we can provide those conditions for the membership," Lafferty agrees, "and if we can't, I guess we have that paranoid feeling that the members are going to go out and get somebody who can."

The pressure can be intense. "They want the place perfect," Carlone adds. "They want the greens fast on the weekend. Just get it done. And you know what? We're going to get it done." Because, as Kuhns says, "We're so well trained and have the tools to do our jobs. We've found so many places to cut corners to do whatever we can to please the membership, that we'll get it done."

(Continued on Page 29)



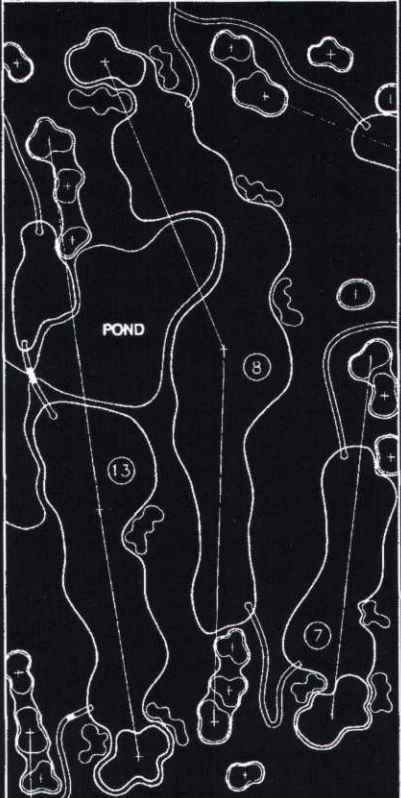
**Mel Strand, CEO**  
35 Years Experience

**Double Eagle  
Golf Construction**

*Renovation Experts  
...Construct the New*

17715 Jefferson St. NE ~ Ham Lake, MN 55304 (763) 434-0054

HERFORD • NORBY



GOLF COURSE  
ARCHITECTURE

■      ■      ■

(952)942-0266 (952)942-0197 Fax



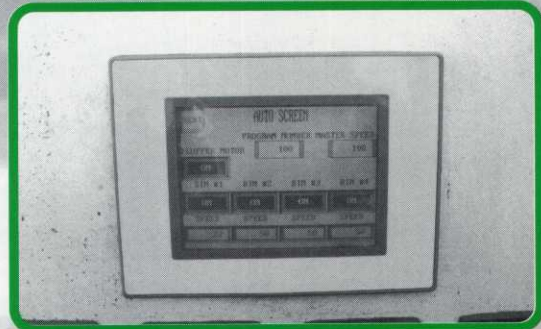
# Computerized Custom Blending

**Consistency • Consistency • Consistency**

State of the art computerized mixing machine to achieve the best accurate mix. Light years ahead of mixing with a Bobcat or Powerscreen.



Four bin computerized blending machine with screen deck and conveyor belt.



Computer monitor touch screen.



Blending yard with blender, stacking conveyor and stock piles.



Screen deck and stacking conveyor.



**Plaisted  
Companies**  
INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 332  
Elk River, Minnesota 55330  
763.441.1100 • Toll free 1.877.564.8013



P.O. Box 332  
Elk River, Minnesota 55330  
763.441.8387 • Toll free 1.800.441.1880

**Contact: Steve Young (612) 840.3087 (cellular) or Kerry Glader (612) 868.0163 (cellular)**





Bayer Environmental Science



**We Take Protecting Your Turf Very Seriously.**

**And Why Shouldn't We? It's Your Investment.**



**When it comes to your turf –**  
want to treat it as though it is our own. We want to maintain your investment with the industry's leading products from Bayer Environmental Science.

**So next time don't call the other guys,**  
call us, because we do care – a lot.

Turf Supply Company - We Take Your Turf Very Seriously.

Contact your "Turf Expert" at **651-454-3106**.



2797 EAGANDALE BLVD • EAGAN, MINNESOTA 55121 • 651-454-3106 • 1-800-551-4857



## Under the Gun—

(Continued from Page 26)

Education helps. The oldest generation of superintendents may well not have gone to college at all, but the men and women trained today by the likes of Rossi and Clarke are likely to have four-year degrees in the appropriate sciences, plus all sorts of specialized certificates and licenses. Technical training is needed too, because now they spend so much time monitoring the shrinking number of chemicals they can use and precisely how much of each.

Long gone are the days when superintendents could rely on the old heavy metal fungicides which shotgunned everything. The chemicals are out there, but they must be applied far more carefully and only to treat specific problems—and that brings up another problem supers contend with: “They don’t want to be seen spraying because a lot of guys really believe it’s out-of-sight, out-of-mind,” Rossi says. The GCSAA surveyed golfers and found that “seeing workers on the course” was one of their top complaints, not far behind the top answer, which just happens to be another maintenance necessity, aeration.

Clearly, maintenance is a conflict for a lot of club golfers: they want it out of sight, but they also want a perfect course. It’s also clear that they must acquire realistic limits, if not for the sake of being reasonable and fair to their supers, then for the health of the club’s turf. “We’re reaching the biological limit of these plants,” Rossi warns. “And it would be nice for golfers to at least recognize that their expectations are driving this.”

## It's In the Hole...

Stephen and Amy Kimball had a new girl, Sara

**Michelle Kimball** was born June 18th, 2003 at about 4pm. She was 7.6 lbs, 20.25 inches long. Baby, Mom and Stephen are all doing well, and getting some sleep ...



**Don White** and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 27 June ...

**Jack MacKenzie** was married on June 21st. His brides name is Kim MacKenzie ...

**Steve Roxberg** was presented with this year’s MGCSA Scholarship at the Scholarship Scramble in New Richmond on June 30. Steve attends Penn State when he’s not attending to his assistant superintendent duties at Wayzata Country Club...This year’s Turfgrass Research Benefit Week raised over \$11,000 for local turfgrass research.



Pictured left to right at North Oaks Golf Club during the 17th Annual MGCSA Turf Research Benefit Week are AJoe Fischer, Quality Insulation, St. Louis Park; Tom Osberg, JNR Adjustment Company, Plymouth; host superintendent Jack McKenzie and his dog Nugget, and George Harper, Spartan Promotional Group, Tonka Bay. “North Oaks was in excellent condition, the greens were flawless and the fairways were impeccable -- not that I used them for hitting shots but they were nice to walk on! I want to make this an annual stop on my golf calendar,” said Harper, who has participated in this benefit for the past 10 years and has contributed over \$3,000 towards turfgrass research. Not pictured with this group is Alan Lanners, Dial Lawyers, Plymouth.

Since  
1973

**HASSAN**  
Sand & Gravel  
Rogers, MN  
763-428-2393

Decorative Rock - Black Dirt  
Driveway Aggregates - Washed Sand & Rock  
Sand & Clay Fill - Golf Course Materials  
Pick-Up or Prompt Delivery

13530 Willandale Road  
Rogers, MN 55374

Fax 763-428-4710  
[www.hassansand.com](http://www.hassansand.com)





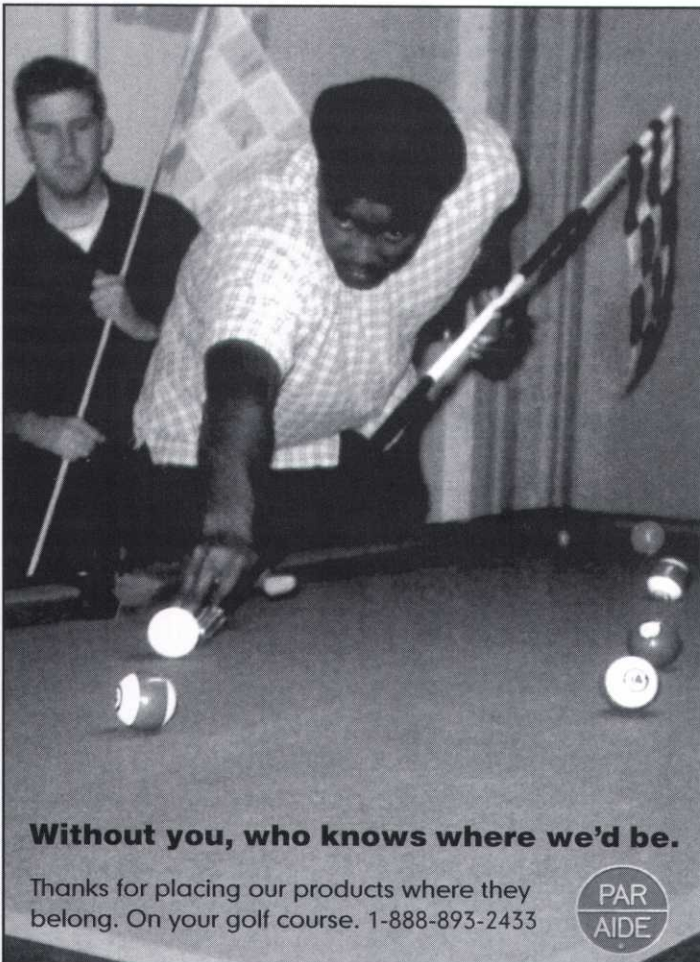
## In Bounds

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS  
North Oaks Golf Club

A few years back I was visiting with a fellow tenured superintendent regarding the plight of one of our peers who had been let go. While counting our blessings he mentioned to me that in our business, most often the demise of a superintendent was self-induced, or as he put it, "complacency equals the front door." Wow, what sobering words of wisdom.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, complacency is the adjective of complacent which means to be self-satisfied and smug. In the above-mentioned quote, complacency is interpreted as being self-satisfied to the point of taking a position for granted. In this case, and in many, the superintendent had assumed that what he was doing was good enough because he was satisfied with his product. Unfortunately for him he failed to regard the demands of his players and thus failed to counter issues that demanded his attention.

Many in our business would consider my daily regime of cutting cups personally a bit retentive. However, how else am I going to really see the course from both an agronomic and player perspective? Of course someone else could be trained in the art of pin locations, but by doing this simple chore I am forced to visit every green, tee, fairway and rough complex on the course every twenty-four hours.



**Without you, who knows where we'd be.**

Thanks for placing our products where they belong. On your golf course. 1-888-893-2433



In the afternoon I am again out on the course setting my irrigation system from satellite boxes. At one time North Oaks had a viable computer operated system, but due to the installation of many new irrigation heads and the changes in technology, my PC controls became somewhat obsolete. However, it forces me to be in my member's faces as I travel the course adjusting the irrigation manually. Along the way I ask questions, give answers and monitor the ever-changing conditions of the course. My membership is my greatest ally when it comes to limiting complacency. If I miss a step they let me know and you can be sure that I am quick to get back into line. But there is no contact if I am holed up in my office.

Other complacency busters include having my staff wipe down the benches, tee signs and ball washers every day. There is no better way to spot damage or chipped paint. And as crazy as it may seem, we Armor All the plastic wastebaskets monthly and the bunker rake handles mid summer as well as during the off-season. And everyday we paint a beauty ring around our cups. You can imagine the look on the player's faces when they witness these finishing touches. Pampered? You bet. Over the top? Perhaps, but it goes a long way to prevent the perception of "taken for grantedness".

The complacency concept can be applied to all aspects of an individual's life from the job place to the home front and even into personal issues such as health, both mental and physical. At work, rest or play, an individual has to be mindful of their surroundings so as not to become overly satisfied.

Reflecting upon my first marriage I can see that it was very easy to take my home life for granted. My mind set was that if I labored hard and did a good enough job at the club I would be rewarded at home. And work hard I did, putting in 70 plus hours each week in the quest to create perfect playing conditions for my players. Unfortunately I became complacent in my family relations and suffered the consequences.

When was the last time you brought flowers home for your spouse? How many school sponsored field trips did you attend during the off season? Have you sat down and visited with your parents recently? Does your dog get enough hugs? And when did you take time out and effectively RELAX, alone? Besides maintaining a close tie with loved ones, an individual must take care of himself or herself.

Out of college I weighed in at 155 pounds. A lean, mean grass-growing machine! Eight years and 70 pounds later my body threw in the towel and demanded attention. Not just physical either. Besides becoming complacent with my muscles, my mind had deteriorated as well. Thankfully I committed myself to some serious mental consultation and changed my life from disarray and randomness to a focused purpose. Through exercise, sobriety and inner reflection I was able to really "clean up" my act.

Now I'm not attempting to lecture anyone on how to live their lives, but from a professional and personal perspective I have seen many great people slip and slide down the slope toward complacency. Attentiveness takes dedication. Awareness requires close observation. Responsiveness necessitates the reflection upon the whole picture, not just a second in time. To ride the crest in our profession, especially in this day and age of greater and higher expectations, golf course superintendents cannot afford complacency.

Whether with my wife and children, on the job, meditating or relaxing with a good book or fishing rod, my goal is to maintain awareness and truly be the best that I can be (to coin a phrase from the Army). I let my family know how much I love them every day. My employer gets 100 percent of my vocational attention. And when I take time to enjoy the gifts that life has to offer, I truly take a moment or two or ten or one hundred. My whole life is too short to be complacent. - JM