

Paul Barefoot, U.S. Soldiers Home, has been re-elected National President for a second term of the Professional Grounds Management Society. CONGRATULATIONS PAUL!!!!

Safety For Tree Workers

Back in our September Newsletter we enjoyed an article on trees titled "How to Butcher a Tree" by Dr. George Blake of the Univ. of Minnesota. This article was very well written and entertaining to read, but did not seriously point out safety regulations we should be aware of.

Tree work, be it pruning or dropping a dead tree, faces every superintendent in the fall and winter months of the year. While light pruning can often be taken care of with our summer help, the heavy and dangerous tree operations take place when the turf maintenance slows down and all the fall leaves are finally out of the way. We also have the added value of frozen ground to drop dead trees on during the winter months.

Safety with tree work begins with a complete instruction of the operation of the chain saw. I consider my chain saw the most dangerous tool I have to operate. All operators should be instructed to treat the saw as he would a gun — never point it at anybody. Proper adjustments and oil and gas mixtures can be taught in the shop, but actual cutting techniques have to be demonstrated on the job.*

Tree workers must be encouraged to form safe working habits. This may be done by constant encouragement, discussion, and demonstration.

There is at least one right way and almost invariably numerous wrong ways to do every job. Following are some safety suggestions:

1. Know the basis rope knots if climbing in trees.
2. Do not climb or work in a tree when the bark is wet.
3. Avoid big tree work on windy days.
4. Only one man in a tree at a time.
5. Never less than two men when working with a chain saw — one cuts while the other removes the brush and cut wood.
6. Make daily inspection of all tools, rope, and other equipment.
7. Hard hats should be worn by all men working with trees.
8. Under average working conditions the working load placed on a rope should not exceed one-sixth of the breaking load or one-fourth the breaking load if the rope is new.
9. Ladders should not be used in tree work unless the base can be set on a firm foundation.
10. Lowering ropes should be used if the ground is not frozen or ground damage is anticipated.
11. Do not attempt to work on trees near electrical power lines — call in Pepco or professional tree experts.
12. Under cut a tree before making a final cut to drop a tree.
13. Small brush should not be cut with a power saw — limbs can cause injury to the operator.
14. Do not allow logs or brush to accumulate at the site of tree work.

Normally we are expected to accomplish all necessary tree maintenance with our own workforce and equipment. I would expect that none of us are as well equipped as professional tree service companies. Consequently, everyone should exercise caution when improvising for lack of proper rope, saddles, etc. Call in insured professionals when in doubt.

Keep in mind the accident rate in the field of tree specialists is higher than almost any other industrial line of work, as indicated by the high insurance rates that are required of commercial tree organizations.

Craig Spottswood
Editor

*Read *Power Saw Safety* in Nov issue.
Weeds, Trees & Turf



Annual Golf Tournament Results

59 Golfers

\$500 in Prizes

Our Annual Tournament brought out a field of 59 golfers, largest ever for the year. David Fairbank, our golf committee chairman, obviously worked long hours preparing for this tournament, for which we are all grateful.

Class A & B Championship Flight

1st and 2nd low gross — Bill Glover Trophies — Tied Tom Comalli and Craig Rhoderick. (Play off - December Meeting — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club)

3rd low gross - Dick Fisher

1st low net — Ron Hall

2nd low net — Virgil Robinson

3rd low net — Sam Kessel

4th low net — Ralph Strough

Class A & B Handicap Flight

1st low net — Rubin Heinz Trophy — Gillie Shapiro

2nd low net — Rubin Heinz Trophy — David Fairbank

3rd low net — Lee Deiter

4th low net — Bob Orazi

5th low net — Lou Rudinski

Class C — D — F — G — H Flight

1st low gross — Mike Whitt

1st low net — Glen Swenson

Class E (associate) Flight

1st low gross — George Wingo

1st low net — Charles Johnson

Guest Flight

1st low gross — Lee Jarman

1st low net — N. Steffins

Longest Drive — Paul O'Leary

Closest to Hole — Vernon Sullivan

Highest Score — Ralph Strough