

## A Few More Gags About Those Geese

Willet Wilt, the humor columnist for *The Greenside*, the publication for New Jersey superintendents, said recently that he had been asked why styrofoam swans no longer had any affect on geese. His answering analogy was, would you be afraid of a 6-foot styrofoam mugger with a knife? As for the USGA recommendation that a couple of good bird dogs could be used to pester the geese off a course, Wilt feels this could be a problem in that most of the geese are now so fat and happy they're bigger than most dogs.

He met a superintendent who was confused by something his greens chairman said, to wit, "Those things are noisy, disruptive, and messy." The superintendent couldn't be sure if his chairman was talking about the geese or a recent outing held at the club.

One course has tried putting out styrofoam swans, fenced around the shore, installed sirens, thrown cherry bombs, fired a starter's pistol, bought chase dogs, and sprayed repellent. Wilt says that if the Germans had done this on D-Day, they might even have won the war.

Geese are fast becoming the superintendent's greatest adversary, surpassing the weather, his labor force, his bosses, and even the golfers. Have you ever tried to predict what a goose will do, or pay one to do what you want, or reason with one, or even work around a whole gaggle of them? Finally, the Rules of Golf say nothing about what to do when your ball is lying on goose droppings, so it comes down to whether you're playing USGA or Winter rules (tip: if playing USGA rules, keep mouth tightly closed when hitting the ball).

## Meeting Schedule 1986

- June 10 — C.C. of Swan Creek, Daniel Rozinak, host
- July 8 — Eisenhower G.C., Louis Rudinski, host
- August 12 — Picnic, Hobbit's Glen, Bill Neus, host
- September 9 — Open
- October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselman, host
- November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
- December 9 — Open (Annual election meeting)

## WILL A PERSONAL COMPUTER BE AN ASSET TO YOUR GOLF COURSE OPERATION?

by Lee C. Dieter, CGCS

Do you write reports, keep records, prepare your budget, have an inventory of equipment and/or supplies as part of your responsibilities? Granted, these are all chores that you can accomplish with a pencil and a piece of paper, but a computer can make it much easier. Recall, storage, comparison, and evaluation of your records can all be done quickly and economically.

The basic system I use is a Commodore 64, with a single disc drive, a monitor, and a Smith-Corona electric typewriter with an interface. This system with the following software gives me all the capability that I've found necessary. I use a spread sheet, a data-base, a word processor, and a golf course software program designed by Tom Mitchel, a superintendent in Georgia.

The spread sheet is actually a ledger with variable rows and columns. This program is used for budget preparation and comparison, the daily maintenance schedule, and other records that require a ledger format. The ability to move material around on the record and for totals and calculations to be done automatically add to the flexibility of the program.

Data-base is a filing system. Individual records may be kept on equipment, employees, supplies, parts, or any other desired category. Each record can contain numerous questions and can be called up as needed and printed in report form. Only the necessary information is drawn from the file. Again, calculations can be done automatically.

Word processing is used in all writing applications. It is especially helpful in preparing reports and in correspondence.

Probably the most helpful software available is one that is designed for a particular application. The one I use keeps records and makes calculations on equipment, pesticides, and fertilizer. The use, costs, rates, and timing are all pieces of information that are immediately accessible. The information on this program is so varied and detailed that an article could be written on it alone.

I started using computers very cautiously. I already had a computer at home and decided to experiment. The first program I bought was a Typing Tutor. If I was going to use a computer, I wanted to be a more proficient typist. The next was the data-base. I entered my entire equipment inventory, including all information I felt pertinent. At this point I was about convinced, and receiving my EEZY-GOLF software was all I needed to make my decision — I was ready to purchase a computer for use at the club.

Many types and models, of course, are available and all will do the job within certain limits. I knew that the Commodore would do all that I wanted to do and the price was certainly right. I spent \$350 on the computer, and the letter-quality typewriter cost about the same. The typewriter has an interface so that it can be used as a printer for the computer. I've spent less than \$300 on software to date.

I put in some extra time and made a few mistakes along the way, but I believe I've got a better operation, and I know I'm maintaining better records. I'd also like to think that it's made me a better supervisor, manager, and golf course superintendent.



## SUPERINTENDENT-PRO TOURNEY (Continued from page 1)

Four 67's were registered, and matching cards ranked them in this order: fifth, Preston Licklider and pro Billy Phillips of Winchester Golf Club; sixth, Tom Haske and pro Glenn Brown of Westwood, the defending champions; seventh, Buddy Williams and pro Kevin Wilmuth of Prince William Golf Course; and eighth, Bob Miller and pro Ernie Rosen of Suburban Club. Two teams posted 68's, with Nick Vance and pro Dave Walker of Laytonville Golf

Course matching out Scott Wagnor and pro Luther Showaker of Leisure World, for ninth and tenth place, respectively.

Longest drive on No. 15 was hit by Tom Regan of Bethesda, while Paul O'Leary was closest to the pin on No. 4 at 11'2" and Bobby Jenkins was 11' away at No. 13. Among the pros, closest to the pin at No. 4 was Gordon Murray of Bretton Woods at 4'8½" and on No. 13 it was Hilton Phillips of International at 9'11".

The Clare Emery Memorial Trophy will thus reside in Annapolis for the next 12 months.