

## LANDSCAPE PROFILE

get rid of) patches of the layer, which has so far been limited to bentgrass greens. Weekly aeration and fertilizing, along with application of hydrogen sulfite, seem to somewhat contain small patches. But a cure is obviously needed before the problem becomes epidemic.

### Good and bad

Despite some problems, golf course use is still on the rise, with most private clubs having to put prospective members on a waiting list.

This has its downside. Increased traffic means more work for supers.

Spike marks on greens and tees have been a problem at some courses because of traffic. To aid the greens' recovery, Randquist has been aerifying the greens at Southern Hills more frequently.

Lower cut and slower growth have not helped the recovery process either. Tom Harrison of Maple Bluffs Country Club in Madison, Wis., has been trying to convince his members that a slightly

higher cut, slower green, would be beneficial to the course. Unfortunately, he says, golfers prefer faster greens.

Harrison hopes that the spikeless shoe market will pick up. He has been encouraging club members to purchase the less-damaging shoe, and says of the spiked variety, "I'll be tickled the day they're gone."

Jon Scott believes that many courses being built now and in the future will take on a more practical shape: adequate-sized greens, tees and fairways, but not excessive. "I see a more manageable course, less extravagant," he says. He adds, however, that there will always be a niche for the extravagant course.

Dennis Orsborn concurs. "Our heyday is over. We must become as well educated as we can, and keep up with changing technologies as best we can. This is a business, and we must treat it like a business."

### Points of interest

Increased traffic should also provide some good sales for equipment manufacturers, especially of aerifiers. Golf course managers who read *WEEDS TREES & TURF* reportedly spent more than \$5 million on them last year (see chart).

Golf courses also have provided 75 percent of all expenditures on

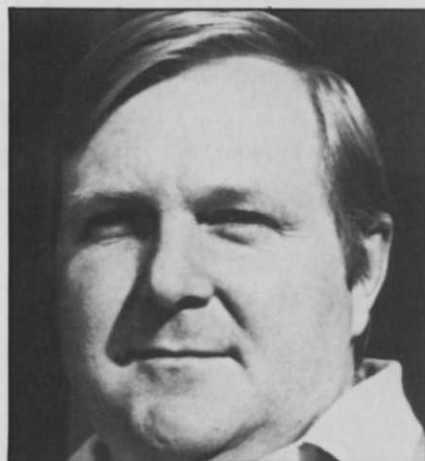
walk-behind reel mowers (\$6.5 million worth) and nearly 70 percent of riding reel mowers (\$29 million). Golf courses have provided about half of the industry's expenditures on tractor drawn gangs (more than \$10 million).

As always, fungicides occupied a good portion of golf course expenditures this year.

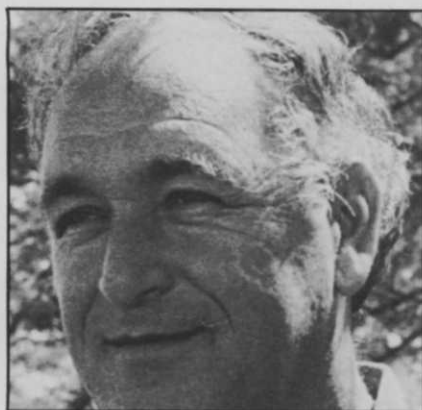
Superintendents who read *WEEDS TREES & TURF* spent around \$56.4 million on them in 1986. All other readers of *WT&T* spent \$25.2 million. Finally, supers laid out a good amount of cash for plant materials last year, nearly \$12 million worth overall. **WT&T**



Dennis Osborne: our heyday is over



Jon Scott: less extravagant courses



Dick Herr: finds stop-gap solution

## THE COMEBACK

Three years ago, cows grazed at Castlewoods Country Club in Jackson, Miss. Now the course is among the area's finest and improving quickly.

**T**hree years ago, Castlewoods Country Club resembled a cow pasture instead of a golf course. Today, it's the site of the Mississippi Golf Association four-ball state tournament.

Castlewoods, no longer ridiculed as Jackson's worst golf course, is much nearer the top of that list and continuing its climb. You can thank the new owners for deciding to put

up the money needed for nurturing a quality course.

And then there's Stanley Reedy, a soft-spoken, 26-year-old native Mississippian, who has served as superintendent since October, 1983.

He's the guy who took the beater course and shaped it into an effective advertising tool for the surrounding housing development.

No big deal, says Reedy with

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typical “aw shucks” modesty. But one senses Reedy is proud of what he’s done.

“This place was a goat ranch,” says Reedy. Castlewoods didn’t really have a superintendent; just people who mowed periodically.

“The clubhouse was a little trailer. When I first interviewed for this job I told them ‘no way.’ I was coming from a lush place with a \$400,000 budget (Belle Terre Country Club, a Pete Dye course in Laplace, a New Orleans suburb). But they promised me they were going to do everything they’ve done,” says Reedy. He’s referring to Castlewoods Land Development owners Zack Hederman and Larry Edwards.

“Now I’d match this course against any course in the state,” says Reedy. “My crew is doing a great job.”

### Disaster zone

In 1983, Castlewoods wasn’t a pretty place. “I would estimate the turf was 40 percent bermudagrass, 30 percent dirt, and 30 percent weeds,” recalls Reedy. “There were open ditches in front of the greens and the sand traps weren’t really sand,” says Reedy. Drainage was poor and the traps were essentially mud. The No. 18 green was bald.

The club owned one tractor and two greensmowers, one halfway buried in mud. (Reedy and crew unearthed the Jacobsen tractor. It still runs today.)

“The first thing we did was buy equipment,” remembers Reedy. Included was a JI Case backhoe, two Ford tractors, two 72-inch Toro mowers, two Toro greensmowers, a sprayer and a Chevy pick-up truck. They also bought a turf vacuum, blower, sand pro and two Cushman truckstors.

“The workers didn’t even know how to calibrate a sprayer. I’m not knocking the guys—they did the best they could,” says Reedy.

Next came the necessary job of upgrading and, in some cases, installing drainage systems. “We contracted out a bunch of it. Then we installed culverts and catch basins the first fall and winter,” says Reedy.

In 1984, Reedy and his reliable crew paid particular attention to upgrading the club’s poor fairways.



Castlewoods was once called Jackson’s worst golf course. Today the course is in tournament condition.



The crew at Castlewoods built several greens and changed the contour of others. Hole #1 is an example of the successful renovation.



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Reedy row-sprigged Tifway 419 bermuda. The crew also rebuilt a few greens and changed the contour of others.

### A focal point

Among the vast changes, none is as dramatic as the picturesque lake that highlights the first hole. Reedy ordered it built immediately for aesthetic purposes.

Other smaller bodies of water have been extended, like the pond to the right of the green on the par 3, 172-yard seventh hole that is perhaps the course's visual highlight.

Reedy has taken an idea from Pete Dye and added some cross-tie work along the pond's bank. He's also added a number of bunkers, upgraded the Toro irrigation system, rebuilt the driving range and started

a tree-spading program.

### Room for improvement

Reedy readily admits he and his crew have more work ahead. Play has increased tremendously and traffic problems are apparent. Membership has grown by 200 percent in two years thanks to the improvements and resulting population boom in the adjacent Castlewoods development.

Surprisingly, despite the Jackson humidity, Reedy has few disease problems. He is experiencing a war against the pine bark beetle which has taken out a number of the course's pines.

He says the course will be in top condition for the State Amateur championship coming this summer, should Castlewoods be chosen. Right now, the course is in the top two.



Castlewoods' superintendent Stanley Reedy has wanted to work on a golf course since his teen years when friend Pat Sneed told Reedy how rewarding the job is. Reedy later married Sneed's sister, Dot. Sneed is superintendent at Tupelo (Miss.) CC.

That makes two of the top four state tournaments held at Castlewoods.

Come to think of it, Stan Reedy has a right to be proud.

## MAKING A LIVING

Owners of public golf courses, like Jay Scott of Tanglewood, depend on greens fees for a livelihood. They might make the best superintendents of all.

**J**ay Scott has invested a life in 18 golf holes.

And if you don't think that Tanglewood Golf Course isn't the most efficiently-run, best-manicured course around, you don't know what "investing a life" means.

Twenty years ago, Scott's father Ralph spurned the life of a

**Jay Scott checks a Tanglewood tee for overall quality, his number one consideration.**

