



Rick Grote: Keeps a 'clean' course, plans well ahead for expensive projects.

nutsedge control, at the course.

Grote's next project might be cart paths; but he's not sure.

"A lot of the members like to walk, the course" he explains, "and there's not a lot of room for cart paths," because of Terrace Park's narrow layout.

Grote's a busy man; he's currently on the board of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation.

Terrace Park was built in 1931, and is situated along a busy ribbon of winding road in Milford, Ohio, about 15 miles east of Cincinnati.

—Terry McIver

## Computers a worthwhile adventure in trial and error, say these superintendents

■ We all know by now that a computer can make your life easier. It's just a matter of admitting that you need one—and granted, you might not need one...yet—and then taking the plunge.

"I don't think there is a low to medium budget golf course that would not be receptive to a \$1000-\$3000 expense to buy a computer," says **John Carlone, CGCS**, of the Middle Bay Country Club, located in Oceanside, N.Y.

"We're in the information age, and we need a way to manage that information," says Carlone, whose computer skills progressed slowly, to a point where he's now comfortable enough about the subject to give a speech to his peers. Carlone told his story of computer enlightenment to superintendents at the recent GCSAA International Show in Dallas.

Payroll, irrigation scheduling, budgeting, landscape management, it's all possible with a good computer system.

To narrow his learning curve, Carlone turned to a colleague more skilled in computer science, superintendent Duane Patton at Lawrence Country Club in Lawrence, Kans.

Patton visited Carlone twice to lend a hand.

Carlone says having someone help with initial computer training is "the most valu-

able thing you can do. Trying to teach yourself can be very frustrating, not knowing where to start or where to go for help. My computer was off for a number of months before I had someone come in and teach me."

A good reference book helps, too. Carlone's computer bible is "*DOS for Dummies*." (DOS stands for disk operating system); he'll page through it at any spare moment.

**Corey Haney**, super at Bristow Manor Golf Course, Arlington, Va says computers are not a cure-all, but they are helpful business tools.



Carlone: Hire a tutor for computer help

for tools we use everyday.

"The computer can process and store large quantities of information, and help

"They're not going to solve all your problems but they're certainly going to help you with any you have now," he promises.

Haney says computers are "nothing more than electronic replacements



you use it in different ways; it can also help you make decisions."

What's right for you may not be right for the super down the road, but Haney believes the common computer denominator is how it improves efficiency.

Word processing is "an electronic typewriter, no more or less. Newsletters can be written to communicate with the golfers, and help explain course projects. Spread sheets can be used for budget calculations, cost per acre, annual costs, all faster, neater and more professional.

"(Computer skills) could certainly become a career requirement," says Haney—and the superintendent who ignores the technology might be overlooked for someone who can operate even a most basic system.

"The popularity of golf has led to what seem like longer seasons," says Haney. "We have tougher conditions and more demanding golfers. Computers will reduce the time we spend indoors."

—Terry McIver