

Thunderstorms marched across Lake Erie the morning of August 25 booming and cracking and raking Cleveland with curtains of rain.

The crew at Pine Hills, probably like crews at other nearby courses, spent the morning on mop-up duty. Four or five inches of rain in a couple of hours is a lot of water. There would be no golf at Pine Hills this particular morning. That's one reason we at LM could spend a few minutes chatting with its superintendent, Brian Vickers. The LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT staff had taken a day off in July and played Pine Hills, and met briefly with Brian afterwards. That's why we called him: we wanted to know more about him and the course.

Pine Hills GC is located about 10 miles south of us near Hinckley, Ohio, a growing but still-quiet community that takes some delight in celebrating the return of the turkey buzzards each spring. The course has seen lots of thunderstorms since its opening in 1957.

So has Vickers, now in his 28th year there.

For a public golf course, Pine Hills is a gem. It's one of the best public courses in north-central Ohio. At 6400 yards it's not particularly long, and if you strike the ball straight and play intelligently, you can score. Its rolling tree-lined layout offers few surprises and no tricks. It provides what every fine public course should—18 fine holes of golf at an affordable price.

Brian Vickers' story is undoubtedly like many other superintendents who started working on a public golf course while they were in high school, and found a career.

"I started at the very bottom just like everybody else—hand-mowing around trees, raking bunkers, cutting cups. I had to work my way up," he says.

Unlike many of his col-

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Valhalla readies for another PGA

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A plan for lake purity

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Myopia Hunt Club restored

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IPM at Collier's Reserve

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Birkdale team a hit at British Open

The grass is greener here

leagues, however, he stayed put. To Brian the grass never looked any greener on any other course in any other part of the country.

"I've been fortunate because I've had some excellent mentors and I could follow in their footsteps," he says. "I've also have a good crew (his assistant is Trent Wash), including the young people here each season. They are either in high school or college, and we get some turf students from Wooster (Ohio) too."

Vickers (like most supers) doesn't seek publicity in spite of the fine job he does. He focuses on keeping Pine Hills' turfgrass first rate, and particularly its predominately *Poa annua* greens. His longevity at the course suggests that he does just that. **LM**



Vickers: good mentors help along the way.

[SUPERS ON COURSE]

Ohio supers on the move

Andrew Knappenberger is director of golf maintenance at Quail Hollow. He was last at the Homestead in Hot Springs, Va.

Peter Bursan is new superintendent at Valley View Golf Club in Akron.

Craig Kachline is assistant superintendent at Canterbury Golf Club. He was last at Raleigh CC.