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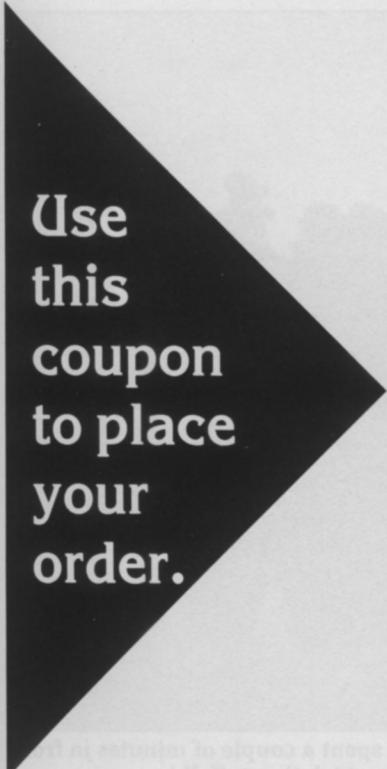
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LM

No one can convince superintendent Dick Schulz that working at Atlanta Country Club is a 24-hour-a-day job. Maybe 22 or 23. But never 24.

That's what happens when you're in the middle of the Atlanta Classic, a PGA Tour event, and a Texas-sized thunderstorm does its best to wash away your course overnight. You also find out what your staff thinks of you.

The storm was an interesting tribute to the 20th anniversary tournament, June 20-26, 1988. The deluge started at around 9:30 Saturday night. "An inch-and-a-third of rain and hail in nine minutes," Schulz recalls, shaking his head. "You couldn't see 10 feet in front of you. The wind blew about 60 miles an hour." The casualties: seven trees down, six more hit by lightning; tents, tables and umbrellas blown all over the countryside; two copiers tossed 20 feet into a pond; 63 bunkers washed out; trash everywhere.

"It was incredible," Schulz remembers. "We figured out we moved between 500 and 600 tons of sand in the bunkers that night trying to dry them out."

Sounding the call

Two of Schulz's assistants—Cory Hopke and Scott McDaniel—along with two turf students living and working at the course, were there when the storm hit. Schulz and the rest of the staff—10 full-time and three part-time people—had gone home.

Schulz had been cooking out with houseguests. When the storm hit, his brother (one of the guests) got on the phone and started calling crew members. He reached all but two part-timers. "Some of the people had already made it back in before my brother called. They knew the storm had hit. We worked through the night."

They broke for some sleep around 3 a.m., but not much. They started up again at 4:30, joined by the Atlanta Classic Foundation President Jim Abney, past president J.L. Jerdin and president-elect Leo Corely.

"They got some volunteers together and started picking up the trash," Schulz says. "We worked on turf areas and the sandtraps. We cut up a bunch of trees, blew trash off the greens. We worked our way around the course in order, finishing at around 9:30 a.m."

"I wasn't sure we'd play Sunday because I had never experienced that kind of storm during a tournament. We stayed ahead of the golfers and we didn't have to delay the start-up at all."

WEATHERING A CHAMPIONSHIP

What do you do if a massive thunderstorm pummels your course in the middle of a PGA tournament? Hope Dick Schulz is on your side.



Atlanta Country Club superintendent Dick Schulz recalls repairing his course overnight in the middle of a PGA tour event. "It was incredible," he says. "We figured we moved between 500 and 600 tons of sand in the bunkers that night trying to dry them out."



Touring pro Larry Nelson, a club member, spent a couple of minutes in front of the CBS cameras talking about what a great job the staff did.

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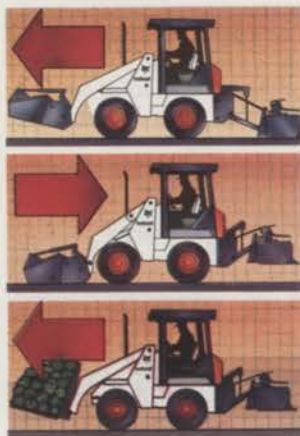
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The staff received much recognition for the job it did on the course that night.

Plug on CBS

"Touring pro Larry Nelson, a club member, got out on the 18th green after the tournament ended Sunday and spent a couple of minutes in front of the CBS-TV cameras talking about what the staff did; and the newspapers—it was incredible!" Schulz recalls proudly. "My assistants worked a 24-hour shift with that hour-and-a-half sleep."

This was Schulz's fifth Atlanta Classic. (The sixth runs May 22-28.) The first four were somewhat less eventful. "The tournament is probably the most fun week of the year. It's tough," he understates. "There's a lot of hours, but it's fun because we worry about the golf course only.

"It's pure turf management and personnel management and it's exciting. We get to see the players and we have more exposure each year through CBS and the media. Some of the players even stop by and say

'hello.' It makes the staff and the crew feel good."

In calmer times, the job is a bit easier. Schulz and his staff only have to deal with things like drought, a fairway irrigation system in the process of renovation and other little annoyances like a climate conducive to turf diseases. New wells will help ease future drought conditions and the membership approved a \$125,000 program to improve the irrigation system.

Fusarium fighter

Schulz keeps the summer diseases—mainly fusarium, which has plagued the course through its 25-year history—at bay with a rotation of preventive fungicide applications anchored by a one- to two-ounce spring application of Mobay's Bayleton.

"Bayleton is very strong on fusarium," Schulz comments. "From a cost-per-ounce-applied and results standpoint, it's superior."

"We've come up with a program

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'It was incredible. We figured we moved between 500 and 600 tons of sand in the bunkers that night trying to dry them out.'

—Dick Schulz

that functions extremely well. We have not had disease problems since I came here in February, 1984," Schulz says.

This all serves to make the crew's job a little easier, and Schulz's job a little more secure. He has the support of his members, reflected in their willingness to increase pay to bring in better people. He has a lot of confidence in his staff, which includes three assistants—Hopke, McDaniel and irrigation specialist John Miller—and a mechanic.

"I'm either going to look good or bad depending on the type of staff I have," Schulz believes. "It's a people business."

Schulz has a history of working with good people though he's only 33, but it's a bit of a problem. "Whenever you have a really good staff they move on." To date, 14 of his former assistants are now superintendents. Still, it's a good problem to have. **LM**

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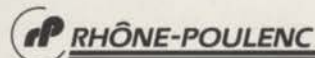
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MONITORING MOWING

We have a fair idea of how many people in the green industry operate lawn mowers. But how many operate them carefully? Here's a mowing safety quiz that will help you and your people determine how safety-conscious you are.

SAFETY FIRST QUIZ

1. When using a walk-behind mower on a hillside, is it better to mow across the hill or up and down?
2. What can you do to help prevent mower blades from throwing objects out of the discharge chute and causing damage?
3. Is it a good idea to mow as close to a tree trunk as possible so less trim work will have to be done?
4. What action should you take when moving a mower across a gravel driveway?
5. Where would you park a mower for refuelling?
6. What's the first action to take before clearing a clogged mower?
7. How does landscaping affect mowing safety?
8. Where can you get more information on mowing safety?



Riding mowers are more stable going up and down slopes.

Here are the answers

1. It's recommended you mow across hillsides with a walk-behind mower so that you're less likely to fall on the tumbling mower if you slip and fall. However, riding mowers are more stable going up and down slopes. Steep hillsides can be planted in a groundcover that never needs mowing.
2. Before starting the mower, walk around the lawn to pick up debris—sticks, stones, dog bones, chain—anything that can be hurled by the mowing blades.
3. Avoid mowing close to trees. If you mow close to a tree trunk, you run several risks. First, you can scrape off bark and damage the tree. You can be scratched by lower branches. You can be thrown off-balance by lower branches. If possible, remove the

grass around trees in a circle with a one- to three-foot radius, depending on the height of the tree. Fill the circle with a soft mulch like shredded bark. This makes it possible to trim more conveniently with the mower and helps protect the tree.

4. Before mowing across gravel, turn off the mower blades so they don't send out a hail storm of tiny stones.

5. A driveway is a good place to refuel because any spilled fuel can be wiped up conveniently without harming the lawn. If possible, when refuelling, wait for the engine to cool.

6. Before clearing a clog, you, of course, should make sure the cutting blades are turned off and not under power. Disconnect the spark plug wire on walk-behind mowers. Turn off the mower engagement switch on a riding mower. Never put your fingers under the mower deck if there's any possibility that the blades can turn under power. The blades move very

close to the deck housing.

7. Landscaping touches can determine your mowing direction. Mowing forward provides better visibility and greater convenience. Mowing backward is a more awkward maneuver. If you have to go backward, look back before moving and keep looking all around. Move as short a distance as possible; try to move forward as soon as possible.

8. Mowing safety information is available from several sources. The operator's manual is one. Decals on the machine itself is another. Or, you can sometimes get safety information from the manufacturer itself from your dealer/distributor. Finally, a booklet titled "Safety Know—How" is available from John Deere & Co., Dept. 574, 1400 Third Avenue, Moline, IL 61265. The 12-page booklet for both landscape professionals and homeowners discusses the safe operation of mowers, tillers, snow blowers and chain saws.

LM

MENDING A WOUNDED BIRD

From hell-in-a-handbasket to tournament shape...It's been a long road, but Quail Hollow Resort is now a top-notch facility.

Make no mistake. Work still needs to be done on Quail Hollow Resort. But it's a far cry from the work that needed to be done 10 years ago to this inn and 18-hole golf course near Painesville, Ohio.

The inn and course combination is only 13 years old. The course, designed by Robert Von Hagge and former touring pro Bruce Devlin, opened its first nine holes in August 1975, the second nine a year later. It went bad shortly thereafter.

It became a Ramada Inn franchise in November 1975. That lasted less than a year, when it was bought by

Diamond Shamrock in October 1976.

"[Quail Hollow] probably would have closed without Diamond," says Jerry Mix, former director of public relations for the Diamond Shamrock Chemical Division.

Over the next five years, Mix notes, Diamond Shamrock "poured capital" into improving and remodeling the facilities. At the time, the company still had its world headquarters in Painesville. (It has since been moved to Dallas.) The company's intention was to turn Quail Hollow into a corporate training center. "It was an important resource to them," Mix says.

But Diamond intended to make it more than a training center. It wanted a resort. The key was a good marketing plan, something prior management hadn't had.

Diamond started by closing the golf course for major renovation in 1977. Irrigation systems, shelters, bunkers, improved path drainage and new equipment got first priority. Maintenance and cart storage buildings were erected, and renovations to guest rooms, the kitchen and clubhouse were completed.

The resort began hosting golf outings and corporate meetings; the refurbished restaurant, the Quail



By September, 1985, Quail Hollow was in tournament condition. That year, it hosted the Ohio open, which it will do again this September.



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Superintendent Jim Loke believes in playing the course to inspect it. One of his additions has been dwarf Alberta spruce planted as 100-, 150- and 200-yard markers, here on the 13th.

Wagon, promoted dining and Sunday brunches.

More work

In 1982, Diamond brought in superintendent Jim Loke from Firestone Country Club. The first thing he did was to set his priorities.

"The greens were in such poor shape," he recalls. "They needed a lot of T.L.C."

Nine greens needed partial resodding because of bare spots. Where resodded, the substructure of the greens was rebuilt for better drainage. "If it was economically practical, we would have rebuilt all the greens. But it wasn't practical," Loke adds.

His second priority was to lower the cutting height "down to an acceptable level." His first stop was $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, but that was too short for golf clients not used to fast greens. Loke now keeps it at $\frac{5}{32}$.

He also found the soil mix in the greens to be too high in silt, about 12 or 13 percent. They were too firm. An aggressive ongoing aerifying program and sand/peat top dressing is relieving the compaction.

While this was going on, Diamond sold the resort to Club Corporation of America, a country club managing

company, in September 1983. After moving its headquarters to Dallas and focusing primarily on oil and gas concerns, Diamond no longer needed the facility.

CCA bought Quail Hollow, the company's first venture at resort management, because Robert Dedman, the chairman and owner, "fell in love with the property," says Quail Hollow general manager Joseph Lucko. "He felt that, being in the country club business, getting into resorts was the natural way to go."

CCA, Lucko says, has maintained the improvement path that Diamond Shamrock set the facility on originally. Improvements to course drainage and bunkers continued and tree stumps were removed. In all, CCA pumped about \$500,000 into the course, half of that for new equipment.

Another area of concern for Loke was soil chemistry, a need to reduce acidity with lime plus gypsum and supplement of sulphate, (a four-year program, Loke notes). The course was also too well shaded. Loke has had 500 trees removed. As a result, "we have grass growing where grass has never grown before," he says. "That was kind of the obvious stuff."

The irrigation system is still being renovated. It now has a Toro closed hydraulic system with Toro AT4 controllers. The pump house is being rebuilt, with flow meters added to control larger pumps and improve watering efficiency. He hopes to have the system completed this year.

Each hole now has 100-, 150- and 200-yard markers. In 1985, 10,000 feet of cart paths were asphalted. Unfortunately, because of the water properties of clay under the paths, the base was insufficient to keep the paths from cracking when the clay expanded and contracted as it moistened and dried. Plans call for the paths to be resurfaced this year, with a proper base. Loke notes that they are still trying to determine what the proper base will be.

Needless to say, the course has taken a lot of work. Loke credits assistant, Dan Nagy, a 25-year-old Ohio State graduate who has worked at Quail Hollow for seven years, with excellent help.

He has the course now where "over several months, we are able to get the course in tournament shape." Which is a far cry from where it was 10 years ago, when it was several months away from playable. **LM**