

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

Leaves, Leaves, Leaves It's That Time of Year

INFORMATION ON:

- Zebra Mussels
- Assistant Superintendent
- Summer Field Day
- 69 Years Ago
- GTI Update



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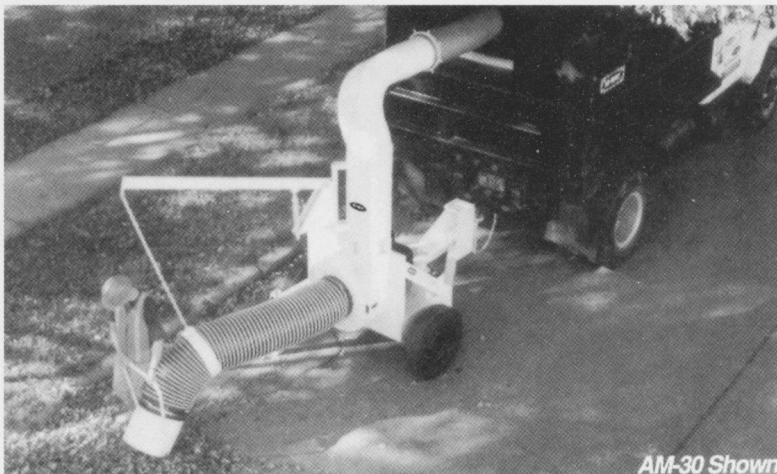
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

contents

OCTOBER EDITION 1997

what's inside

- 2 EDITOR'S COMMENTS
by Mark Piccolo
- 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Simon George
- 4 ZEBRA MUSSELS
by Lamont Anderson
- 7 THE CHANGING ROLE
Leader Board Publication
- 7 JACK OF ALL TRADES
by Terry Buchen
- 8 SUMMER FIELD DAY
by Keith Bartlett
- 10 25 YEARS AGO TODAY
by Barry Endicott
- 11 TURF GRASS CONTACT INFO
- 12 HANDICAP INDEX
USGA
- 13 A SOARING SUCCESS
by David Bird
- 15 GTI UPDATE
by Rob Witherspoon
- 16 AS WE FIND THM
UGSA Green Section Bulletin
- 17 ANNUAL SLO PITCH
by Everett Nieuwkoop
- 17 TEN COMMANDMENTS
Bo-Links
- 19 RYEGRASS IS BETTER
by Stanley J. Zontex
- 20 MANAGING TREE LIABILITY
Leader Board Publication

advertisers

- 3 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD
- 6 TURF CARE PRODUCTS
- 9 CENTURY RAIN
- 9 ONTARIO SEED COMPANY
- 9 THE SCOTTS COMPANY
- 9 NU-GRO CORP.
- 9 ALMACK & ASSOCIATES
- 12 BRAEMAR
- 14 ISK BIOSCIENCES
- 15 NU-GRO CORP.
- 17 G.W.DUKE EQUIPMENT LTD.
- 18 NUTRITE
- 19 PAR EX

editor's comments



My three year old son Kyle told me the other day, that after the leaves are all gone the snow will come and we can make a snowman. After all the play our course has received this past month due to some incredible weather, having to deal with leaf removal, fall projects, budgets, and believe it or not cutting grass. I'm looking forward to building

a snowman more than you can imagine Kyle. We are all in high gear with our fall maintenance and construction projects at this time of year. Soon dormant fertilizer and chemical applications will be applied and my favorite time of year, when the covers go on the greens.

In this issue Lamont Anderson from Pointe West Golf Club tells about his dealings with Zebra Mussels, and some interesting reprints from the USGA Greens Section Record.

A reminder to all of our affiliate members that the advertising rate schedules have gone out. We encourage you to take advantage of the Yearly Rate Specials as the OTS issue will be the next issue we produce. Let us know if you have any interesting products you wish to feature or deals you wish to advertise.

Mark Piccolo
OGSA Newsletter Editor

Green is Beautiful 1997

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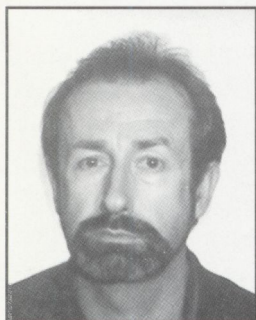
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president's message

O.G.S.A. President

Simon George



It seems that I am always being hounded and harrassed to get yet another message from the president out, so here goes another. Fall is certainly here, with snow already in many areas. The whether has been so unpredictable this year, I wonder what sort of winter we will have.

Year end for the O.G.S.A. is September 30th and all is well, both financially and politically. The O.G.S.A. is now committed to the C.G.S.A. Occupational Standards Initiative and will be hosting the Ontario Focus Group at the Donalda Club on Nov 3 & 4. The program for the O.T.S. is out now and looks to be well planned as usual. Please remember that our A.G.M. is on Wednesday Jan 7, 1998 at 5 p.m. followed by our first Presidents' reception. Continued success in the fall, and hope to

see many of you at the upcoming seminar programs in the near future.


Best Regards
Simon George
O.G.S.A. President



Consider yourself a candidate.

Applications for the 1998 Environmental Steward Awards are available from the August issue of *Golf Course Management*, GCSAA Online (www.gcsaa.org), affiliate chapter presidents, program sponsors and the GCSAA service center (800/472-7878).

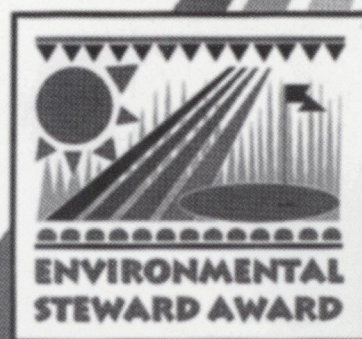
We'll look forward to receiving your application by October 31, 1997.

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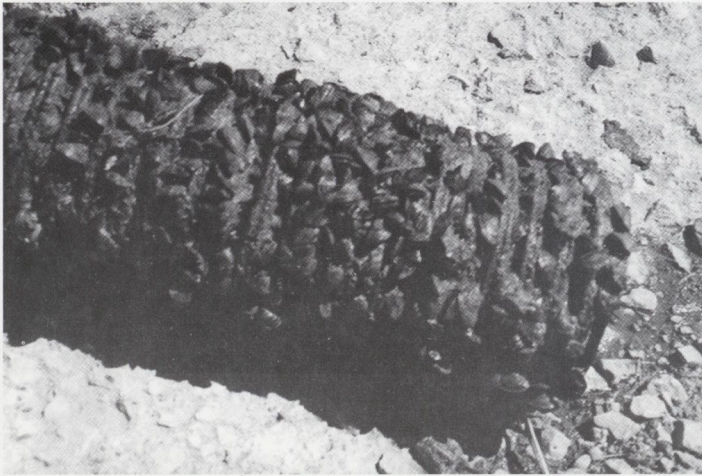


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zebra mussels

Zebra Mussels

*Lamont Anderson, Pointe West Golf Club
OGSA Director*



How would you like to turn on your irrigation system in the spring, and have only a small percentage of the sprinkler working properly? You know your pumps are working fine. You can't find any leaks or faulty valves. The sprinklers worked properly last Fall. The greens and tee sprinklers now just barely function! Upon closer investigation, you discover all these sprinklers are plugged at their screens or in their swing joints. They are plugged with fragments of broken Zebra Mussel shells! Now every sprinkler has to be dug up, removed, disassembled and completely cleaned! The swing joints must be flushed out or disassembled if flushing out fails.

Where did all these Zebra Mussels come from? We found completely intact shells, which were an inch long and 1/2" wide. How could such large shells enter our irrigation system? What can I do to prevent this situation from happening again? Our next step was to find out about the Zebra Mussel's history and how to prevent it from entering our irrigation system.

The Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena Polymorlipa*) has the potential to foul water intakes, to disrupt ecosystem balances, to interfere with sport and commercial fishing, navigation and recreational boating and beach use throughout the Great Lakes. The Zebra Mussel is native to Black and Caspian Seas. It was introduced to European ports in the late 1700's. Within 150 years of its introduction, the Zebra Mussel is found throughout all European inland waterways. The Zebra Mussel is

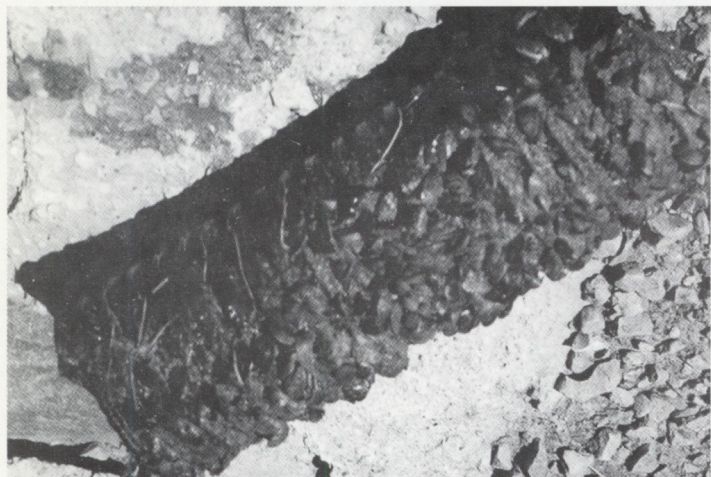
believed to have arrived in North America around 1986. Ships originating from overseas freshwater ports carried the Mussel in freshwater ballasts which were then discharged into freshwater ports in the Great Lakes. Researchers believe the Mussel was dispersed throughout the Great Lakes by inter-lake freighters. Zebra Mussels could also expand into inland waterways in our Province by transport of veligers (larvae) by waterfowl or by adult mussels attaching themselves to boats, crayfish and turtles.



Zebra Mussels are small (2" or smaller) bivalve mollusc (relative of clams and oysters) with elongated shells marked by alternating light and dark bands. They attach to nearly any surface by dense elastic strands called byssal fibres. Mussels attach to intake pipes due to their affinity to water currents. Reduced water flow can result when Mussel colonies are large. When they die, in large numbers, the water can have a foul taste. Colonization depths vary throughout the Great Lakes according to light intensity and water temperature. Mussels are usually found at depths of six feet to twenty five feet. They prefer water temperatures between 68 degrees Fahrenheit to 77 degrees Fahrenheit and water current at 0.15 to .5 meters per second. Mussels can live a few days out of water depending on atmospheric humidity. They don't like water temperatures below 45 degrees or above 90 degrees, water current greater than six feet per second, or rapid water level changes.

Zebra Mussels

Lamont Anderson, continued



Sexual maturity is reached in two years. A female mussel can produce 30,000 to 40,000 eggs per year. Fertilized eggs are 4 to 7 microns long and become planktonic larvae (veligers) in two to three days when water temperatures reach 57 degrees to 61 degrees Fahrenheit (14 degrees to 16 degrees Celsius). The Veligers actively swim for two weeks, travelling considerable distance from their place of birth. This is when they enter our irrigation system.

The young mussels reach the settling stage after 3 weeks of hatching. This is when they attach to bottom debris, intake pipes or in our case, irrigation pipe recesses. During irrigation, the mussels are forced throughout the entire system. When the sprinklers are not in use, they can attach to recesses in the pipe such as the ones which exist in coupler valves etc. The life span of Zebra Mussel depends upon environmental conditions. Life spans average around three and a half years, but can reach five years.

The Zebra Mussel has enjoyed a population explosion in Lake Erie due to the Lake's highly suitable chemical, biological and thermal regimes and lack of predators. Phytoplankton is their food source. They filter the phytoplankton out of the water using a siphon-like ciliated gill system. A single mature Zebra Mussel can filter about one litre of lake water per day. This phytoplankton filtration's ability can increase water clarity. Canadian researchers claim that Lake Erie's clarity has increased two-fold since the Mussel's introduction. Their presence could possibly affect Walleye and Lake Trout population because of their ability to filter phytoplankton and their presence in rocky spawning beds.

Drinking water and Industrial Facilities have felt a major impact because of the fouling of raw water intakes. The Zebra Mussel's colonization of intake pipes has caused a loss of intake head, obstruction of valves, obnoxious methane gas production, and electro corrosion of steel and cast iron pipes. In addition, in plants where raw water is used for cooling, lubricating and/or fire protection, the pipes can become clogged. Another impact has been on Commercial Navigation recreational boating.

Zebra Mussels attached to the ship's hull reduce fuel efficiency. They foul the ship's engine cooling system, and speed up corrosion on ships and docks. How can a golf course using water from the Great Lakes prevent these Zebra Mussels from entering their irrigation system? They can't be filtered or screened. The veligers (larvae) would easily pass through most screens. Since Mussels do not attach in high current flow, we don't experience a lot of sprinkler plugging during periods of heavy irrigation. The problem is when the irrigation system is idle over extended periods of time. The veligers (larvae) attach themselves to the PVC pipe and in the Fall when the irrigation system is winterized, there is no water to sustain life. The mussels die and begin to release their hold. The dead mussels decay and leave their shells. In April, when we pressurize the irrigation system, the shells of the mussels are driven into the bases of the sprinklers. Over the years, we have learned ways to minimize this problem.

One solution has been to flush into our ponds through open 2" pipes upon initial start up for about six hours. This seems to remove a large majority of the Zebra Mussel's shells. We still spend about 120 man hours every spring unplugging sprinklers. In an effort to find a more permanent solution, we have turned to other industries to see how they cope with this problem.

Research has indicated it is best to eliminate Zebra Mussels in the water pipeline at the early veliger stage. Many industrial plants physically scrape mussels from their water system, or with smaller pipes, scraping may be accomplished by a method called "pigging". This method is expensive and time consuming. The use of electrostatic filters placed in a pipeline cross section to kill the veliger mussel has proven

Zebra Mussels

Lamont Anderson, continued



technically impractical for most industrial situations.

In the Soviet Union, one of the most efficient means of controlling Zebra Mussel encrustations is the systemic and periodic flushing of the water system with heated water. However, this would be impractical for a golf course. Chlorination at the point of raw water intake or within the system has been proven to be effective in controlling Zebra Mussels depending upon the time of

year, and the size of mussels. The treatment may require up to 5.0 mg/l of chlorine. This could be a practical solution for a golf course. All that is needed is an industrial metering pump, a solution tank, and the necessary corporation stop and nozzle, plus proper supply lines. The chlorine solution can be obtained through local suppliers at reasonable prices. There is concern for negative effects of chlorine on non targeted species. Ozone and Molluscicides may also prove to be effective as an alternative to chlorine. Before using any chemical treatment method, readers are advised to check with the Ontario Ministry of Environment to determine legality of use for your situation.

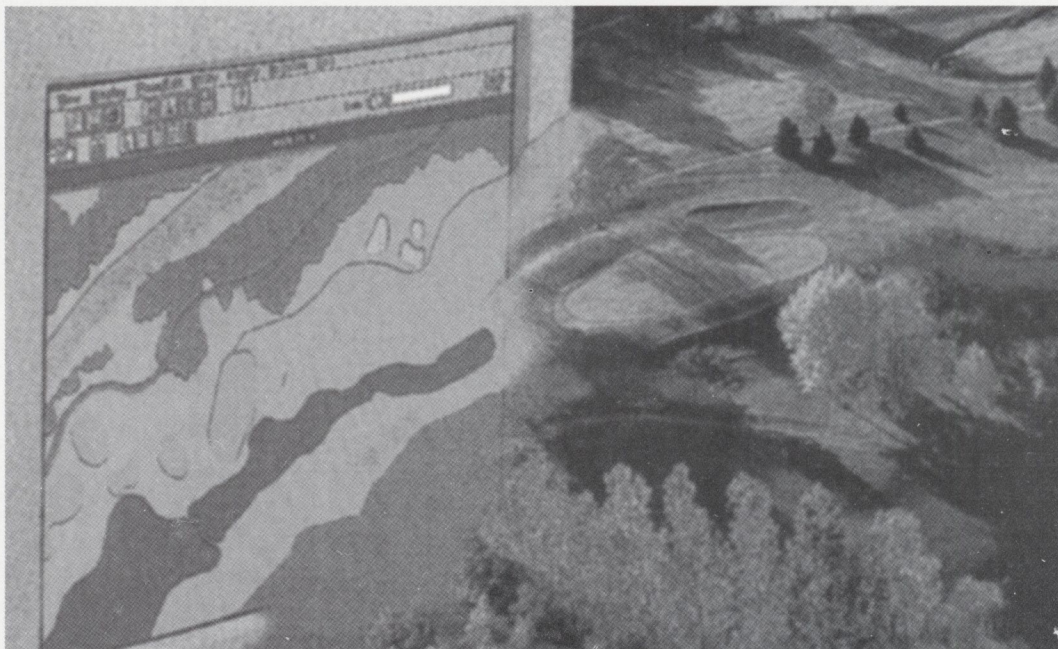
Zebra Mussels are probably here to stay. They will eventually be found throughout the Great Lakes and other inland waterbodies in the Province. The task now is to control their impact on the ecosystem and water uses. More research is needed into the impact and control of Zebra Mussels and how they affect golf course irrigation. The minuscule creatures are having a mighty effect on the Great Lakes and my golf course.

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the changing role

The changing Role of the Assistant Superintendent, Leader Board Pub.

As the superintendent's role at the golf course has expanded, the responsibilities of the assistant have also evolved. Role: The assistant is much more involved in the day-to-day operation of the golf course. Fifteen years ago, a golf course superintendent may have gotten by with just a foreman. Changes: The increasing responsibilities of the golf course superintendent in regulatory compliance, personnel and financial and business management keeps him or her in the office. Much of the golf course operation falls to the assistant, who acts as the eyes and ears of the superintendent, deals with sophisticated irrigation systems, and supervises and trains the crew. Importance to the golf facility: Without an assistant, the golf course becomes top-heavy in labor and the quality of course conditions may suffer. Responsibility of the golf facility: Support the superintendent's programs for assistants, including:

- Approve budget allocations for continued education and training.
- Endorse participation in GCSAA and local chapter associations.
- Welcome attendance at management meetings and require participation at green committee meetings.
- Appreciate the opportunities provided to the assistant to play golf, which enhances an understanding of golf course maintenance practices from a golfer's perspective. Encourage the assistant to play with the ladies' and the men's groups and give on-the-course presentations about maintenance practices.
- Acknowledge the assistant's value to the golf course.
- Support the golf course industry by advocating advancement of the assistant to a head position when your superintendent recommends it.
- Treat your assistant with respect.

jack of all trades

Golf Course News

By Terry Buchen

While growing grass continues to be the most important priority for a superintendent, it often is the easiest part of the job, and the number of other "hats" he or she wears — their many and diverse roles and responsibilities — seems to grow each year.

The ultimate job description of a modern superintendent? Being an expert in the following areas:

Agronomist - having a knowledge of turfgrass soils and water exacting standards; aspiring to certified golf course superintendent status.

Environmentalist - writing and practicing an IPM plan and being a licensed pesticide applicator, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System member and wetlands protector, and complying to pesticide storage regulations.

Insurance and Safety Expert - training and implementing right-to-know rules; operating a hazardous communication plan and training and an emergency evacuation plan; obeying OSHA safety rules and fuel- and oil-storage regulations; ensuring a safety committee for all employees, liability and workman's compensation; and being prepared for safety insurance inspections.

Meteorologist - subscribing to the Weather Channel and monitoring irrigation weather stations and computer satellite weather stations; being able to "feel" the weather; weather prognosticator.

Surveyor - understand and operate a rod, transit and laser technology.

Engineer - designs subsurface drainage systems; additions and modifications to irrigation system; oversees building maintenance; pumphouse and well pump maintenance.

Horticulturist - installs lightning rods in trees; prunes trees and shrubs; fertilization and pesticide applications; tree master plan designer.

Jack of All Trades, Master of None

Floriculturist - annual, perennial and wildflower expert.

Lawyer - implements and approves complicated maintenance and construction contracts; administers business law.

Contractor - acts as general contractor overseeing sub-contractors.

Personnel Manager - clearly understands and manages complex employee work laws; properly displays employee state and federal work posters; employee time card and overtime documentation; oversees employee personnel files; settles any disputes; keeps employees happy and productive.

Accountant - prepares and oversees maintenance and capital budgets; codes invoices to appropriate budget accounts; maintains petty cash fund; oversees financial statements; capitalizes on early payment discounts.

Mechanic - oversees preventative maintenance and repair of all golf course maintenance equipment; properly disposes of used fluids.

Carpenter, Plumber, Electrician - builds and maintains inhouse projects.

Leader - builds and promotes the team concept; practices total quality management in the maintenance department; is a good listener to employees' ideas and suggestions.

Architect - maintains the course as the architect originally designed it to be played; renovates and restores the course while keeping the original design intact.

Scientist, Entomologist, Plant Pathologist - identifies and controls insects, diseases and weeds; uses biological controls whenever practical; inventories complex identification equipment, tests new grasses and experiments with new compounds.

Rules of Golf Official - maintains and marks the course according to the USGA Rules of Golf and all local rules.

Communicator - writes monthly column for

club/course newsletter; meets regularly with other department heads; attends committee and board of directors meetings; keeps their boss informed of what they need to know.

Public Relations Person - telling the media and public about the good things happening on golf courses; joining the GCSAA Speakers Bureau; speaking engagements to schools, Kiwanis-type and Garden Club-type groups about the environmental friendliness of golf courses.

Teacher - instructs turfgrass student interns; teaches weekly turf club meetings; oversees all employee training.

CEO - administers the entire department as Chief Executive Officer. Or, in this case, CAO (Chief Agronomic Officer).

summer field day

By Keith Bartlett

The Summer Field Day was held at The Cutten Club on Monday, August 25th. Awash in sunlight, there was no guilt to be on hand for not being at one's own course. Richard Creed, Golf Course Superintendent of The Cutten Club and his staff had the golf course in wonderful condition. Though the field of participants was smaller than usual, the day was one of exchanging the summer season's tales, future fall projects and the woes of the missed shots and bad swings. At the end of the day, Trevor Hunter of Foxwood Golf Club was the low gross winner posting a score of 71 and Colin White of Donalds Golf Club was the low net winner. On the women's side Teri Yamada of the RCGA was low gross winner with a 90. There were numerous closest to the pin winners with Bruce Burger of Lakeview Golf Club and Dave Svab of Weston Golf Club making several trips to the prize table for closest to the pin and fine scores. Longest drive winners were Bob Heron on hole #18, and Angela Gerth without the aid of the Calloway technology out-gunned all the men on the fourth hole.

The OSGA would like to thank the golf professional Bob Kennedy for scoring and set up, and Mary Wright, Food and Beverage Manager, for the wonderful meal and service each of us enjoyed, and, once again to Richard Creed and the Cutten Club for hosting this event.



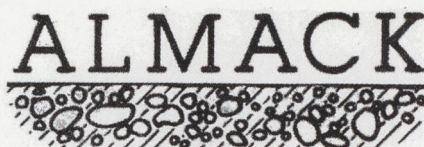
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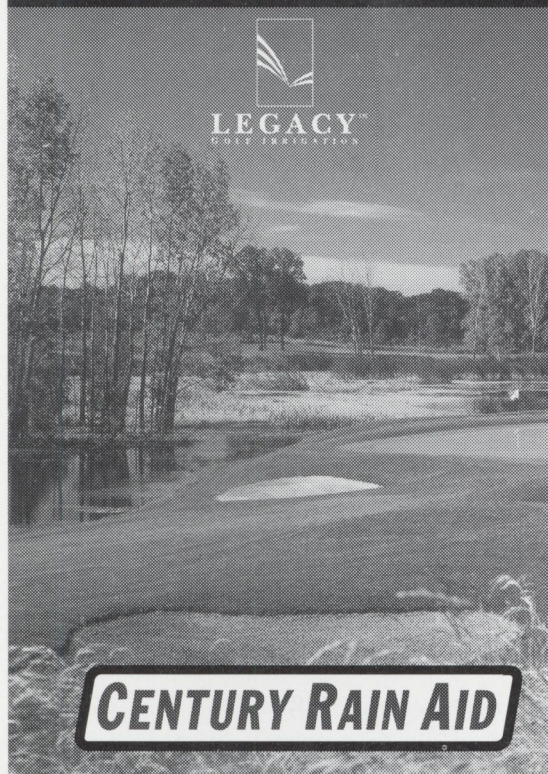
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25 years ago today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors were as follows; Bill Hynd (pres.), Jim Wyllie (vice), Ross Haines (sec), Bob Heron (tres.), Bob Lamb, Ron Allen, Roy French, Paul Dermott, Helmut Kopp, E. Charman and John Arends (past pres.). The editorial committee consisted of Bill Hynd, John Arends, Ross Haines and Helmut Kopp.

New Members: Paul White, Kanawaki Golf Club: Jacob Hallman, Chestly Lake Camp Association: C. P. Smith, Brooklea Golf Club: C. Miller, C. A. Miller Construction LTD: Bill Robinson, Bill Robinson Turf Supplies: Cameron Cairncross, Foxwood Golf Club: Paul Dodson. Mississauga Golf and Country Club: Les Kelly, Royal Ottawa Golf Club: John Hutchinson, Warkworth Golf Club: Lamont Anderson, Midad Golf Club: Hugh Kirkpatrick, Conestoga Golf Club: Stewart Mills, R. Allen, Highlands Golf Course: Ron Weire, Welland Valley Golf Club: Dennis Pellrene, Glen Abbey Golf Club: Walter Windjack and Edward Rubski, co-owners of Brock Golfland: Calvin Fairhall, Westmount Golf Club: D. Elliott, Westhill Golf Club: Nick Panasiuk, Hideaway Golf Club: A. C. Pratt, Bracebridge and B. S. Evans, Agincourt.

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held on January 10th at Northwood Country Club hosted by Gord Witteveen. The registration fee was \$10.00 which included lunch and dinner. On March 17 the RCGA Conference was held at the Skyline Hotel.

Gord Witteveen was nominated as a director of the GCSAA at the forthcoming conference in Cincinnati. Kimmo Salonen broke his leg while skiing in Austria. Ron Allen, Superintendent at Donalda Golf Club, received the highest marks at the University of Guelph short course.

Jack Abbot, an Honorary member of the OGSA passed away on February 9th. He farmed the property known as the Islington Golf Club which was built in 1924. He supervised the building of the course and continued as Superintendent at this club from 1924 to 1938. He then accepted a position at the Rosedale Golf Club from 1939 to 1950. Following a brief retirement he returned to Islington as Superintendent until 1960 when he finally retired at the age of 76. He was one of the originators of the OGSA.

A meeting was held at St. George's Golf Club on March 16th and the speaker was John Campbell, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews. On April 11, there was a combined meeting between the OGSA and Western Greenskeepers Assoc. at Cherry Hills Golf & Country Club hosted by Charlie Benm, Cherry Hills is the host for this years Canadian Open held from July 6 to July 9. On April 17, there was a meeting held at Essex Golf Club hosted by Dave Moote. In June, the Galt Country Club and the University of Guelph held the spring field day hosted by Paul Scenna. Bill Hynd was first low gross, Bob Hall low gross and Hugh Kirkpatrick was third low gross. Bob Heron was first low net and Helmut Kopp was second low net. On May 9th, there was a meeting at the Oakdale Golf Club hosted by Bob Moote and the speaker was Robbie Robinson, golf course architect. First low gross Bob Heron, second G. Tombs and third low gross Whitey Jones. First low net was Keith Nesbit, second Dan Uzelac and third Cam Cairncross. John Grightmire hosted a meeting at Rosedale. On November 7th, there was a meeting held at the Summit Golf Club and December 5th the annual meeting was held at the Aurora Highlands. In August, the Pro Superintendent Day was hosted at Islington Golf Club.

On July 21, Brantford Golf Club hosted the Greens Chairman/ Superintendent Golf Tournament hosted by Vince Piccolo, Vince has been the Superintendent at Brantford for the past 15 years. They started playing golf at Brantford in 1879 and it is the forth oldest golf club in Canada. They wore red jackets trimmed with brass buttons and membership was exclusive by ballot. If one blackball ballot was presented he was denied membership. The game was not expensive with the annual dues being only \$3.00. Brantford was one of the first golf clubs to have irrigation.

There was a warning sent out to all members of the OGSA regarding gambling at meetings: "The Board of Directors of the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association has requested that all gambling in club houses be stopped unless the host Superintendent so wishes at his club. Please respect this rule."

ten commandments

The Ten Commandments of Course Remodeling

Bo-Links

X. Thou Shalt Make Arrangements for Golfers Play During Construction.

One of the biggest problems is making sure golfers can play while the remodeling work is ongoing. This can be done by making arrangements with neighboring courses or by constructing first-class temporary tees and greens within the existing golf course. Note: The issue of providing access to golfing facilities is especially important for older golfers, who may feel their course is being taken from them during their last years of being physically able to play. Aside from helping them understand that their present-day sacrifice will provide for thier grandchildren, it helps to accommodate thier needs so they not only can watch the future being built, but play their way into it at the same time.

turfgrass contact information

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WOMEN

USGA Handicap	% of Golfers
+1 - 5	.46%
6 - 10	1.64%
11 - 15	4.67%
16 - 20	10.18%
21 - 25	16.58%

MEN

USGA Handicap	% of Golfers
+1 - 5	5.63%
6 - 10	16.24%
11 - 15	26.43%
16 - 20	23.95%
21 - 25	15.38%

Source: United States Golf Association, Far Hills, N.J.

a soaring success

A Soaring Success

Golf Tourney Raises \$12,000 for Birds

By David Bird

Never mind the Canadian Open or the Ryder Cup. For the first time in history anywhere in the world to my knowledge, a golf tournament was held to raise money for the birds. The first annual "Birdies 4 Birdies" went off without a hitch on a crisp, sunny Monday last week at the beautiful Hillsdale Golf & Country Club near Mirabel.

While no eagles were shot (and I mean that literally in both senses of the word), plenty of birdies abounded for four winning foursomes who were awarded prizes of framed, signed and numbered prints by widely acclaimed artist Robert Bateman and the late world famous birder, Roger Tory Peterson. What really made the event special was the presence of a 5-year-old golden eagle that posed for complimentary photos with each foursome.

The event raised close to \$12,000 for the Avian Science and Conservation Centre (ASCC) of McGill University, with no small thanks to Mandy and Robin Ram and Bob Burrows, who were the driving forces behind the tournament's organization.

Part of the funds will appropriately aid ASCC plans to undertake research at Hillsdale next summer to help find ways to attract birds to golf courses. The remaining money will benefit the highly endangered loggerhead shrike, whose numbers in eastern Canada have reached a critically low level. Under the auspices of the National Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Team, young nestling shrikes were brought into captivity this past summer to set up breeding programs at both the ASCC and the Metro Toronto Zoo.

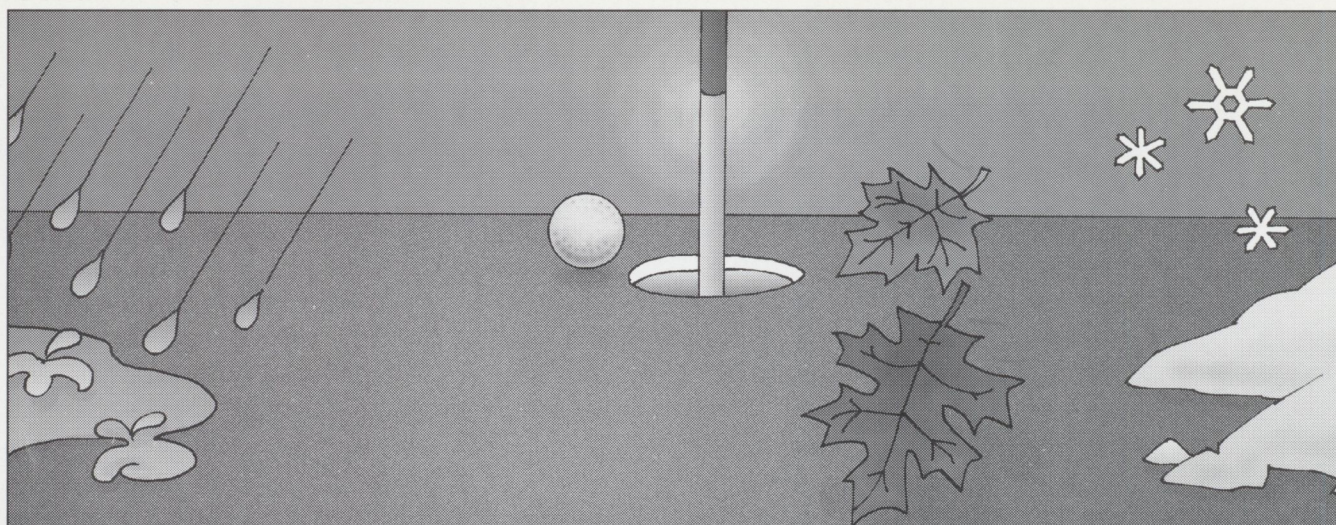
The ASCC has had great success in raising shrikes in captivity over the last few years, but the real trick will be finding a way to release the young birds into the wild. Traditional "hacking" methods used with species like peregrine falcons, in which nestlings capable of feeding and keeping themselves warm are placed in a hack box and fed unseen by human hands at a suitable nesting site until they reach independence, will not work for the fully altricial shrikes. As songbirds, loggerhead shrike young require the full attention of their feathered parents all

through the nesting stage, even after they fledge.

While even young shrikes with their surgical-like beaks can be a formidable adversary for other birds their own size, they are no match for the larger falcons and hawks that would love to make a meal of them. In fact, their feisty nature can actually work against them. When ASCC staff tried an experimental release of four captive-bred shrikes in Saskatchewan four years ago, it ended in disaster. The idea was to train the young shrikes to catch live prey, e.g. mice and insects, in a large flight cage installed in appropriate habitat like agricultural fields. Once the birds were adept at hunting for themselves, the cage walls would be removed and the birds would be on their own.

What we did not count on was the sheer aggressive nature of the shrike. When predators like northern harriers (also known as marsh hawks) appeared on the scene and waited hungrily outside the cage, the belligerent captives attacked them at the cage wall instead of remaining safely in the middle of the pen. Harriers are no dummies and with their long legs, simply grabbed the small birds through the wire fencing. End of story.

So finding a way to beat this predation problem will be the biggest challenge facing the shrike release team. In New Zealand, researchers have had to engage in hazing practices with captive-bred endangered bird species of the flightless variety. Stuffed mounts of stoats, weasel-like animals that prey heavily on the flightless birds in the wild, were used to "attack" the captive birds to help them learn to fear them, defend themselves, and generally run away as fast as their little legs would take them. A similar hazing concept has been used with captive-bred California condors. Because some of the released condors were getting a little too cozy with humans, even to the point of hanging about fast-food outlets with our friends, the ring-billed gulls, some scientists felt that hazing by human handlers to instill fear in the giant birds was necessary. The technique, which can be stressful, is quite controversial and not all centres have adopted the practice.



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Disease Management Solutions

GTI update

By Rob Whitherspoon

This fall and winter the GTI is offering an expanded series of professional development opportunities for Ontario Golf Superintendents.

On Thursday, November 30, Dr. Tom Hsiang will lead a Snow Mould Control Workshop at the GTI from 1-5 p.m. This workshop will explore the biology of the organisms that cause pink and grey snow mould and focus on management options including chemical controls, organic fertilizer use, covers and biological controls. Space is limited for this program - early registration is recommended.

Two new seminars will focus on the care of trees in relation to turf. On Thursday, November 13, a full day workshop will be dedicated to Tree Management for Turf Managers. This program will provide an overview of the new biology of trees and will cover selection and planting, follow-up maintenance, pruning for light and air circulation, maintaining a tree inventory, identifying hazard trees, protecting trees during construction and managing woodlots. On Thursday, November 27, a Tree Pruning Clinic will be held. It will provide an opportunity to learn safe and effective pruning techniques with classroom instruction and hands-on demonstrations. Both of these courses will be lead by David Ward, a University of Guelph instructor and International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.

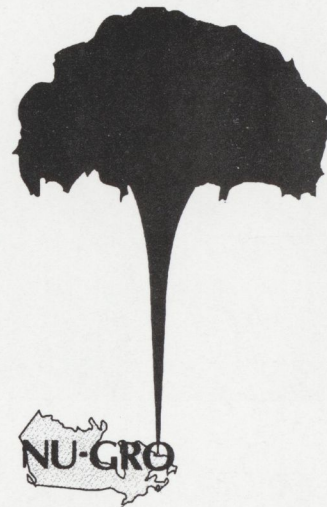
Also new this year is the Pesticide Applicator's Licence Exam Preparation Course. Lead by Dr. Gerry Stephenson and Cindy Schwan, this course will be held for four Tuesday evenings beginning January 27, 1998. The course will include hands-on practice with sprayer calibration, live specimens of weeds and other pests as well as classroom discussion of pertinent legislation. An exam sitting for the O.M.E.E. Pesticide Applicators Licence will be scheduled at the conclusion of the course.

The 29th Annual Turf Managers' Course returns from February 2-27, 1998. This popular course is an intensive four-week program designed to provide turf industry personnel with knowledge in all aspects of turf culture and management. Registration takes place at 12:00 noon on Monday, November 10 in person or by fax or phone.

Returning on March 24 & 25th is the Turfgrass Water Workshop. This program, lead by Geoff Corlett, Dean Cormack and Dr. Terry Gillespie covers current issues and technology related to water management in turf including drainage, irrigation and climatology. The program includes both classroom and hands-on demonstrations.

To register or for more information about any of these programs, contact the University of Guelph Office of Open Learning at (519) 767-5000 or by e-mail to info@open.uoguelph.ca or visit the website www.open.uoguelph.ca.

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This article was written 69 years ago. It could have been written today.

From UGSA Green Section Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 2, February 1928



Stepping from the 18th green with the Green Committee Chairman and the Greenkeeper, it was suggested that we "stick around and hear the angels sing. You will hear their daily chant to the Green Committee

and Greenkeeper." So there we waited and watched. One Mr. Average Golfer soon waddled up to attempt what looked like a "dead sure one." In that terrifying silence, which precedes great storms, he went through all the most approved and prolonged preliminaries of sighting and preparing for that momentous tap. Horror of horrors, he missed! We guessed it; the green was all to blame. the storm broke!

"Bill, why in the name of galloping golf balls can't we have some greens on this course? These things would be a disgrace to any cow pasture. There isn't a golfer in the world who could putt on them." Ad infinitum.

All this in spite of the fact that the other members of his foursome sank good, long shots and were last seen headed for the locker room with beaming faces not ordinarily associated with "rotten" greens and high scores.

The next group furnished this helpful suggestion: "If you fellows are interested in improving greens, why don't you first find out what the players want? After all, greens are for the golfers and everything should be done to give them exactly what they want."

We beat him to that idea many years. We had long ago been told, "When a baby cries, give him what he wants." But we have also learned that to obtain results it makes some difference whether baby is "crying for something" or just crying.

The greenkeeper suggested that we question a few of the club's best players as to how fast they preferred to

have greens. "One of my men is ill and that has interrupted our schedule. Number 16 has not been cut and is very slow today, but this 18th is the real lightning type." The first reply was:

"This green is perfect! Anyone can putt on it. If you could only get all our greens as fast as this one, every player in the city would be clamoring to join this club. Number 16? Is that supposed to be a green? We thought you were planning to let that grow up for hay."

"Fore!" The next foursome is having a terrible time rolling them back and forth across the green. "Bill, what on earth is the matter with the green? If you simply touch the ball, it goes clear across. No use trying to putt on it. Why can't we have all the greens like 16 is today? You can really hit a ball on that one without making it roll a mile."

Now that's settled! All that the green committee, greenkeepers, and "those scientific guys" have to do to give the players just what they want (in speed of greens, at least) is to develop some kind of gear shift. Then if a player "likes 'em fast" he can shift into high, and if he "likes 'em slow" he can shift to low. Bet some of them will want it fixed so they can shift after the ball is struck. Then they'll want a "reverse" so that the one which is "too strong" will roll back at just the right speed—all counting a single stroke.



annual slo-pitch

McCracken Golf Supplies and Nugro Corp.

Annual Slo Pitch Tournament

By Everett Nieuwkoop

McCracken Golf Supplies and Nugro Corp. annual slo pitch tournament was held at Globe Park in Hamilton. 32 Teams competed for the Superintendents Cup. The competition was excellent and the weather was just perfect.

In the semi finals on the A side

Royal Woodbine 11 - Brampton 9

Dundas 12 - Lionhead 5

In the B semi finals

Weston 17 - Suppliers 10

Parkvies beat Foxwood

Two new champions arose from the dust to be crowned champions this year.

Dundee defeated Royal Woodbine 6-4 in an exciting A final (Championship), and Weston prevailed over Parkview 19-12 in a slug fest for the B Championship. See you next year....

ten commandments

The Ten Commandments of Course Remodeling

Bo-Links

IX. Thou Shalt Keep Thy Golfers Informed.

At most courses, even the naysayers eventually come to support the project. The key to producing a turnaround is informing everyone, including the doubters, and keeping them informed as the job moves forward. Take golfers on tours of the course and show them the work in progress, explaining how the greens are being built and how the new drainage system beneath the greens and bunkers is being installed. They can see for themselves how substantial the improvements are and how efficiently the contractor is proceeding to complete the job. One tip worthy of note: If possible, have the contractor complete the areas visible from the dining room first, and maybe there will be some plugged lies in bunkers. For an excellent reference, see "Avoiding the Hazards of Golf Course Renovation," Green Section Record, July/August 1995.

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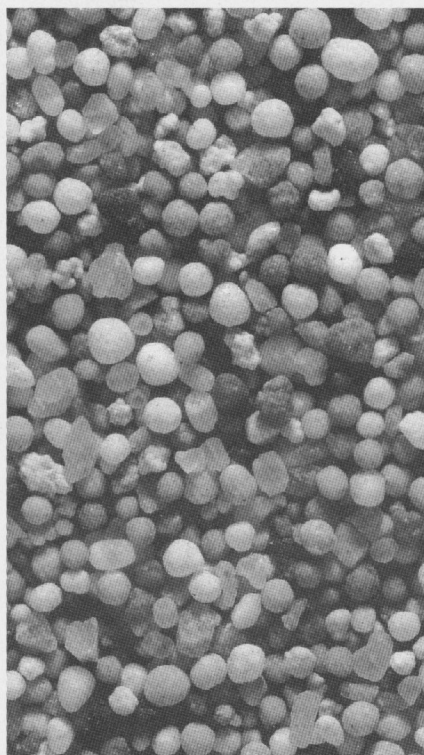
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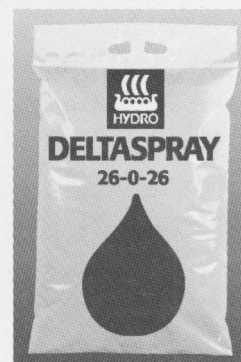
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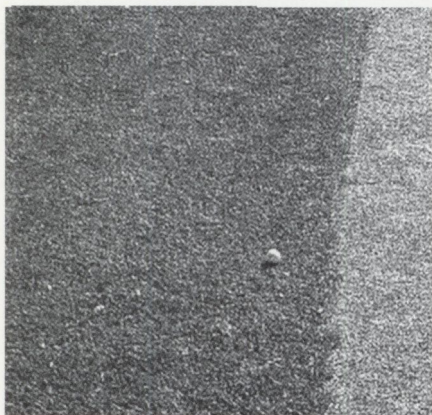
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ryegrass is better than no grass

First aid for collars, traffic areas, and eyesores

by Stanley J. Zontex



On most golf courses, I suspect there exists an area of bare soil or thin turf is best described as an eyesore. You know the spot. That area of bare ground where sand accumulates on the collar, near a bunker, and no matter how much you hand water it

or how many you resod it, it still dies each year. Time or budget never seems to be available to thoroughly renovate the area, redo the bunker, strip the sod, remove the zone of sand accumulation, and add fresh soil, thereby solving the problem.

Other candidates for renovation include areas where golfers walk on and of the green, always in the same spot, wearing out the grass. No matter what you try to do in terms of traffic control, signs, ropes, etc., problem areas of this type are common on most golf courses. You may even dream about trying barbed wire. What other choices do we have?

Also, one of the newer problems we now see on golf courses is the decline of bentgrass collars on some new greens. Any number of explanations exist as to why these collar areas become thin and die. Probably no one single cause exists. However, the fact remains that on some new greens, especially in the Transition Zone region, the grass on some collars, for what ever reason, dies in the summer. This creates a problem much greater than an eyesore. It can be a huge public relations problem. Why is the grass on the new green, cut at a much lower mowing height, thriving while the collar area, cut at a higher mowing height (which should be better for the grass), is thinning and drying? Until such time as the experts can sort out the problem, the golf course superintendent still must grow grass in any and all of these problem areas. What to do?

Sometimes golf course superintendents need a grass that functions as a Band-Aid. This is the essence of my turf tip. Perennial ryegrass can serve as a short-term fix, even in situations where this grass is not normally considered for use. That's right. Perennial ryegrass can be that grass.

The most-often asked questions about using perennial rye on collars or areas adjacent to the putting green include:

1. How about disease control? Won't the ryegrass become more diseased than the grass on the greens, especially during the hot, humid summer in the Transition Zone?

While the ryegrass is susceptible to many diseases, most collar areas are sprayed along with the greens. As long as a reasonably comprehensive fungicide spray program is followed for the greens, including the ryegrass collars, disease problems with the collars have not been a huge problem.

2. How long will the ryegrass persist under these conditions?

Today's new generation of perennial ryes are remarkably persistent when growing at traditional collar persist and perform well for years. To maintain good density, over seeding in the fall is a good idea.

3. How can the ryegrass be removed?

Chemically, products like chlorsulfuron (Telar or Lesco's TFC) can selectively remove perennial ryegrass from creeping bentgrass. Spot treatments with bentazone (Basagran) also chemically stress the ryegrass. Over time, gradual thinning of the ryegrass occurs, which allows the creeping bentgrass to gradually transition back into these areas. Finally, renovation and resodding is always an option.

4. Are there any other reasons for using perennial ryegrass in these collar areas? Yes, For one, perennial ryegrass is recognized as being a tough, wear-resistant grass. On high-traffic areas, it just may be the best grass to use.

Perennial ryegrass collar areas can also serve as a buffer strip, in the northern half of the Transition Zone, between bentgrass greens and bermuda-grass in the banks and approaches surrounding putting greens. Perennial rye is tolerant of a number of different products like ethofumesate (Progress) and/or fenoxaprop-ethyl (Acclaim), which can help manage and control bermudagrass encroachment into greens. This is not a perfect solution to the problem, but it can provide the golf course superintendent with another option in the battle against bermudagrass encroachment into bentgrass greens.

5. How about the difference in color, texture, and playability between ryegrass and bentgrass? Will the golfers detect the difference?

Yes, there is a difference, but golfers probably will detect the difference between dead grass and bare soil more quickly and with greater passion than ryegrass and bentgrass. That's the point of this turf tip from superintendents of the Transition Zone. Ryegrass is better than no grass.

managing tree liability

Leader Board Publication

Golf courses are generally involved in two types of tree lawsuits. One: An entire tree or branch from a tree falls on to a golfer. Two: Golf course trees are pruned by a contractor in a substandard fashion, which results in the trees becoming hazardous, dying and/or destroying the appearance of the trees.

Prevention:

Engage in proactive tree management. Tree maintenance has become very sophisticated and should adhere to the formal system of tree-risk evaluation.

Superintendents should hire or consult with an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist or a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA).

Many superintendents are becoming certified arborists.

Have the arborist inspect the golf course regularly for indicators that a tree is hazardous. The arborist should also conduct inspections after storms and wherever there is a concern with a particular tree.

Keep golfers away from a hazardous tree until the hazard is remedied by pruning, removal, etc.

Superintendents should hire competent licensed and insured contractors to maintain, prune and remove trees.

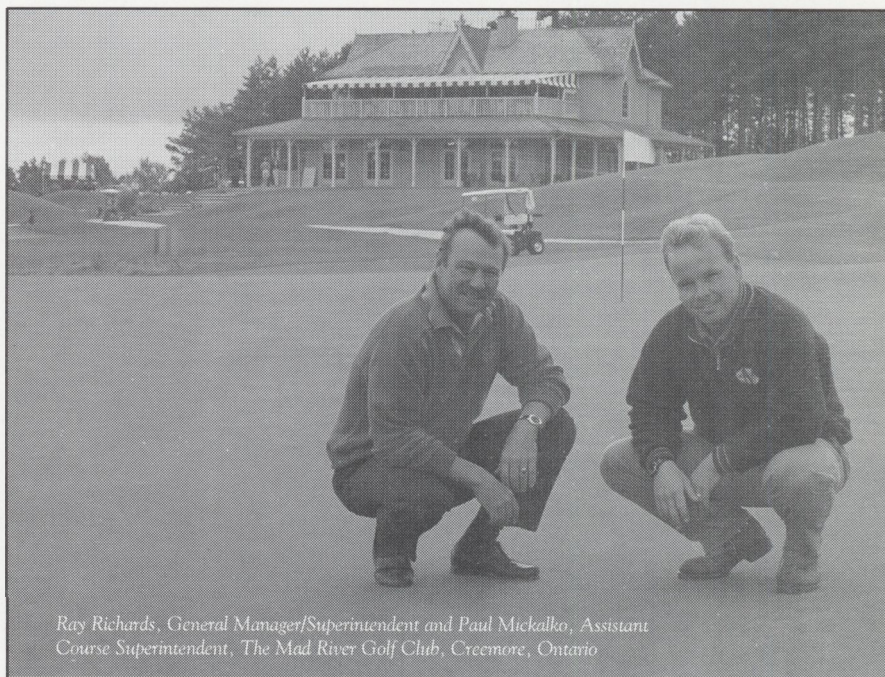
Careful: Other liability issues may be encountered when a tree is removed, such as the potential injury to a homeowner if the tree functioned as a safety screen.

Environmental Issues: Prudent tree management can coexist with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which supports preserving appropriate trees for sanctuaries for wildlife. The cavities in dead trees provide nesting areas for birds. These trees can provide a food source, as do shrubs and the undergrowth surrounding them. Brush piles also shelter small mammals, reptiles and birds.

Legal Issues: California recently enacted a law that discourages the topping of trees because of the hazards and costs of this practise. California also has taken the lead in requiring companies that regularly prune trees be licensed. Other states are certain to follow.

Statistics: Disputes and lawsuits involving trees are becoming more prevalent as tree maintenance and our understanding of trees become more sophisticated. The "Act of God" defence is not as accepted as it

was years ago. Sources: Randall S. Stamen, attorney, certified arborist and author of California Arboriculture Law, Riverside, Calif.; Audubon International, Inc., Selkirk, N.Y.



Ray Richards, General Manager/Superintendent and Paul Mickalko, Assistant Course Superintendent, The Mad River Golf Club, Creemore, Ontario

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- *To ensure that respect is accorded our profession, our Association and our individual members, these ethical standards are to be observed and practised..*
- *Maintain courteous relation with your employer, employees and fellow superintendents, while practising sound business and turf management.*
- *Continue to broaden your knowledge through formal education channels and by exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members.*
- *Endorse products or practises only when completely satisfied through personal experience..*
- *Refrain from corresponding either verbally or in writing, with a Director, member or official of another club, regarding its affairs, without the prior knowledge of that club's superintendent.*
- *Apply only for a position that is vacant, and, if possible, talk to the person who held the job last or other local superintendents.*
- *Offer employment to another club's employee only after advising that club's superintendent.*
- *Notify the superintendent of the club you are visiting directly, and, whenever possible, do so in advance.*
- *Misrepresenting the Association and yourself by lending your membership card will not be condoned..*
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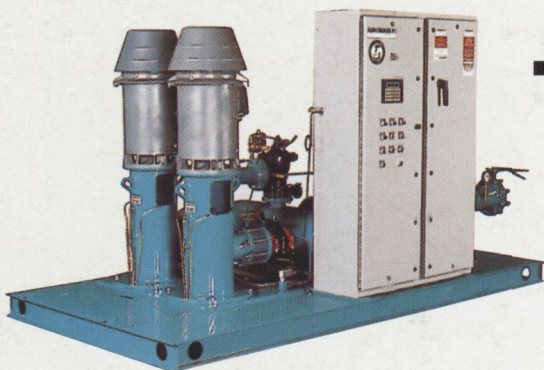
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