



Editor

## Midwest Breezes

Congratulations and best of luck to Joe Grenko at his new job at the Marriott course in Lincolnshire. We all know he will do a fine job.

Frank Wedel from Rob Roy C.C. and Jerry Adank from Illinois Lawn Equipment were hospitalized during the month of January. Best wishes to both on a speedy recovery.

We are happy to report that Leonard Schnepf, Superintendent at Dominion Golf and C.C., is out of the hospital and beginning to enjoy himself. Take care of yourself, spring will soon be here.

The editor apologizes for the booboo on page 8 and 9 in the January issue of the Bull Sheet. There has been a little mix up on these pages. With your forgiveness and especially the author of the article, the editor thanks you. P.S. The printer also apologizes.

Art Benson, Sr., superintendent at St. Charles C.C., is interested in hiring an assistant. Turf school education required. Call 312-584-3403.

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart reports he has just completed the installation of an extensive drainage system for the Downers Grove Golf Club, some unique design features were utilized so that both surface and sub-surface drainage was attained. Similar systems are now being contemplated for two more golf courses.

Our January meeting which was held at the Elmhurst C.C. was well attended by 100 members and guests. We were fortunate to have with us Dr. Bill Daniel (a recent 1975 Distinguished Service Award winner from the GCSAA). Dr. Daniel spoke on using your soil tests to determine the amounts of fertilizer and ratios to use on your particular golf course. He passed out literature to help one figure out his own needs and costs. It was great to have Dr. Daniel with us once again in the Midwest Association meeting.

The M.A.G.C.S. Hospitality Room in New Orleans during the G.C.S.A.A. Conference, will be open at the Marriot Hotel on Sunday evening, February 16th at 8 P.M. until 12 P.M.

Dear Mr. Gerber:

After reading the notice in the Bull Sheet requesting superintendents to send in comments about women working on their courses, I decided to present some information from a woman's point of view.

I was hired at the beginning of last summer at Kishwaukee Country Club in DeKalb, Illinois. At that time there was already a young woman on the crew who was responsible for some general maintenance duties, with emphasis on grooming flower beds and raking sand traps with a Toro Sand Pro. I came in as a complete novice, having been on a golf course only several times in my life. After ten minutes on the job I was placed on a Jacobsen greensmower to mow a putting green. Fortunately, the green recovered after several weeks, and most of my mistakes were negligible after that first attempt. Within the first month, my flabby muscles and my confidence strengthened quite a bit with outdoor work. I was carefully instructed before operating new machinery or performing new maintenance duties, and can personally say that I felt no discrimination from my superintendent or other members of our crew. At times I realized that my lack of physical strength may have slowed some duties down, but in general the jobs on our course can be done equally well by a woman. My main responsibility at our club is mowing fairways with a Toro Parkmaster. At first many of the members were not sure there was **really** a woman up there on the tractor, but now they seem pleased that I'm still around to help keep their club in shape.

The advantages of working at Kishwaukee are numerous. I enjoy working outdoors, and during the winter months I acquire mechanical skills that few women can boast of. Having a botanical background, I am discovering the commercial aspects of this field, as well as becoming acquainted with turf maintenance and disease prevention.

Whether more women join our crew in the spring is up to my superintendent. But I give fair warning to any women who are thinking about this type of employment—unless they are prepared to work hard and put in some time on weekends, they should find an easier way to get a suntan.

Respectfully,  
Denise E. Blume

(Editor's note: Denise just joined the Midwest AGCS)

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The sympathy of Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association is extended to the family of Robert G. Johnson from Illinois Lawn Equipment Inc., due to the death of Robert's father.

Ray H. Gerber, Editor  
865 Hillside Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Just a line to let you know of some of the things that we did at Kishwaukee Country Club this past year. First we fenced about half of the course with 6 ft. chain link. Then a new look to the entrance to our club including flowers, shrubs, split rail fence. Then four new tennis courts were built, next a new automatic irrigation system on the tees, greens and fairways.

I was here at Kishwaukee in 1967 to March, 1970, was at another course from 1970 to January 1, 1973. So this is my second time here, which has been very rewarding the last two summers.

In 1973 we built 26 new sand traps besides setting 400 new trees, also three new tees. Now, for women in my crew; this year I had three who did an outstanding job. They are more careful with equipment than men, also the flower beds and sand traps were groomed much better. One, in particular, has operated every piece of equipment we have from Greensmower to trenchers, her main job was mowing fairways with a nine gang parkmaster. She is now one of my main crew with a year round job.

Thank you for the fine articles in your column in the Bull Sheet.

Sincerely yours,  
Keith Montgomery  
Supt. Kishwaukee Country Club  
DeKalb, Ill.



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