

Editor — Ray Gerber
865 Hillside Ave.
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
Phone — 469-6467

Associate Editors — Robert Williams
90 East Franklin, Apt. 208
Lake Forest, Ill. 60045
Office Phone — 432-0088



Mike Bavier — President

The President's Message

"Sure, I would be happy to consult at your club, Mr. Jones." But wait a minute—is this part of our local or national "code of Ethics"? Have you ever been approached by a member of another club? Or possibly you are a salesperson who has been asked to consult for a fee. One might consider consulting if the other club's superintendent is aware of the situation or requests assistance—this would be considered good ethics. However, anyone with his head on straight would be a little leery of a "behind the back", thus unethical, situation. For one thing, many clubs have complex problems that do not meet the eye on first glance. For example, how many times have you wanted to purchase a piece of equipment and the club board or owner said maybe next year. So there you sit with a run-down, inadequate piece of machinery. Another example might be the need for more chemicals, more fertilizer (not necessarily so anymore—with the shortage over the last 18 months, many of us realize we can do with a little less), more help and so on down the list. Also, there are often time variables that are out of our control. Yes, there are some superintendents, just as there are some engineers, clubhouse managers, and even doctors, that are not capable of doing an effective job, but on occasion this is out of their control.

What are our "ethical" guidelines? The GCSAA activated the "Code of Ethics" committee this year with the leadership falling on the capable hands of Director Gordon Witteveen. Having the good fortune of being acquainted with Gordon, he asked me to serve on the committee, which I most gratefully accepted. With this so-called "Code of Ethics", just what authority does the GCSAA Board have over the members of the Association? At the present time, little authority, if any at all. Probably most of us would question the need for rules (ones with *teeth* in them), but the fact is, there is indeed a need for rules, guidelines, or what have you. We, as a membership, must oversee the Board, and they, in turn, must oversee the work of the office staff. Only when strong controls are adhered to is there any strength in an organization.

As I see the problem, which is no little one, we must not only look at those few consultants, but also at those companies that sell inferior products at exorbitant prices. And how about the quality and quantity of work put out by the GCSAA Board and office? If you start scrutinizing your membership, you must be willing to complete the gamit and look at all levels.

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The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

Dorothy Carey	349-7766
Mike Bavier	358-7030
Carl Grassl, C.G.C.S.	823-8682
Carl Hoppman	892-3600
Ed Fischer	654-4454
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By now, many of you must think I am being a little unrealistic in my thoughts. However, is it not healthy to keep ourselves in check? Our day to day work is a perfect example of this in that any of us that run golf courses always have the members looking over our shoulders. Also, the salesmen know what happens when they come in with a price twice as high as quoted down the street—a perfect check and balance. Maybe a new and stronger "Code of Ethics" is in the works—if so, look at the plus side, which means it should benefit all of us. Anything worth having is worth working for and this could make a stronger Association for all.

MIDWEST AND WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION GET TOGETHER!

During the month of September, the Midwest Association and the Wisconsin Superintendent's Association held a joint meeting at the Playboy Club in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The weatherman cooperated very nicely, and we had one of those super Midwest fall days. The Association golfers turned out in mass to enjoy a very outstanding golf course—maybe a little humbling, but a good course in superb condition.

As many of you know, the meeting of these two associations was discontinued some years back. The Midwest and Wisconsin boards and associations both felt that possibly this year was a good time to reunite old acquaintances. As many new or renewed ventures do not always run as smooth as one might hope, and this meeting was no exception, both boards still felt that we accomplished our goal of getting the associations together and exchanging our ideas.

Jim Latham was the educational speaker for the evening and, as always, Jim did a fine job of highlighting the summer of '75. For those of you not fortunate enough to attend, you missed a nice gathering. We were over our guaranteed number of 125, which was a good turn out.

I would hope that next year the associations will meet again and enjoy a day of golf, social gathering, and a very important educational session. Next year Illinois will host this joint meeting.

Mike R. Bavier

ACID RAIN

That acid soil of yours is getting more acidity. Two Cornell ecologists are guessing that the rain drops falling on the heads of residents in the eastern United States have increased acidity 100 to 1000 times above normal in the last twenty years—and this despite increased air pollution controls.

The acid rain is probably stunting forest growth, cutting into farm crops and speeding corrosion everywhere.

Editor's Note: Especially on fairways.

Ordinarily rain water is only slightly acidic, a level much like that of a potato. That acidity has climbed over the years, so that now it's closer to that of a tomato. Occasionally, some rains have fallen as acidic as pure lemon juice.

Nobody's sure what the ecological effects of acid rain are but they can't be good. Laboratory experiments on plant life show that acid rain will stunt and distort growth, decrease pollen germination and generally lower the quality of the material grown.

Source: *NEWS AND VIEWS*
The American Horticultural Society 5/75

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