

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
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President's Message

I hope everyone had an enjoyable stay in Phoenix at the 58th International Golf Course Conference and Show. Attendance was again record-breaking. The Chicago area and the state of Illinois was well represented in the educational sessions, with at least twelve people presenting talks on various programs. I thought the trade show presented some new companies with innovative products and ideas for the upcoming season. Our congratulations to the people at G.C.S.A.A. for another conference well done.

As many of you are well aware, Len Berg did not get elected to the G.C.S.A.A. board of directors. Many of the voting delegates from the southern states cast their association votes for Randy Nichols from Georgia. Also re-elected to the board were Steve Cadenelli from New Jersey and Dennis Lyon from Colorado. These are all qualified individuals that will do a good job while serving G.C.S.A.A. However, what bothers me is the regional division that occurs when it becomes time to vote. Obviously, many people felt that the Midwest already had two good representatives from this region, Jerry Faubel from Michigan and Bill Roberts from Wisconsin. Therefore, the other board positions should be filled by superintendents representing other geographical regions of the country. This rational hurt Len's chance to get elected, but should not remove us from the fact that he is experienced, elected, and highly qualified to serve on the G.C.S.A.A. board. If not in 1987, maybe in future years at a more opportune time. I'm sure Len will continue to serve G.C.S.A.A. in the same diligent manner as in past years. The association thanks you, Len, for all the hard work and energy you have expended for us. I would also like to thank Al Fierst and Bruce Williams our voting delegates, Roger Stewart and everyone who took part in Len's campaign.

While in Phoenix, M.A.G.C.S., Inc. donated and presented a check to G.C.S.A.A. Scholarship and Research Fund in the amount of \$2,000.00. This money has been earmarked toward funding local and regional research efforts that will benefit all of us.

The Midwest hospitality suite held in the Phoenix Hilton was well received by our members. The association must commend Turf Products, Ltd., Chicago Turf and Irrigation, Illinois Lawn Equip., Inc., and Arthur Clesen, Inc., for sponsoring the room one night each during our stay in Phoenix. A special thanks to Bruce Williams, arrangements chairman, and Dave Meyer who helped with coordinating the food, beverages, and housing.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd from page 2)

On a more local note, the January meeting held at Arrowhead Country Club had 110 members in attendance, almost one-fourth of the total membership. We would encourage everyone to attend the March 16 meeting at Nordic Hills. Recreational activities are provided in the afternoon including bowling, racquetball, basketball, and hoisting a few beers. Dinner at Nordic Hills is always excellent and the education committee has a good lineup of speakers from the University of Illinois.

I will remind everyone that if your association dues are not paid by March 1, your name will be taken off the list of M.A.G.C.S., Inc. members and you will be forced to re-apply. After all dues are collected, and a complete membership list is compiled, we will be publishing and distributing a new membership directory.

By the time you receive this issue of the **Bull Sheet**, the Midwest Regional Turf Conference will probably be in session March 2-4 at Purdue University. The turf program which is part of the Agronomy Department at Purdue, has been highly regarded over the past thirty-five years under Dr. Bill Daniel. During the last two years, Dr. Clark Throssell has taken over the reigns and has done an admirable job. But right now, the turf program needs the support of members from the M.A.G.C.S. and the other regional associations in order to continue the tradition of excellent research programs in turfgrass. I hope to see many of you at Purdue.

Also, March 31 is the date that has been set for the Annual CDGA Green Seminar at Butterfield Country Club. Dr. Randy Kane and Dennis Davenport have a good roster of speakers lined up with the major theme being Putting Green Management. The mild winter weather may lead to another early spring and we could be out rolling and mowing greens by the end of March.

James E. Evans

Brian C. Chalifoux Biography



Brian C. Chalifoux has been a superintendent for six years. He has spent the last four of those years as the superintendent at Olympia Fields Country Club. This is Brian's first year on the Board of Directors. Brian and his wife Carol Ann have three children, Laurie age 7, Jennifer age 6, and Brian Jr. is 1.

Director's Column Bentgrass Turf

by **Brian C. Chalifoux**
Olympia Fields Country Club

With so many courses now considering or planning bentgrass conversions, I would like to share some of my observations since our conversion in the Fall of 1984.

1. Starting with putting greens, I find many factors affecting growing conditions;

A. **Bentgrass Variety:** Fortunately we chose Penncross for its aggressive growth habit. Under our heavy play situation it has adapted very well.

B. **Soil Types:** Sixteen of our greens were regrassed on existing mixes. This mix is classified as a sandy loam. The other two greens have a 70% sand, 30% organic mix. Establishment was superior on the old greens compared to the new high sand greens. This was attributed mainly to the abundant available nutrients that the old mix contained. Supplemental applications were necessary on the new greens to encourage development. I also noted that cultural practices such as verticutting and topdressing had to be reduced on these two greens. On the positive side of the high sand greens, was root development. I would say we had a much stronger root system based on density and depth of roots. Compaction problems associated with the new greens are far less severe as compared with old green mix.

C. **Green Location** — Perhaps the most important aspect of bentgrass turf is sunlight. We have found through failures that it is necessary to have sunlight the majority of the day. Green thinning, poor recuperative ability, algae buildup, and poor rooting were common in shaded conditions. Once these conditions started to appear it was impossible to bring these greens back to the high standards which the rest of the greens are maintained. Aeration, spiking, supplemental fertilization, hand watering, light topdressing, algae control, and additional fungicide applications did not solve the problem. Only after golfer traffic had stopped and soil temperatures already started with the high pruning of all trees affecting sunlight availability. We also had to remove certain trees that were keys to gaining sunlight. We were reluctant to do so, but quality turf was our priority.

D. **Height of Cut** — Under non stressful situations, we had no problem maintaining a cutting height of 9/64". This was not the case once August came along. With our penncross thinning out, root system declining, soil temperatures increasing and compaction peaking out from record number of rounds, it was not in our best interest to be cutting so short. The demand for fast greens has once again caused us to forget about quality and maintain for the precious few that are only concerned with speed. This will not be the case come Spring for we had already decided to raise our cutting height to an acceptable growing medium. Proper topdressing, verticutting and fertilizing should offset the cutting height and give us moderately fast greens.

2. **Tees** — Penncross was again used and proved to be most durable in this situation. Our biggest problem again appeared in shaded conditions. Areas receiving minimal amounts of sunlight simply will not tolerate this situation. Turf thinning, spike damage, and slow divot recovery were all apparent. After deciding it is not possible to grow penncross under these shaded conditions, we seeded to a ryegrass blend. This took place

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