

Midwest Breezes



Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

August 15 — MAGCS meeting at Popular Creek G.C.

September — MAGCS meeting at Woodmar G.C.

October 2 — ITF Golf Day at Flossmoor & Ravisloe C.C.

October — MAGCS meeting at Prestbury C.C.

November — MAGCS annual meeting

November 28-30 — Turfgrass and Ornamental Chemical Seminar, Purdue University. Contact Jeff Lefton (317) 494-9737

December —

January 22-24 — Midwest Regional Turf Conference

All superintendents wishing to attend the PGA Championship August 10-13 at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Hawthorn Woods, IL need to present their GCSAA card for entry for yourself and wife. Your MAGCS card WILL NOT BE HONORED.

Oscar Miles has submitted his resignation at Butler National effective the end of this year. Oscar will be involved in the building of a new golf course located in the Libertyville area on property owned by the Getz family of the north shore.

Art Benson of Butterfield Country Club has come up with a novel way of ridding the course of geese. I understand that the procedure is being copyrighted and he may even apply for a patent. It has something to do with fencing and a gate.

Your Editor just returned from another trip to the north west (Idaho, Washington, Vancouver Island, & Oregon) where he visited Jacklin Seed Company in Post Falls, Idaho. The seed harvest is just beginning and the outlook looks very good for the bluegrasses, ryes, and fescues. Dr. Bill Meyer of Turf Seed, Hubbard, OR., also reports that it looks like a good harvest coming. The seed industry is going thru some hard times at the present with the restrictions on field burning. Many people are opposed to the burning of the fields due to the extreme smoke and air pollution. Last year there was a terrible burning and a few people were killed. The industry and the purity of our seed depends on the burning of the fields. Some sort of way is needed to be found to sterilize the fields to equal the effect that burning has.

John Ebel had a nice article on him and the Prayer Breakfast in the July issue of "Golf Course News". John states that "Adam was the first greenkeeper, if you read the scripture (Gen. 2:15), God put Adam in the garden to work it and take care of it."

Not being tied down to a golf course seven days a week has had a benefit for your Editor this year. He was able to take his first summer vacation in 29 years! I know that there are others in the profession who haven't had a summer vacation in 30, 40 or 50 years. It is unfortunate that this is so, and we really have no one to blame but ourselves, we tell ourselves and our clubs that we can't get away during the summer or the season. But that is untrue. If one's crew is trained like we tell our clubs they are, then they can handle the course for a week or so. What happens when an emergency arises and one has to leave — does the place fall apart? Usually not. The crew comes thru and if a problem comes up another Superintendent neighbor could always give a hand or advice.



How were you keeping cool July 15th? Your editor was on a snow bank at about 7400' in Idaho.

Too bad one couldn't sell the idea of "Rent a Superintendent" for a day or a week. It would open up another job opportunity for the retired or for person like myself who are temporarily unemployed. We would be able to come in when a person goes on a vacation or when there is an emergency and the superintendent has to be away. Surely one with the experience of years of running a course could keep things going with help from the crew on certain items like the idiosyncracies of the irrigation system. It would be fun, it would be a heck of a challenge and it would be beneficial for all parties concerned.

I'll toss my hat into the ring — rent me for a day or a week. I'm flexible. Call me at (312) 858-0601. Now who has the guts to go to their club and ask for a summer vacation and say that they could get a replacement Superintendent while they are gone?

Dr. Randy Kane has a new 18 minute video tape entitled "Bent Grass Fairways: Renovation and Management." This video is for the Green Committees, club members or the Board of Directors. Call Dr. Kane (312) 954-2753 for further information.

Looking for an assistant? Call Craig Kosiba at (815) 727-1664 or (815) 725-1178. He is a graduate of Joliet Jr. College and SIU major in Plant & Soil Science. Has been working for a lawn service for 4 years.

Congratulations to Joel Purpur on becoming Certified!

Paul Wagner from Chevy Chase C.C. is now Superintendent at the new Boulder Ridge course. Congratulations Paul!

Jim Evans of Turnberry reports that the members may (they may already have) buy the club from the previous owners who had financial problems.