

## Director's Column



### Your Responsibility

by Roger A. Stewart, Jr., CGCS

Many of us today feel we have numerous responsibilities as Golf Course Superintendents. One of the most important of which is our responsibility to the environment. We have become known as some of the most knowledgeable people in agriculture and therefore we have a responsibility to protect the environment in which we live utilizing all these tools that we have. However, we sometimes may be guilty of overlooking those responsibilities when our conscience takes a nap.

I recently came across the article printed in *Audubon* magazine in November of 1987, entitled "Hazards of the Game" by Jolee Edmonson. This article, as you can imagine, was not overly kind to the idea of golf course development. Ms. Edmonson did pay us all a compliment by essentially saying that we are a group who is sensitive to environmental concerns and are "conscientious, 'very human' beings intent on learning more about the interchange between golf courses and the

environment". I feel that we as a group are deserving of that tribute, but I think we can all take that extra step forward to hone our sensitivity even more. There is no better example to use the turf we manage so we need to convey that action to the golfer and beyond to the general public.

I want to make sure I do all I can to protect the environment and preserve it for the living beings on this earth, plant and animal alike. Through my education and experience as a Superintendent I know the precautions and pitfalls to be aware of, but I also think we all could use a reminder from time to time. That's why reading an article like that just renews my awareness to this problem. I think I will subscribe to that magazine just for that purpose. I recommend all Golf Course Superintendents read *Silent Spring* by Rachael Carson. I'm not suggesting I agree with the entire content of the book but some aspects of it are bound to touch a nerve.

There has been considerably more attention paid to the pesticides we use, now than five years ago. The pesticide manufacturers are responding to this pressure with safer products for humans and the environment we live in. It is our responsibility to use those materials in an environmentally prudent manner. I dare say there is more than one MAGCS member who is not licensed by the State of Illinois to apply pesticides! To those of you who may fall into this category, you are breaking the law and shirking your responsibility as a professional. We need to make sure that we all, as professional peers, share in man's responsibility for the health of Mother Nature.

When you're planning the coming year's activities for your golf course, be sure to include that sensitivity to the environment so we can all enjoy our unique way of making a living into the next century and beyond.

### 1989 NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PESTICIDE CLINICS

\$10.00 per day PREPAID registration fee required at all locations except for June 6. NO REFUNDS.  
Call telephone number listed for the clinic that you wish to attend to obtain pre-payment instructions.  
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Training begins at 8:30 a.m. Testing begins at 1:00 p.m. except for June 6.  
For 2-day clinics, General Standards training will be on the 1st day, Turf and Ornamentals training on the 2nd day.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Feb 7	Gurnee	G.S.	Days Inn, 5550 Grand Ave. Call (312) 223-8627
Feb 14	Park Ridge	G.S.	VFW Hall, Higgins & Canfield Rds. Call (312) 991-1160
Feb 21	Alsip	G.S.	Condesa del Mar, 12220 S. Cicero Ave. Pre-registration required, call (312) 532-4369
Feb 28-Mar 1	Glencoe	G.S., Turf, Orn	Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake-Cook Rd. E of I-94 Pre-registration required, call (312) 991-1160
Mar 7-8	Joliet	G.S., Turf, Orn	Holiday Inn, Larkin Ave. & I-80. Call (815) 727-9296
Mar 14	Crystal Lake	G.S.	Hob Nob II Restaurant, Rt. 14 & 31. Call (815) 338-3737
Mar 28-29	Western Springs	G.S., Turf, Orn	Lyons Twp. High School - So. Campus, Willow Springs Rd & 49th St. Call (312) 991-1160 to pre-register
Apr 11-12	Wheaton	G.S., Turf, Orn	DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd. Pre-registration required, call (312) 682-7486
Apr 18-19	Glencoe	G.S., Turf, Orn	Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake-Cook Rd. E of I-94 Pre-registration required, call (312) 991-1160
Apr 25-26	Alsip	G.S., Turf, Orn	Condesa del Mar, 1220 S. Cicero Ave. Pre-registration required, call (312) 532-4369
Jun 6	Wheaton	G.S.	DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd. Pre-registration not required. Testing at 12:30 pm. All Tests Available.

G.S. = General Standards; Orn = Ornamentals