

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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Official Photographer Raymond Schmitz & John Meyer

Dr. Randy T. Kane, Turfgrass Advisor (708) 954-2753
University of Illinois & CDGA

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Editor —

Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
810 Greenwood Avenue
Carpentersville, IL 60110
Phone (708) 428-5009

Fax (708) 854-1497

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President's Message



by Timothy Kelly

I hope that the entire MAGCS membership had a very enjoyable holiday season. During the holiday season, our time was best spent in putting our families first, and our golf courses second. It is a good time of the year to reflect on our many blessings that God has given to each and every one of us!

I would like to congratulate the ITF for the fine educational programs, that were recently provided at the NTCE. On behalf of the MAGCS, I presented a \$2,000.00 check to the ITF, designated for research. I want to thank Dave Blomquist for organizing the MAGCS sponsored portion of the education, at the NCTE — the Round Table Discussion of Pesticides. Dave did a fine job also as the moderator of this round table discussion.

During the Round Table Discussion of Pesticides golf course superintendents were able to get a glimpse of an extremist viewpoint, and an anti-perception of pesticides within our industry. This illustrates the importance for each and every golf course superintendent to do the following: use, handle, and store all pesticides properly. Incorporate IPM into pesticide programs, and use alternatives whenever possible. We should make sure that each golf course is operated within EPA & environmental, compliance.

It is also important that all of us should inform the public about the positive environmental aspects golf courses provide. Golf courses are part of the green belts within urban areas. The turf and trees provide: oxygen, filter pollutants from the atmosphere, and check erosion. Golf courses provide habitat for birds and wildlife. Yes, we do have many birds on our golf courses! Golf courses are not toxic waste sites, they are healthy alive oases in the urban sprawl. For example, pesticides are applied to only 23% of my golf facility on a regular basis to: greens, tees, and fairways. This potential application takes place only for six months, with one additional application in November. That means that for five and a half months there are no pesticides applied. A herbicide is applied to another 25% of the golf course, the in-play roughs, on a infrequent basis (every 3 to 4 years). Consequently, every three to four years, 77% of my golf course will not have any pesticides applied. Additionally, 52% of my golf course never has pesticides applied to it at all!

Our industry is committed to ensuring the health and well being of the environment. Strides are being made, and as research and development continues, safer pesticides, and alternatives will be developed. As golf course superintendents we must continue to learn and stay abreast of new developments and products. Venues like the NCTE, MRTEF, GCSAA Conference & Seminars are all excellent examples of opportunities to learn.

The January MAGCS meeting will be held on January 11th at Arrowhead G.C. This meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. with education, followed by lunch. The MAGCS business meeting will follow the lunch.

The MAGCS, with the support of our generous commercial members, will again sponsor a hospitality suite at the GCSAA convention at Anaheim. It will be located at the Anaheim Hilton & Tower, the headquarters hotel. Further details — specific days, time, and room location will be presented as soon as they are available. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the GCSAA Conference & Show.