

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

1994 Board of Directors

President	Alan Fierst Oak Park C.C.	Home: 456-7815 Office: 453-7525
Vice-President	Joel Purpur (Debbie) River Forest G.C.	Home: 832-6763 Office: 782-4259
Sec'y.-Treas.	Donald Cross (Cindy) Skokie C.C.	Home: 965-3435 Office: 835-4296
Exec. Secretary	Joan Minnis MAGCS, P. O. Box 204 N. Aurora, IL 60542	Office: 896-6811 Fax: 896-6811
Board	Kerry Blatteau Oak Brook Hills C.C.	Home: 848-4047 Office: 323-7633
	David Blomquist Naperville C.C.	Home: 462-3922 Office: 355-9807
	Ed Braunsky (Sue) Geneva Golf Club	Home: 879-8536 Office: 232-0627
	Kevin Czerkies (Peggy) Sportsman C.C.	Home: 949-7074 Office: 291-2352
	Don Ferreri (Geri) Seven Bridges G.C.	Home: 357-7964 Office: 852-1746
	Robert Maibusch (Cheryl) Hinsdale Golf Club	Home: 789-1651 Office: 986-1323
Pres. Emeritus	Timothy Kelly (Linda) Vill. Links of Glen Ellyn	Home: 858-8174 Office: 469-2077
Commercial Representative	John Lebedevs (Nora) Turf Products Ltd.	Home: 910-4568 Office: 668-5537

(All phone extensions are 708)

Official Photographer — Raymond Schmitz

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



We are not copyrighted and would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and "The Bull Sheet" credit.

Editor —

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

Fax (708) 428-5009

Bull Sheet printed by Ever-Redi Printing, 5100 East Ave., Countryside, IL 60525.

The Bull Sheet is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page and by the full page. All artwork to be finished, camera ready or negative, screen 110 or 133, black and white only. Circulation is over 500 issues per month.

On Course With the President

Rapidly, it is becoming the time when we need to be looking inward to ourselves as members of an association with the impact and size of the "Midwest". As turfgrass associations go, we are huge. Huge! I am told by the fine GCSAA staff personnel in Lawrence, KS that we, the members of the Midwest, can basically pride ourselves as the largest free standing singular chapter in the association. Six hundred some-odd regional members and a GCSAA voting strength of over 300 does not comprise a small group, no matter the discipline. We are, as an association, a fine and diverse group of turfgrass professionals choosing to congregate under the banner of the MAGCS. We do a fine job of representing ourselves as turfgrass professionals and membership in our association provides a comfortable sense of belonging and purpose that surely must be fulfilling. Or is it? I'm not so sure ...

The members of the Midwest, can basically pride ourselves as the largest free standing singular chapter in the association.

We do a terrific job of providing for ourselves. The quality of the MAGCS monthly meetings, golf events, educational presentations, and social functions are unquestionably top rank. The people of the association simply could not be any better. We can count our membership the finest group of commercial and corporate members anywhere and they unfailingly support the Midwest. The individual MAGCS members are staunch supporters of the association and essentially provide the fine nucleus from which we gain our strength. The greatest asset of our own "Midwest" association is the individual and collective strength of it's membership.

But what do we as an association accomplish? Plainly, if sheer numbers are a valid indicator, there must be something of quality and desirability at the present Midwest association level. But I fear it tends to be focused selfishly inward and serving only of ourselves. The question arises about the defined purpose or mission of the Midwest. Indeed, why is it we are here? Is it simply for the business of putting on a few

*But what do we
as an association accomplish?*

summer golf extravaganzas and a few more educational offerings? Or can there be more? Realistically, how well do we support the area of turfgrass research or even the CDGA turfgrass advisor? Oh, we dribble a small contribution to the ITF, and we barely seem to be able to find some token dollars for GCSAA or USGA sponsored turfgrass research projects. Since Dr. Randy Kane has been in the area, only in the recent past has the MAGCS seen fit to contribute to his needs or even to insure that he is sufficiently funded to remain in this area. There are other examples (the CDGA/U.I. experimental green at Cantigny, for instance) and endless other possibilities for MAGCS directed research funding. There are also

(continued page 4)

(On Course With the President continued)

the very real possibilities and needs for Chicago area charities to be recipients of MAGCS contributions. Not to mention the salient benefits of some very positive public relations for the golf course superintendent and the golf industry. The need and the desire for MAGCS sponsored contributory funding is there and we as an association must explore how we can become a driving force in that type of funding. Yes, the P.R. angle may be ultimately self-serving and motivated to our own benefit, but this notion that we exist simply and essentially to best serve ourselves is decidedly not positive "spin" for anyone. It may well boil down to defining the very essence of why we do in fact exist.

Clearly it is time the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents begins to define its contributory role and become a dominant force in the arena of association sponsored and funded beneficiaries. Be it support of turfgrass science and research or perhaps contributions for an association sponsored charitable group, the time is now. Sadly there are far less accomplished chapters doing far more than we in this critical area. We have lagged behind too long and there is no defense in dragging our feet any longer.

ATF

He's At It Again

by Fred Opperman, Editor

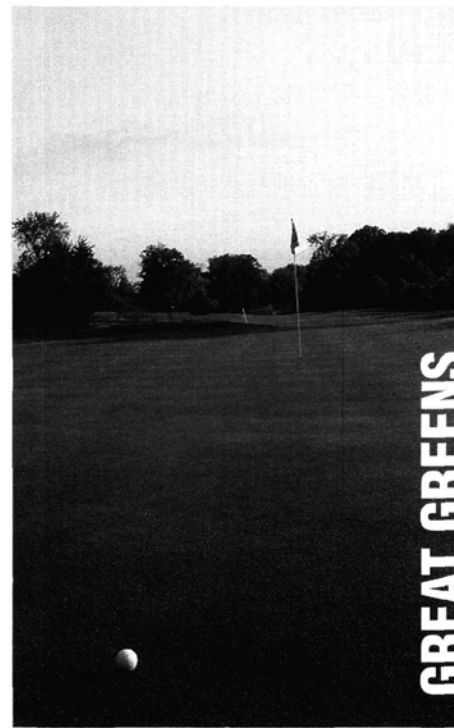
Once again, on September 1, 1994, on his noon program, Paul Harvey stated that the golf courses were killing wildlife in their quest to keep the grass green. He inferred that due to the heavy pressure from the golfers to keep everything green that the superintendents were over-applying chemicals; and in turn these chemicals are killing off the birds and other wildlife.

Numerous associations, individual golf course superintendents, and educated others have written to Mr. Harvey explaining the factual findings of many studies and reports. These letters and reports have fallen on deaf ears. To my knowledge Mr. Harvey has never responded to any of these letters. He continues to sensationalize through his radio broadcasts these same falsehoods.

I think we may be writing to the wrong person when we address our letters to Mr. Harvey. We may get a better response by addressing our letters that substantiate the truth of the matter to the companies that he is endorsing. I once felt that Paul Harvey was gospel. I felt that the products he was endorsing must be good. Truthfully, I am now suspect of what he is pitching. He is just after the buck.

If Paul Harvey isn't factual and not researching the truth of what he is reporting, how can we believe in the products that he is selling? We need to get a campaign going to write to the car company, the saw manufacturer, the vacuum cleaner company, and the many other companies, plus WGN radio and state our case. I'm sure they would like to hear that a large segment of their consumers believe their ace pitch-man is spreading falsehoods.

If Paul Harvey is after the buck, maybe we can have some affect on the buck that he receives from the companies that he endorses. Maybe ...



IT'S TOUGHER THAN EVER TO PRODUCE GREAT GREENS.

SAND BASED GREENS, FREQUENT SAND TOP DRESSING, AND IMPROVED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE NUTRIENTS TURFGRASS NEEDS IN THE ROOTZONE.

MILORGANITE HELPS MAINTAIN GREAT GREENS BY KEEPING NUTRIENTS IN THE ROOTZONE.

CONTACT YOUR MILORGANITE DISTRIBUTOR OR OUR STAFF AGRONOMISTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



MILORGANITE DIVISION - MMSD
1101 NORTH MARKET STREET
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
414-225-3333

SOLID AGRONOMY®

- ♦ 90% WATER INSOLUBLE NITROGEN
SLOW RELEASE TO MINIMIZE SURGE GROWTH AND LEACHING
- ♦ COMPLETE MICRONUTRIENT PACKAGE
CHELATED IRON IN AN ORGANIC COMPLEX
HIGH IRON: NITROGEN RATIO
- ♦ UNIFORM APPLICATION
EVEN AT LOW NITROGEN RATES TO AVOID "FRECKLING"
- ♦ NO SALT TO CREATE STRESS OR BURN ON TURF



2040 Lehigh Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025
Telephone 708.724.8660
Fax 708.724.8659

- Irrigation Design & Installation
- Drainage Systems
- Pump Station Work & Consultation
- Irrigation Pipe & Supplies