

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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On Course With The President

It is with a great sense of pride and appreciation that I begin the opportunity the membership has entrusted to me to serve as your MAGCS President. I look forward to the challenges ahead and will do my best to act with the interests of our entire membership in mind. The MAGCS is fortunate to have selected a



Board of Directors with the experience, foresight, and enthusiasm to carry on the services of the association. The desire is there to implement several new projects, and the vision is there to look toward future progress. I congratulate Jim McNair and Greg Thalmann on their election to the Board and look forward to the fine efforts they will provide. I also welcome Phil Taylor, the appointed Commercial Advisory council board representative, and eagerly anticipate his valuable input.

Our association is also fortunate to have had outstanding leadership from so many past Presidents, each with varied experiences and areas of expertise in the past management of the MAGCS. I invite their comments and suggestions and intend to utilize this valuable resource for counsel.

Exciting events are about to transpire. The new MAGCS promotional brochure is near final production. In January the premier issue of our newsletter, "On Course" will be unveiled and two, one-day GCSAA Regional Seminars will be held. In February we will participate in the Chicago Golf Show and our Past President Bruce Williams will assume the Presidency of GCSAA. At the March meeting the Education Committee will again conduct an expanded educational offering. And onward we go into a new golf season!

At the 1995 annual meeting the MAGCS membership approved a dues increase for 1996. You received prior notification as to the rationale for the increase and the Board's intentions. To reiterate the full details is unnecessary, but in summary, the funds will be utilized in three primary areas; 1) Improvements to our newsletter (printing and quality), 2) Public relations (brochure and golf show), and 3) association administration (executive secretary, equipment, and liability insurance). Your approval of the increase will permit rapid action and implementation by the new Board. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The 1996 dues statement which you received reflects this increase. Please remember to fill out the membership data form completely. This will avoid omissions and inaccuracies in updating our files and will aid in directory accuracy. Your prompt return of the form and payment will enable us to get the new membership directory to you in a timely manner.

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(On Course continued)

Last year we initiated the voluntary contribution program to allow the MAGCS to provide additional funding to organizations for turf research and for other worthy projects. The response was outstanding and affirmed our commitment to these organizations. Your continued support of this program will allow our contribution levels to match, and hopefully exceed, previous levels.

I look forward to a productive and progressive year for the MAGCS. We truly have an outstanding organization and the option will be available for you to take advantage of ample opportunities in 1996. I hope your choice will be to participate and surround yourself with these offerings.

Lastly, To you and your families; a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Donald A. Cross, President, MAGCS



Prune Many Trees, Shrubs Now

by James A. Fizzell

Even in the coldest winter, there are some nice days, sunny and clear, when it is just good to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air. Pruning small, deciduous trees and non-flowering shrubs might be just the excuse you need to get out of the office or shop.

Winter is a good time to prune these plants. Without leaves, the structure is easier to see, and often there is more free time than during the season when turf care is all-consuming.

Overgrown deciduous shrubs are ideally pruned at this time of year. While maintenance-trimming can be done during the season to remove small amounts of current growth, major pruning to renew a shrub or to reduce its size is best done in winter. If you have never done any pruning before or if you are afraid to make a mistake, don't worry. Plants do grow back. The important thing is get started. Here's how:

Some shrubs such as honeysuckle, privet, snowberry or potentilla can actually be cut to within a couple of inches of the ground. This is called rejuvenation, and is used to re-grow old, unsightly or overgrown plants. New growth from the base will result in an essentially new plant, full and green to the ground.

In the process, any overwintering scale insects, mites, and aphids are removed as well.

Plants will usually achieve their original size in a couple of seasons, and will be much more healthy and attractive.

Screens and hedges can be rejuvenated, but doing so eliminates them as effective barriers. By cutting one side to the ground, and waiting until it achieves enough height before cutting the other side, will rejuvenate the plants without losing their benefits in the process. Cut the back-side the first year. The damage to the front won't be so obvious if the remaining hedge is vigorous and attractive.

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