

# I Feel Fortunate

Glen Bereiter  
Alden G.C.

Feel fortunate! To be able to look forward to getting out of bed each day in order to go to work and do something I thoroughly enjoy doing . . . taking care of a golf course. A superintendent I worked for in the early '80s—ATF—taught me several valuable lessons, humility being the one that comes to mind most readily. However, equally important was the lesson of taking this earth and reshaping it into something that is truly your piece of artwork that will last for many years.

Basically, that is the essence of what we do: take our little piece of earth, shape it, mold it, and care for it the best we know how to please our diverse patrons. Like most golf course superintendents, I take a great deal of pride in

being able to accomplish this task. When all entities come together as one and things begin to click, the experience is one of great satisfaction and pride. Unfortunately, our business is such that successes and rewards are short-lived because of the many other “challenges” that await our attention. But again, that is what makes each and every day special and enjoyable.

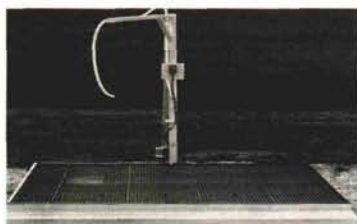
I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to join many of my colleagues for several days of education, rest and relaxation at our annual conference and show in Las Vegas. The staff at the GCSAA put together such a complete package of education and social events every year that most probably take for granted their hard work and determination on our behalf. I cannot even imagine the “behind the scenes” preparation and footwork that take place prior to and

during the GCSAA International Conference and Show in order to make it a success.

In reading the February issue of *On Course*, I can't help but feel fortunate for several reasons:

1. For this wonderful publication that brings to us so much information each month. This publication continues to improve and impress.
2. For the advertisers, who so generously offer their products and services to help US do a better job maintaining our golf courses.
3. For our Turf Advisory Staff, who spend countless hours working on trial plots and gathering and disseminating data for our benefit.

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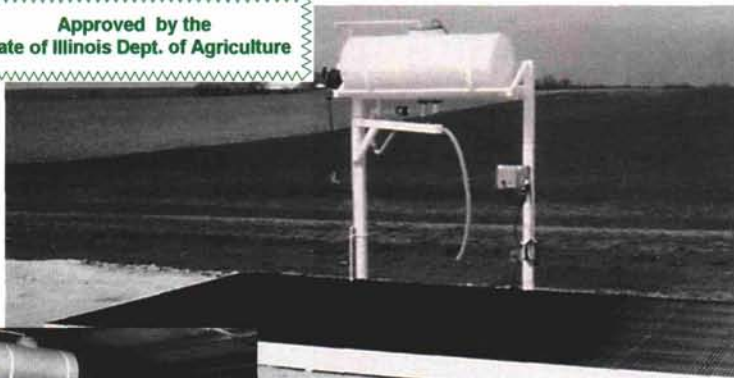
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### **I Feel Fortunate**

*(continued from page 18)*

4. For the impressive list of Environmental Steward Awards garnered by the members of the MAGCS. My thought is that this can only encourage others to elevate their standards and motivate them/us toward this level of excellence.

Maybe others feel as fortunate as I. It is easy to see why when we take the time to analyze our profession and all the good things it has to offer us and our communities. Our president, Ed Braunsky, had an interesting spin on our profession: "Golf course superintendents are one big fraternity." I personally feel we are bonded to the common goal of providing a golf facility that is pleasant to view and play, challenging, environmentally friendly and relaxing. ■

### **The Sunset Ridge Plan**

*(continued from page 20)*

What a great way to prove to the public that golf course superintendents are part and parcel of a CLASS profession. How about this for a great headline as 1997 draws to a close: Forty Chicago Area Clubs Have Now Joined the Sunset Ridge Plan!!!

We have some of the finest turf and turfgrass managers in the nation. Illinois needs to lead the nation in turfgrass support for its university programs. As Director of Development for the ITF, I am charged with building a bigger support base for our universities so they can support your industry. I am developing new approaches and ideas for achieving levels of support never before realized in Illinois. I would like to discuss these programs with you, get your ideas and encourage you to join in with me. Insuring the future strength of the Illinois turfgrass industry is the responsibility of all of us. ■

### **Fred Behnke -N- Mt. Prospect Golf Club**

*(continued from page 8)*

states, "I love this job, everyday! There is nothing greater than to be on the golf course at dawn and see the sun rise to begin a new day." I think we all agree.

Come on out on the 21st and see the manifestation of one man's love for his job. Remember to come and tread lightly, for steel spikes are no longer allowed at any MAGCS golf event. ■

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