



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS Sportsman's C.C.

This month, my term as President comes to a close. It's been an enjoyable and rewarding time for me. Now the time has come to pass the gavel to Bob Maibusch. I know the association will be in good hands under Bob's leadership. He's served many years on the Midwest board and is very informed of the activities of GCSAA.

Quite often this year, I was asked how my presidency was going. Well, my standard answer was, "Better than Bill Clinton's." The hardest part about 1998 was not the time requirements of this association or the maintenance of my golf course. No, the hardest part about 1998 was being the loyal White Sox fan that I am and listening to the Cub fans gloat. I can't blame the Cub fans though, they've got a lot of pent-up frustration. At least it only took the Sox a half season to rebuild.

At the annual meeting last November, I stated that this association has some great leaders as Board of Directors. The time that these guys put in attending meetings and running their respective committees was remarkable. Many times they ask themselves,

"Why did I volunteer to do this?" I would like to recognize them on their fine efforts.

Brian Bossert was very busy this past year. Thanks to large vendor contributions, Brian was able to arrange the best hospitality room ever at the conference in Anaheim. Also, Brian was our golf chairman this year. The Golf Committee is known as the toughest committee to run. As chairman, you are busy each and every month running a golf event for 120 people while trying to attend to your own golf course needs. If that wasn't enough, Brian took the reins and headed up the ad hoc Web Site Committee.

Luke Strojny served as arrangements chairman. Talk about a thankless job. Luke's job was mainly behind the scenes. He worked with each host club on times, meals, costs, and anything else that goes into running a monthly meeting. Luke has an excellent schedule of golf courses lined up for 1999.

Kevin DeRoo deserves a hand for the educational topics and speakers that were brought to us from the Education Committee. I'm looking forward to the Annual Meeting this year, for this committee has arranged some fantastic speakers.

Bob Maibusch served as vice president, Employment Committee chairman, as well as chairman of the ad hoc Scholarship Committee. Hopefully, as vice president, Bob learned from my mistakes and will have a flawless year as president.

Greg Thalmann chaired our Membership Committee. This committee isn't so bad during the years when we're not conducting a survey. Good thing for Greg

this was one of those years, because mid-season, Greg was handed the pro shop operations at Fox Run in addition to the course maintenance.

Jim McNair, the father figure on the board, chaired the Public Relations and Long-Range Planning Committees. The highlight from the Public Relations Committee was the letter issued explaining turf-related problems in 1998. Hopefully, this might save someone's job this off season. Thanks also goes to Randy Kane for his help with this letter. Due to an outstanding long-range plan already in place, Jim had an easy time with that committee.

Fred Behnke chaired the Editorial Committee. This committee serves as support for this fine magazine that you are reading. Excellent feature articles and SuperN-Site articles were produced from the Editorial Committee.

In addition to the secretary/treasurer position, Don Ferreri chaired the Environmental Committee. Our association continued to be financially responsible with Don at the helm. He was able to pay off his house and still keep the MAGCS in the black.

On a sad note, Ed Braunsky will be leaving the board after ten years of faithful service. During his final year, Ed chaired the Benevolence, Bylaws and Nominating Committees, as well as held the title of immediate past president. Unfortunately, the Benevolence Committee kept Ed very busy this year. I know I speak for everyone on the board, Ed will truly be missed. We never experienced a dull meeting when Ed was in attendance. I'm fortunate that Ed and I became good friends through the past few years.

(continued on page 30)

On Course With the President

(continued from page 2)

This year as well, Joel Purpur came in from grazing in the pasture to head up the Past Presidents' Council. They held a meeting and came up with some very valuable information for the board. Many of their deals are being incorporated into the long-range plan.

I would like to also thank John Meyer for all the time and effort put forth as Commercial Members' Advisory Council chairman. John is stepping down after the Annual Meeting. Hopefully, Bob Maibusch has recruited a brave vendor to take over for John.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the association's two paid employees. Executive Secretary George Minnis and *On Course* Editor Fred Opperman. These two guys make the board look good. I think we sometimes take them for granted. George has been with us long enough now that he doesn't need to be told what to do. In fact, he keeps the board in line reminding them of deadlines and such. And what does everyone look for each month, *On Course*, of course. Fred is doing a fantastic job making sure it's in our mailbox each month.

I just want to say one final thank you to everyone involved with the running of this organization. From those who served on committees to the vendors that helped support us financially, THANK YOU!



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President, MAGCS

1998 Autumn Field Day . . .

(continued from page 6)

contained the dollar spot Bioject studies. The cutting height on the east half of the green was at .150 during green up and was dropped to .130 during the summer. The green has been top-dressed with sand four times. Dollar spot has been allowed to develop once again so that the Bioject evaluation could proceed. Pink snow mold was observed on the plot in mid-April, and brown patch became quite noticeable on August 10-11.

Dr. Tom Voigt, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, spoke on his trial work at Cantigny on "Evaluation of Native Midwestern Plants for Use in the Golf Course Landscape." The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, GCSAA, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation have funded a three-year study to evaluate the suitability of 58 native plants in unmowed portions of three Chicago area golf courses (Cantigny, Skokie C.C. and Olympia Fields C.C.) Tom is always filled with enthusiasm about the really great work he is doing. Everyone comes away from a Voigt presentation with

Instruction in Greenkeeping . . .

(continued from page 16)


keepers to attend these courses and make provisions for the payment by their clubs of the expenses involved.

The length of time over which seeds may retain their viability while buried in soil is an important problem in weed control and in storage of seed of desirable crops for future use. Much experimental work of this kind is now being undertaken by the United States Department of Agriculture and its cooperators. At the Michigan Agricultural College a test has

tons of information. Ask him about, following two seasons of evaluation, the 13 great natives of the 58 in the study to try at your course.

Dr. Bruce Branham, U. of I., added to the information parade on his up-to-date results from the use of Prograss on *Poa* control. Fairway plots are showing some interesting results in the control of our old friend *Poa*. Bruce is the one that you should get next to on this control matter; he surely has answers that will help.

Dr. Andy Hamblin, U. of I. turfgrass breeder, was on the grounds looking over bentgrass varieties. He has some great future plans for creating improved plants in bluegrasses as well as bentgrass species. Keep an eye on future results from this guy.

To top it all off, Kevin DeRoo, Bartlett Hills G.C. main grass man and MAGCS director, charcoal-grilled a gourmet meal for everyone. If you missed all of this, you were the loser. It was a fine showing about the people that are putting real effort into bettering the Illinois Turfgrass Industry. 

been under way for 40 years, and it was found that after the expiration of this period of time one-half of the seeds used in the experiment retained their ability to germinate. In another test, conducted at Arlington, Va., at the end of 20 years 51 of the 107 kinds of seed buried in soil were viable. As a rule, grass seeds are relatively short lived; fescue especially loses its germination rapidly. 