



The 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic—

Future: The State of the Art

As chair of the Education Committee, I have been rather lucky in the last two years, guiding the creation of programs to honor the 75th anniversary of the Association and this year's 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. Unfortunately, my personal life has seen some tragedy with the death of my brother and his fiancé. I would like to offer many thanks to my colleagues and the MAGCS Board of Directors for their support during these hard times.

The creation of the clinic began with "The Search for Knowledge;" in our profession, as in many fields of endeavor, there are pioneers, people willing to climb a few mountains and cross a river or two in search of knowledge.

Reflecting now on the history of the Midwest Turf Clinic, I came across some interesting commentary in the archives of the education file. These are excerpts from the writings of Mrs. John C. Ebel in 1984. The creation of the clinic began with "The Search for Knowledge;" in our profession, as in many fields of endeavor, there are pioneers, people willing to climb a few mountains and cross a river or two in search of knowledge. Our pioneers were Ray Davis, Frank Dinelli, Ed Stewart, Bob Williams, Bert Rost, Norm Johnson, Peter Bild, Bill Stuppel, Wes Updegraff, Al Johnson, Amos Lapp, Paul Burdett, Walter Fuchs, Ray Gerber, Don Strand and Gordon Brinkworth.

"The Birth of a Clinic" started with fellow superintendents getting together and sharing ideas; they would meet either at the Glen Oak Gun Club or in Frank Dinelli's rustic and nostalgic old office at Northmoor Country Club. Their first effort to formalize these meetings came on December 17-18, 1953. The first clinic was held at Medinah Country Club; superintendent Ray Davis was host and 50 hearty souls attended. They met in the directors' room with Bob Williams as chairman of the proceedings; the program included Dr. R. Voight (director of the University of Illinois' Drug and Horticulture Experiment Station), who had turf plots at the Morton Arboretum, and Dr. Klomparens, who brought in microscopes to be used for plant disease identification, as well as Dr. Bill Daniels, a professor at Purdue University, and Dr. James Watson from the Toro Company, which had helped in developing a chemical application chart for use in disease control.

The clinic came out of the gate at a turtle's pace because it was difficult to obtain speakers. Many superintendents lacked the confidence to stand up and speak. The first 10 years, however, did establish the need for this clinic, with the idea of educating fellow superintendents and bringing new ideas to the forefront. The University of Illinois' College of Pharmacy held the clinic for two years; it then moved to Olympia Fields Country Club for the next eight years. By the 10th clinic, attendance had climbed to 116 people. In 1964, the clinic moved back to Medinah C.C., and in 1966, celebrities began speaking at

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the clinic. In 1974, the clinic became a one-day affair; I suppose the Education Committee was getting tired of the two-day events!

Here is a look back at the 25th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic, held at Medinah C.C. on November 30, 1977. The theme was “Knowledge Through Testing” and the fee was \$25.

Did you notice how long the afternoon session went and how a banquet with a guest speaker followed?

This year’s theme is “Future: The State of the Art.” I figure that in the next six to seven years, technology will be bringing the turf industry to a different level. I have lined up Greg Martin, architect, to talk about golf course design in light of the economic times. We are trying to get a superintendent from a well-known golf course. We’d like to see Dr. Al Turgeon back because he was here for the 25th clinic. Maybe we’ll have a round-table format like last year with Oscar Miles sitting in one of the chairs. Rick Grant from Griffin Technologies will speak on moss and algae control; somebody from the University of Illinois will be on hand to discuss GPS. We’ll have a guest speaker that is a local favorite.

I hope you enjoyed this short stroll down memory lane back to the start of the Midwest Turf Clinic, and that you will attend this year’s clinic at Medinah C.C. on November 6.

Note: I don’t have any information on the 34th and 35th clinics, held in 1986 and 1987. If anybody has information to share with me, I would be very appreciative. You can e-mail me at Scgaryhgc@aol.com. Thanks!



Wednesday, November 30th, 1977
Medinah Country Club

Morning

- 8:30 Registration . . . Howard Baerwald
9:00 Call to Order . . . MAGCS President, Joseph Grenko
9:10 Welcome Host Superintendent . . . John Jackman

“Theme” Knowledge Through Testing

- Morning Moderator . . . Carl Schwartzkopf
9:15 Thatch Development . . . Dr. Al Turgeon
Questions
10:00 Dutch Elm Disease Control . . . Wolfgang Mueller
Questions
10:20 New Fungicide Combinations . . . Danny Wyatt
Questions
10:40 Break
11:00 PBCB-26019 Test . . . Bruce Williams
Questions
11:20 Cold Weather Pythium . . . Dr. John Saladini
Questions
12:00 Lunch

Afternoon Moderator . . . Dr. John Street

- 1:15 Motivation . . . Mr. Larry Aniballi
2:00 Techniques in Controlling *Poa annua* During
This Season’s Heat . . . Mike Nass
Questions
2:20 Treating Greens with no Air Circulation . . .
James Johns
Questions
2:40 Crew Classification . . . Timothy Kelly
Questions
3:00 Break
3:20 Problems with Oaks . . . Dick Schroeder
Questions
3:40 Turf Insect Problems This Season . . .
Panel: Roger LaRoche, Dennis Fulton,
Norm Meyer, Carl Langrebe
Questions
4:00 Converting Bluegrass Fairways to Bentgrass . . .
Peter Leuzinger
Questions
4:20 A Successful New Concept in Fairway Turf
Renovation—Using Perennial Ryegrass to
Improve Turf Quality . . . Paul Voykin
Questions
4:40 Summary and Close . . . Dr. John Street
5:00 Cocktail Hour
6:30 Banquet, Guest Speaker . . . Bob Parsons, Punter,
Chicago Bears