



A Lesson Learned?

All of our experiences throughout our lifetime can be categorized as good, bad or indifferent depending upon how they affect us and how we react to them.

The episode I am about to relate here is among my bad experiences. It happened due to my own poor judgment and provides a basis for a lesson to be learned. Let us look at the details.

About 50 years ago, during my 12-year tenure as the superintendent at Beverly C.C., O.J. Noer—the agronomist with the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission—recommended that I follow the lead of several superintendents who were having some success in reducing *Poa annua* in bent/*Poa* fairways using fall applications of sodium arsenite.

Knowing full well the high toxicity of powdered arsenicals, I chose to make the applications myself with

the three-nozzle spray boom. Incidentally, the deterrent effect on the *Poa annua* was somewhat successful as noted the following spring. So far, positive results and a lesson learned, right? Wait and learn of the total outcome.

About two weeks after the arsenical application, I began to experience occasional nosebleeds for no apparent reason. I went to see a specialist doctor (member of the club) to diagnose the problem. His judgment was that I had an injured artery in my nostril that required cauterizing. This meant the packing of my nostril to about the size of a golf ball for a two-week period. (I looked like a circus clown, no less.)

The damaged artery healed in a couple weeks, but I was left with occasional nosebleeds for the following two years, uncomfortable to say the least.

The doctor and I concluded that the measuring out of a toxic chemical without the use of a respirator was the cause of my problem. Now how stupid could I be and more importantly, did I learn a lesson?

Tune in to this column next month for the answers.



FROM THE EDITOR

Cathy Miles Ralston

Commending Our Writers

It is my responsibility (and honor) to serve as one of the five judges designated for each of the editorial prizes sponsored by the MAGCS: the longstanding Ray Gerber Editorial Award and the new Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award.

Prior to filling out my ballots in September, I re-read all of the published articles that had met eligibility requirements for the respective awards. As I perused one excellent article after another, I couldn't help but feel delighted at the high-quality work MAGCS members had submitted to *On Course* during 2001-2002. Factor in other types of articles not eligible for either award—"the Bull Sheet," our president's messages and director's columns, the Super-N-Site profiles, Bob Williams' "Voice of Experience" and features authored by local turfgrass researchers and non-member industry experts—and it's no wonder that *On Course* is among the

upper echelon of GCSAA chapter publications.

As the editor of your magazine, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and Editorial Committee, I extend my gratitude to the Midwest members who have devoted their time, energy and creativity to writing articles for *On Course*. My only request is: more of the same! As we head into what should be a slower season for many of us, please take a moment to reflect on any experience or expertise you have that would make an interesting article for *On Course*. Whether your topic is a discussion of the major renovation you

just completed at your club or a how-to on selecting the right champagne for New Year's Eve, rest assured that your friends and acquaintances in the MAGCS are eager to "read all about it."

Again, many thanks for last year's bumper crop of outstanding articles. Your contributions have made your magazine one of the GCSAA's finest, and it is your future articles that will ensure the continued success of *On Course* as a chronicle of our Association's life and times.

