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### *The President's Message*

A trend in our golf course profession is perturbing me. This month I would like to expound on it. I may be mistaken but I think I see our golf course superintendent's profession turning from its true direction. I think we are not doing the right thing and we might be prostituting our old and honored profession. I am speaking of the recent trend of green superintendents slowly encroaching on the field of managership and away from our true profession that of greenkeeping. This situation, I believe with a good degree of success has stemmed from the managers becoming general managers and heading up the whole clubhouse-and-grounds shinbag. As a result of their yet unproven venture we have become panicky and think that by acquiring new titles and certificates, by attending bookkeeping and finance seminars and urgently seeking further club house property responsibilities, the situation will change. I don't think so. A Golf Superintendent is a Golf Superintendent and a Manager is a Manager and the only way this fact will change is if you wish to change your profession completely. And if that's what you want, go ahead, but do it full turn please. Do not play games—you're only fooling yourself. In my case there is no conflict. I know what I want to be—a good greenkeeper and nothing else. I'll be happy with that title. Because, you see, I know something else—call it a basic managerial premise if you wish. And that is, unless the golf course superintendent is in complete charge of all and total bookkeeping and unless all money transpires through his office he can never be top dog or in full control at the club, leastways not in the eyes of the board members. This fact is as sure and true as the fact that the golf professional will always be the glamour man at the country club no matter how many double knits you own or how well you groom the grass. So, clouding up our true identity by seeking out extra jobs and taking more responsibility for a little more money has nothing to do with our real profession and skill of growing and manicuring grass. This is futile hypocrisy. General managership is not our business. The managers who have taken over completely and are now total general managers have sold down the river their true responsibility to the club. They have taken on too many responsibilities and have gone into fields that they know nothing about. Let's not play their ambitious game. Top clubs as in past history

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are going to find out it's not going to work and there really is no money saved. So let me be absolutely blunt. Become a manager or stay a golf course superintendent, but whatever, be true to yourself—you can't be superb at both jobs. Declare your hand. Don't get into a mixed-up ball game—unless you want to change jobs every few years like some of the general managers are doing. The wise ones (and we have a few outstanding ones in the Chicago area) work with us, co-operate with us, communicate and co-ordinate with us, but are smart enough to keep their hands and noses out of our responsibilities and something they don't know anything about. And that's the way it should be.

I would like to say something else also. I am not, nor is anybody else, impressed by greenkeepers calling themselves managers, golf engineers, turf managers and other nonsensical names. Golf or green superintendents — yes, greenkeepers — lovely, "grass growers or grass farmers" is fine with me. I know what I am and I make good money at it. I don't need to seek extra "janitorial" jobs around the clubhouse to tarnish my true professional image. My direct responsibility is the golf course and that load is heavy enough for me. And please don't give me that old crap about shrinking my duty as a breadwinner, or not being able to take on extra responsibility, or not trying to uplift our profession. I take on more responsibility and I am more involved with exciting things than I know what to do with—for my family and for the image of my profession. And I know many of you are the same. Long ago I could have become manager, but that's not my forte. I am a GREENKEEPER and in this field of endeavor I strive for perfection.

There is something else I must tell you that is in me (and unless you have a touch of the same, you might as well become a manager or go into something else). I would miss the soft warm rains that fall on the turf that I grow. I would miss the white snow that covers the golf course in late fall for the first time, melts, and then softly comes again. I would truly miss all the challenges of mother nature that go with my profession. The hot sun of summer heat and the salty sweat of humidity on my brow. I would miss the pleasure of admiring turf manicured and maintained under both good and adverse conditions and I know that I had a hand in keeping the verdant picture that way. But of course there would be other things also, soothing the frustrations of working with mother nature. I would miss her many gifts to us greenkeepers, the trees changing in the seasons and the flowering shrubs in spring. I would miss the daisies and other wild flowers hiding from our mowers next to the majestic elms, and I would miss the pheasants calling to their mates in early morning. I know I would miss the honest faces of commercial friends calling on me and old greenkeepers advising me. But most of all I would miss getting up each early morning and playing the endless chess game of man against nature, or perhaps more truthfully, trying to work with her and relishing the achievement and oh, the satisfaction and the pleasure that comes once in a while each season when just for a short time I have won the battle.

Paul N. Voykin, President

Midwest Association dinner dance will be held at River Forest Golf Club on Saturday Night, October 14.



Editor

## Editorial

Many people write articles or make statements that everyone cannot accept. I have read articles and listened to discussions advocating the use of topdressing on golf greens. After having spent fifty-six years of my life on a golf course, I feel that I am in a position to make a few statements on the subject.

I agree that a newly constructed green requires topdressing until the time that the putting surface is smooth and the turfgrass has established itself. What would happen if no more topdressing is applied? A reasonable answer is that it depends on how well the construction of the green was executed. Let us assume that the green has excellent drainage, is finished with ten to twelve inches of the best top soil that humanly can be made, is planted with a good strain of grass and receives proper management. What are some of the disadvantages or problems that could be created by the use of topdressing?

On the morning following the day the topdressing was applied the green will usually be wet, either from dew, rainfall or sprinkler. The early golfers will be walking on the wet topdressing resulting in the creation of a hard thin layer, especially near the cup. How many days will it take before this is no longer noticeable?

When will the green be mowed? One must wait until the surface of the green is dry—late enough to interfere with the golfer who sometimes becomes sort of abusive. What about the damage done to the mower that is used to cut the topdressed green? Is topdressing a maintenance procedure that has been carried on from years ago, before the equipment that we have today was available? Has not our increased knowledge permitted the unnecessary use of topdressing?

I know of a good private club on the west side of Chicago that has good putting greens. Seven of them have not been topdressed in thirty-seven years. The other eleven were rebuilt between twenty-five and thirty years ago and were topdressed occasionally for about two years—after that, nothing. Another course nearby has not topdressed greens during the past seventeen years and they are good putting greens.

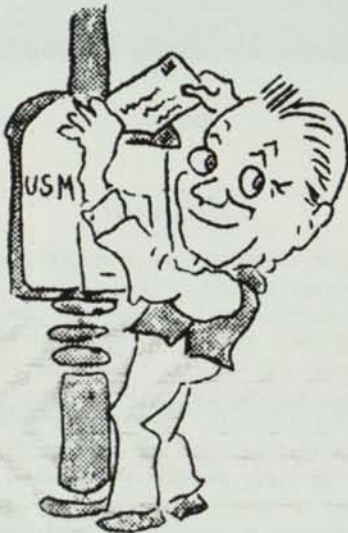
(Continued on page 4)



These two clubs have one thing in common. The greens were not built in a **slipshod way**. **Good workmanship** took place at all times. The greens have good drainage; are finished with ten to twelve inches of the best top soil man could make; and were planted with a **good strain of grass on a smooth surface**. **Good planning** and **construction work done with pride** will yield dividends in future years.

If you do not agree with the statements that I have made, letters to the editor are welcome.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## CHLOROSIS — KILLER OF PIN OAKS

Courtesy Nels J. Johnson

A tree or plant with abnormally yellow foliage could be in serious trouble. If the veins remain green while the rest of the leaf is yellow the plant is suffering from chlorosis, generally caused by lack of available iron.

Among plants most sensitive to chlorosis are the various oak species with pin oak the most severely affected. Sugar maple, sweet gum, tulip tree, birch, quince, rhododendron, heather often are also chlorotic.

One of the peculiarities of chlorosis is that one tree may exhibit severe pallor while a neighboring tree of the same species will be normally green.

Treatment of trees, suffering from chlorosis caused by iron deficiency, varies with local conditions. Alkaline soils "tie up" the iron, making it unavailable to the plants. It is commonly known that many trees and plants do best on acid to neutral soils. Correcting chlorosis then becomes a matter of changing the "ph", making the soils more acid. This is done by adding iron sulfate, powdered sulfur, aluminum sulfate and ammonium sulfate. Lately, chelated iron, a complex chemical compound has also been successfully used.

Teacher: "Claude, this is terrible writing. Why can't you write so I can read it?"

Claude: "Sure I can, but then you'd complain about my spelling."



Walter Pieper

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents will hold their September meeting at Flossmoor Country Club on September 18. Walter Pieper will be host Superintendent.

Walter has been employed at Flossmoor Country Club for the past forty years. Eighteen of these years as Superintendent. His son has been with him at Flossmoor for fifteen years and is his assistant. This sounds like a good deal for Walter, Dale and also the club.

Flossmoor Country Club is south of Chicago at Flossmoor, Illinois. Check your road map for correct directions.

The sympathy of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association is extended to Mrs. William Brenner and family at the death of Mr. Brenner. Bill was a member of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and a golf course superintendent for many years. He will be missed by his many friends.

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## Midwest Breezes

On July 19, Art Benson Jr., Superintendent at Butterfield Country Club was host to a few of his friends at the club's yearly invitational golf event. This is truly one of the better golf parties in the district. Those of us who were present appreciate the invitation.

Don Gerber, Superintendent at Chicago Golf Club, and Art Benson, Sr., Superintendent at St. Charles Country Club, report that they have watered their Kentucky Blue Grass fairways only one time so far this year and that was in the month of May.

Bob Williams, Superintendent at Bob-O-Link Golf Club, will be on a panel at the U.S.G.A. annual meeting on January 26th, 1973 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York. The subject will be labor. William Bengueyfield, Director of the U.S.G.A. Western region, will be moderator.

The month of July has not been a good month for many of the golf courses in the Chicago district. Excess precipitation along with high temperature and high humidity brought on many diseases along with a severe attack of pythium. High winds resembling a cyclone hit many areas, destroying many trees and flooding of low land. A year that will be remembered by many Superintendents.

Looking for trouble one day I stopped in to see Ed Stewart, Superintendent at River Forest Golf Club. After a tour over the golf course I came to the conclusion I should have gone fishing because I could not find any problems. The course was in fine condition and he has done a fine job in the construction of his new greens and tees.

On August 2nd one of our Midwest Association members, Richard Schroeder, was host at his nursery to the Illinois Landscape Association and to several golf course Superintendents. The early morning weather was not in their favor. The attendance was approximately nine hundred. A wonderful steak dinner with all the trimmings was served and what a great job the help did in serving so many people in such a smooth way. This proves what organization can do.

George Drugisky, formally of the Thorngate Country Club is now Superintendent at Tamarisk Country Club in Palm Spring, Calif. George and his wife Gail are the proud parents of a baby girl, Julie Ann, born on July 12, 1972, 3 pounds 14 oz. and 16½ inches long. Congratulation!

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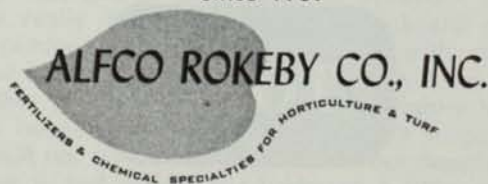
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By Donald Gerber

Superintendent Chicago Golf Club

Recently I read a newspaper article which may interest some of you. The subject of the article was radioactive isotopes, the man made substances that give off radiation which enables them to be traced wherever they travel. Admittedly, this may be a dreary subject to many of us. However, one of the applications of radioactive isotopes should be interesting to all of us. For example, by tagging plant nutrients it is possible to determine when, where and how plants use them. When it was proved thus that tobacco plants made little use of commercial phosphates, the fertilizer manufacturers changed their analysis. In some areas farmers fertilized their corn at considerable cost before it was detasseled. Use of radioactive phosphorus proved that plants do not use the applied fertilizer after they are knee high. Is it not conceivable that some day radioactive isotopes may influence the manner and methods that we use to grow turfgrass, trees, shrubs and flowers?

I have cited this subject because it illustrates the fact that, although we are constantly confronted with new (and old) problems, science and the men associated with science shall provide us with much of the knowledge which will make our endeavors more fruitful and rewarding. The extent to which they shall aid us will be governed by the support, cooperation and influence of our profession.

But let us not be content with agronomic proficiency. The role of the golf course superintendent in the game of golf has expanded and is becoming increasingly important. Not only shall we be responsible for the maintenance of a golf course, we shall assume administrative and managerial duties. Our prestige shall be the sum of our personality, ability, effort and ambition.

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## **Mosquitoes**

**by Stanley Rachesky  
Entomologist, University of Illinois**

This year has got to be one of the worst years I have encountered regarding the mosquito. Requests from Illinois residents on how to control the mosquito have almost been overbearing. Try to cut your grass... sit on your patio... or have a backyard cook-out, and you wonder whose backyard it really is — yours or the mosquito's. No matter what you do outside, you always seem to be swatting or slapping at a mosquito.

Mosquitoes do not know where one's yard begins and a neighbor's ends. Therefore, spraying your yard will help reduce the mosquito population, but never will completely eliminate them. To help reduce the number of mosquitoes in your backyard, you must eliminate standing water in eave troughs, old tires, tin cans, children's toys, storm sewers and any other place or object that is holding water. This would definitely include the bird bath. However, it is not necessary to keep the bird bath dry, but just cleaned out at least every three days.

Apply a water base spray containing 1% malathion (mix 2 ounces of the 50-57% concentrate per gallon of water) to shrubbery and tall grass. Depending upon the amount of rainfall, repeat treatments will be necessary every 3 to 7 days.

Keep the screens, doors and windows in good repair. Tell the kids to keep the door closed, especially during the evening hours. There's nothing more ag-

gravating than having a mosquito buzzing in your ear upon retiring for the night.

Plastic resin strips containing 20% DDVP (dichlorvos) may be hung (2" x 10" size) at the rate of one strip per 1000 cubic feet of room space (LxWxH = cubic feet), or one strip per average size room. These strips will kill mosquitoes and flies for several weeks. However, do not use these strips in kitchens or in other areas where food is handled. Do not use them in any room where infants, the ill, or aged persons are confined.

A 0.1% pyrethrin space spray applied from a pressurized spray can be used for a quick knockdown of the mosquito or other flying insects in place of the DDVP resin strips. Repeated and frequent treatments will be needed during problem periods.

Repellents are one of the homeowner's best defenses against the mosquito. One of the most effective mosquito repellents is DEET (diethyltoluamide). This is available to Chicagoland residents in the form of a spray, foam, cream, and even as a towelette.

Malathion may be purchased at your local garden center. Follow label directions carefully. The actual application of malathion may be accomplished by using a hose end or compressed air sprayer.

For really quick knockdown at backyard cookouts and outdoor parties, spray the area with malathion a few hours before your guests arrive. Then use the pyrethrin pressurized spray cans and lightly treat the areas beneath tables and chairs. Don't forget now—this will not eliminate the problem—but hopefully will reduce it and make your backyard a little more enjoyable.



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This article received from Dr. George Blake  
of the University of Minnesota  
Taken from Minnesota Superintendents Hole Note

### HOW TO BUTCHER A TREE

Before you begin to butcher a tree you need the following equipment: A pair of tree climbing spikes. The spikes on these are about 3" long and really help you climb. If you have not used them much, you can really impress your customers how dangerous tree butchering is with blood coming down your legs from gaffing yourself with the spikes. Spikes are also ideal for scarring a tree. This shows your customer how high you had to climb up into the tree.

Next, you need a machete so you can cut off the suckers. These are the little branches that grow off the main branches of the tree. The machete works well in cutting these off and also does a good job of scarring the tree so the customer can see how many suckers you have cut off. It also works well in cutting up your leg while you are climbing; again to show the customer how dangerous the job is.

The next thing you need is a combination pruner and pole saw at least 25 feet long. This makes it easy to use. The pruner on one side works well in pruning while the saw on the other side is scarring the tree at the same time and vice versa when you are using the saw. If the combination pruner and pole saw is 25 feet long or longer you may break a few second-story windows and if you're lucky, the owners may pay you to repair them.

Now a word about the real art of butchering. Always make a cut from the top only. This will cause the branch to rip off back on the bottom of the branch and down the tree as it falls. You can paint this wound with a water base paint. The tree will look good, but it will not prevent disease or stop insects in any way. If you are lucky the tree will die and you'll get a removal job.

Never cut a branch next to the main trunk. Always leave a 6" to 12" stump. This will make less brush to haul away and the owner will eventually get tired of looking at them and maybe call you back to cut them off. More money.

One final word. Never rope a branch; just let them fall. Be sure to let the owner know you repair fences and replace damaged sod. For a price, of course.

Now a few words about your own personal safety. Never hire anyone to help you when you are butchering. In this way you will not have to share the profits. If you play your cards right the homeowner may feel sorry for you and offer his help.

Never use a rope and saddle when butchering as it will hamper your movements in the tree. Also, you

could accidentally cut it if you are using a chain saw in the tree.

Always use a ladder that is too short for the tree as this will keep you in shape shimmying up and down the tree.

A word about chain saws. Always use the chain saw with one hand only as this will show the homeowner how brave you are. Also, always cut towards yourself with the saw. Again this will prove to the home owner how dangerous the job is when you cut yourself. Never call out the power company to drop power lines if these are in the way of the branches you are going to cut off. Just cut the branches off and if they break the power line, they break it.

If you follow these instructions you will have no trouble at all butchering a tree, but it is wise to keep your health, accident and life insurance policies up to date. Just remember to hire a competent tree trimmer to trim your own tree.

I just want to say I am in no way responsible for personal injury or property damage when my instructions are followed.

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