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Alby Staudt — President

### *The President's Message*

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as President, in the oncoming year. This is indeed an honor that seldom comes in one's lifetime. It will be a pleasure, due to the wonderful board of directors that we have elected.

I would like to invite all members to feel free to make a contribution of ideas for the good of the association. Drop a line to me or any one of the other board members and we will try to get the ideas rolling.

As we are all getting ready to attend the National Conference in California, let's all get together and back **Mike Bavier**. Call or write your friends and spread the good word about Mike, so we can get him elected to the Board of Directors.

When sitting around the fire this winter, pick up your copy of the Membership Directory and By-Laws. Look it over carefully, starting with page two, there is a lot of important information concerning the ethics of our Association that will prove beneficial to all of us in the future.

Speaking as your president and for your board of directors I would like to extend the Greetings of the Season and for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on December 10th at Cypress Inn. This meeting was well attended. Those present were interested in electing the members of their choice, who will carry out the duties and responsibilities of the operation of this association.

Those elected were, for President; Albert Staudt, Geneva Golf Club.

1st Vice President, Edward Smith, Deerpath Golf Club.

2nd Vice President, Fred Opperman, Glen Oak Country Club.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Bavier, Inverness Country Club.

Directors: Carl Grassl, Park Ridge Country Club.

David Meyer, Indian Lakes Country Club.

Carl Hopphan, Aurora Country Club.

Gerald Hanco, Timber Trails Country Club, Inc.

## MAGSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1973

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Secretary-Treasurer — Mike Bavier

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Carl Grassl	David Meyer
Carl Hopphan	Denis Straus
Executive Secretary — Dorothy Carey	

The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

Dorothy Carey	349-7766
Mike Bavier	358-7030
Carl Grassl	815 - 459-8570
Carl Hopphan	
Gerald Hanco	
Fred Opperman	469-6220
Ed Smith	234-2600
Alby Staudt	232-0624
David Meyer	
Denis Straus	392-0427



**Editorial**  
**ANOTHER YEAR**

Yes, another year has come and gone. What have we accomplished? Have we learned anything? How about our mistakes, will we make the same ones in 1974?

Surely there were accomplishments during 1973. Maybe not as many as some of us would have liked. There are times when we have to accept the bad along with the good. We must be willing to look at both sides of the coin. If there were not two sides, life would be monotonous.

Weather is a big factor in our everyday life. It is necessary to have the weather change from time to time. Someone will be happy when the sun shines, others when it is cloudy or raining or cold or hot. There is always someone making a profit when these various conditions exist.

What about our family, have you given them the same loving attention as you gave to the golf course? This is the time of the year to get acquainted at home. How about the children; when was the last time you played with them in the back yard or took them for a walk down the street or on a part of the club property? Try it and see who it is that gets tired first. How about your wife? I assume you are married. Show her your appreciation for her loyalty this past season. No doubt she is the one that prepared your early morning breakfast and had your lunch on time, unless you were fortunate to get your lunch at your club. Did you make it a practice to always be on time for the evening dinner? How many of you superintendents can say "I did". I am sure that was appreciated. Don't stop and let it go at this; buy her a new dress, take her out to several dinners and some good shows this winter. Prove to her she has a husband and you appreciate her and ask her forgiveness for the number of times you messed up her plans.

If you ladies agree with me, let me hear from you.

The Editor

**THE COVER**

All five local State Chapters of G.C.S.A.A. have pledged their total support to the election of Mike Bavier as a director of G.C.S.A.A. at the annual meeting in Anaheim in February 1974.

And thanks to the many others who have pledged their support for Mike.

January 14th meeting of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held at King's Palace. Cocktails at 12 noon. Meeting 1 P.M. King's Palace is located at Rte. 53 and East-West Tollway, Lisle.

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**Editor**

Why have there been many changes in golf course superintendents in the Chicago area at the end of the 1973 season? Most all of the changes are at private clubs. I wonder if the members of these clubs realize the value of the man they are losing. Many of these superintendents have been with them for many years. These clubs are losing superintendents that have become acquainted with the operation of the many departments, the soil on the golf course, type of grass, drainage, irrigation, what areas require more fertilizer or less, disease, and where to look for it in the early stages.

The water pipe lines and tile lines are not always on the records. It will require considerable time for a new man to find them. Not being acquainted with the items mentioned could be costly to the club because no two clubs are the same.

If the Green Committee got together with the superintendent and had a heart to heart talk with the man who is responsible for the golf course and club grounds, maybe some of these changes could have been avoided. Country club board members should realize that working with nature is different than the operation of other departments at the club. For instance, bacon and eggs is prepared the same at one eating place as another, or preparing a steak is generally the same procedure. Liquor is served in the same manner throughout the country. The swimming pools are the same. The pro end of the team is usually the same — but the superintendent's responsibility is somewhat different. No two golf courses are the same; soil conditions vary within a mile or two and many times less.

Again, I ask why?

Pinecrest Country Club has an opening for a Superintendent. During the day call 312-669-3111 and ask for Jack Hanson. Evenings call Hanson home 815-459-1672.

## Midwest Breezes

Mr. and Mrs. Art Clesen of Wheeling, Ill., have returned home from Las Vegas after enjoying several days at the many places of chance. Also visited the new M.G.M. hotel. Next trip to Mexico. Hope you have a good time and hurry home.

Lenny Berg, Superintendent at Village Greens of Woodridge Country Club, reports he is in the process of reconstructing a lake on the 4th hole. The rains came so construction had to be halted due to muddy conditions. A new tee is being built on this hole so that you will be shooting over the lake. The lake is basically being built to improve the drainage in this area.

Tony Meyer, Superintendent at Woodridge Golf Club, reports a new eight-foot tile is being installed across the golf course. Each tile has a weight of 6 tons. A good place to hide when the going gets tough.

Rodney Voykin, Superintendent, has changed positions. He is leaving the Deerfield Park District to take the superintendent's job at Green Acres Country Club at Northbrook, Ill. This is an old outstanding private club. We wish Rod the best of luck.

Paul Voykin of Briarwood Country Club just spent ten days in the Highland Park Hospital undergoing therapy and traction for an injured back and neck. Paul also did something very unusual while he was in the hospital. He fasted for seven straight days and lost fifteen whole pounds. During those seven days of fast he took nothing but straight tea and coffee—and terrific will power. Paul tells us that is the hardest thing he has ever done in his life. According to him it's even harder to do than keeping poa annua in the Chicago summers.

The editor hopes all of you have the water pipes on the golf course drained and that you will not encounter the same problems as some of you had a couple of years ago.

I also hope everyone has applied their snow mold treatment this fall. This is money well spent.

Jack Hanson is leaving Pinecrest Country Club and will assume the Superintendent's responsibility at Crystal Lake Country Club in 1974.

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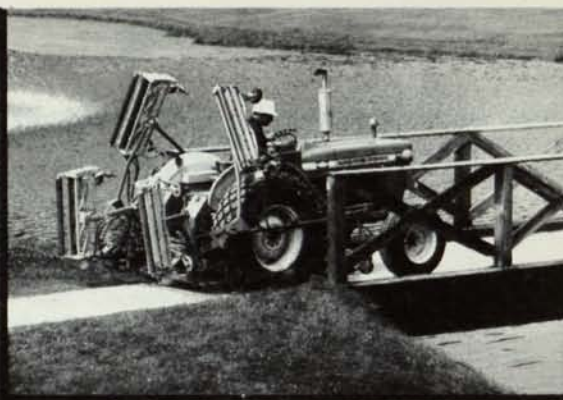
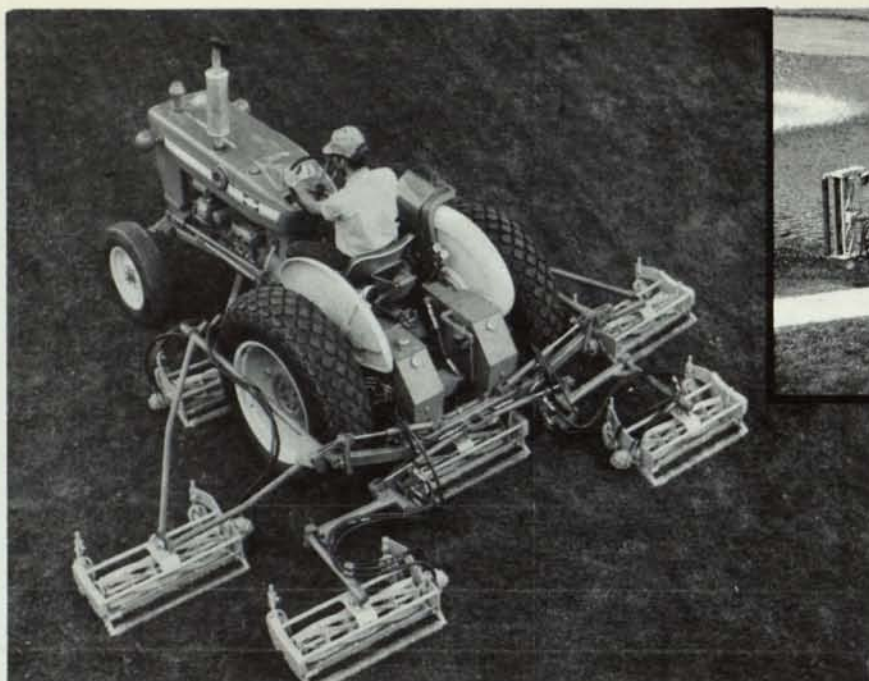
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Paul N. Voykin, a published author, is a member of the Garden Writers of America. Members of this writing association from time to time get horticulture books from major publishing companies to review. According to Paul some of these books are good, some fair, and some excellent reading, and should be in our office reference library. We have asked Paul to review the best ones for the Bull Sheet. Those books that are outstanding should be brought to our attention.

The editor.

**The Gardener's Basic Book of Trees and Shrubs** by Stanley Schuler. Simon and Schuster, \$9.95.

Stanley Schuler has written his best effort to date with this easy to read book on trees and shrubs. He gives the reader common sense advice throughout this book on all the important and basic things that you should know about plant material. Everything from why evergreens should always be sold with a ball of earth around the roots to all the good reasons why a fruit tree requires more pruning than an ornamental. And how many of you superintendents know how to espalier? We forgive Schuler for a commercial pitch about his favorite two mail nurseries and the fact that when you start a book with a whimsical folksy style you don't end it abruptly on a technical note. But these criticisms are minute and don't take away from this excellent book. Mr. Schuler has an interesting chapter on propagating your own trees and shrubs and also gives us good advice why shrubs do two jobs better than any other plant material. I agree with him whole heartedly that small properties with huge trees do look very attractive—

contrary to the advice of many horticulturists and landscape architects that advocate planting small lots with small sized trees.

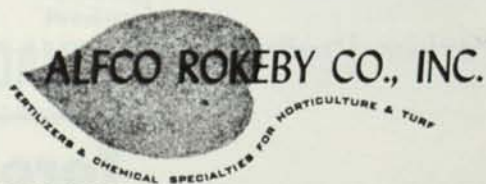
Authors rarely emphasize, as does Mr. Schuler, the consideration and effect of light when planting trees and shrubs. Mr. Schuler sets us straight on this important factor. He also has proof that foresters can grow some trees thirty percent faster than they do naturally by fertilizing trees every year and by eliminating weeds and shrubs near them that compete for moisture.

There are many interesting things in this book. Did you know that the only American tree that has the rare ability of growing in the water (hydroponics) is the bald cypress? And how about the fact that only the female specimen of the holly ever produces berries? This is a sound book with excellent photographs. Give your office library a Christmas present.

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## A LESSON IN BUYING

No one wants to waste money, but there are a lot of easy ways to spend it. If you don't want to waste it, know what you're buying.

New products are often the culprits, and they appear on the market in a steady stream. Fortunately most have real merit and can do a good job; however, many are of questionable value or grossly overpriced, or both.

Often products are sold by enthusiastic salesmen using "scientific-sounding" sales pitches and promising benefits never before available. Everyone would like to get something for little or nothing, and it is only natural to hope that science will provide an easier and cheaper way of solving our problems. Promoters capitalize on these hopes of ours.

Many products are seldom entirely worthless but are usually worth little in relation to their cost. Often these carry enormous price mark-ups to pay for extensive sales campaigns, and rarely do the materials turn out to be a profitable investment with occasional detrimental effects.

But how can a superintendent decide what products are good? Examples of claims that would certainly make me dubious and hesitant in buying include:

Secret or unknown ingredients possessing almost magical benefits.

Based on "newly discovered" principle, or one involving a "new approach" to soil chemistry, to physical conditioning of soil, or to fertilizing.

Results produced through mysterious forces such as catalytic action, nutrient release, micro-organism activation, or some such vague description.

Ahead of the times and agronomists or other reliable sources haven't had time to evaluate them.

Numerous beneficial side effects—doubtful if anyone could prove these side effects exist.

Supported by unsolicited testimonials—these are no more than personal opinions.

Recommend using it in combination with good management practices which, by themselves, may eliminate the problem.

Don't need to use as much of this product as compared with another having same active ingredient because of new formulation and other principles. In reality the per unit price of active ingredient in the new product may be much more to get same results.

Furthermore, I would be cautious of salesmen especially those new to the area who are introducing products through higher than usual discounts plus an assortment of gifts for quantity purchases. Often these products are sold below cost as a means of

penetrating an area, and by concentrating on better golf courses the reputable and unsuspecting superintendent has indirectly endorsed a new unproven product which may have little or no value. Now the salesman has "broken the ice" and his products will undoubtedly penetrate the area, especially during dormant season before any actual testing or evaluating can occur.

In conclusion, if you try a new product, buy only enough to treat a small area. Compare the results with an adjacent plot of equal size which received no treatment but having identical operations and conditions. Now make a confident decision as to whether the product has merit.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 28, 1973

Dear Ray,

I figure it is about time I wrote you a note for the Bull Sheet.

Fall has been good to me at Pinecrest in regards to work. We have been able to accomplish quite a bit of work. We drained a lot of traps using the 2" perforated plastic drainage pipe and also casual water areas around the course. We tied the 2" into existing drain tile, plus we laid 4" thru 12" tile.

This golf course used to be one of five farms owned by the Conley clan in Huntley. The Conleys also owned a tile manufacturing company, consequently the entire 160 acres is just completely and thoroughly tiled. I have located and mapped at least 15 different tile lines, sizes from 3" to 14" in diameter, and all of them are working. Due to some poor construction during the building of the course we had quite a bit of additional drainage work to do. Following is a partial list of drainage work accomplished this year:

4,000' of 2" perforated

989' of 4" clay

1,200' of 12" cement

We plan another 800' of 10" next spring and that should make the course playable after 3" to 4" rain—which is what the owner wants.

We also built four cart paths totaling 870' during the summer between our regular work. This fall we also managed to plant fifty 5" scotch pine, fifty hybrid 2½" poplars and twenty-one 6" B&B Norway maples. Boy, were those maples back-breakers.

Here it is the 29th of November and we still are working out on the course, and hoping to get a couple more weeks out on the course. We have to snow fence some greens to prevent desiccation through the winter (our course is wide open) and finish top dressing 8 greens.

Hope this letter finds you in good health and may the Lord be with you and yours.

Golfingly yours,  
Jack R. Hanson

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The following are the dates and locations for the clinics.

January 22 — Rockford, Ill. Howard Johnsons Rte. 51 South.

January 24 — Des Plaines, Ill. Seven Eagles Restaurant.

Advance registration is required for the meeting held at Des Plaines. Contact James Fizzell, Cook County Associate Extension Adviser, Room 3, 622 Grace-land Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016.

There will be a registration charge of \$1.50 for a manual containing educational materials and information discussed at the meeting.



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