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Editor

## Midwest Breezes

The summer of 1974 is just about over. Fred Opperman at Glen Oak Country Club reported frost on the #12th fairway on September 5th. This calls the superintendents thinking toward the fall work that is on the agenda.

Wolfgang Mueller, Superintendent at Onwentsia Club, stated he aerified greens in August. He was asked, did the members complain that it interfered with their golf game? His reply was no. There were only forty-one who played golf the whole week. Working under these conditions certainly would be a pleasure that many superintendents do not experience. There are many golf course superintendents and golf courses in the Chicago area. To the best of my knowledge only **one** golf course is of this nature. So do not plan on making a change.

How about those antiques in your shop or maybe in the basement of the club house. Have you scoured the back corners? If you find something get in touch with chairman, Melvin Lucas, Jr. The Garden City G. S., 315 Stewart Ave., Garden City, Long Island, N.Y. 11530.

Marvin Gruening, Superintendent at Midwest Country Club, took his grounds department employees to the Cubs ball game on Sept. 9, 1974, and dinner at the club after the game. I am sure this is one way of showing appreciation for their devoted service.

Congratulations, to Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Behrendt, a baby boy, "Joshua", 8 lbs. 8 oz. born on Friday, Sept. 13, 1974.

Also congratulations to Mike and Charlotte Rainey, a baby girl, "Beth Ann", 7 lbs. 12 oz. born on August 27, 1974.

With the use of mechanized equipment almost entirely on a golf course, plus the use of riding golf carts, roads or paths are becoming more numerous. Most of these problems could be prevented if the traffic would be detoured occasionally. A little special attention to these areas will be beneficial to the turf. Aerifying, seeding, fertilizing and watering

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would help keep these areas in a favorable condition. Give it a try and notice the results.

The editor hopes all the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association members read the last paragraph in the September issue of the Bull Sheet. I would like to think all of you would qualify for #4. My experience since I became editor takes me down a different path. There are approximately 300 members in our Midwest association. With the exception of the board members, about three per cent have contributed news items of one form or another. I am sure many of you have interesting news that many of us would like to hear about. Something you accomplished out of the ordinary maintenance program. New construction work, rebuilding Tees, Greens, Traps, irrigation, drainage, planting new trees, etc.

You should remember this Bull Sheet is not a Gerber publication. It is you who are members that have the responsibility to help make it an interesting publication. You are the owners even though none of your dues go toward its support.

So please let me hear from you. The deadline is the 10th of each preceding month. Let it be known that you do not qualify for the #1, 2 or 3.

The time of the year has arrived to be thinking about planting of new trees; what variety to plant and the proper place to plant it. Will it survive in the location you have selected? If in doubt, look around to see if there are older trees near by, that mother nature has selected for the area. If they have lived all these years, that should be a good guide to follow.



The foursome with the most years stick together, L. to R. Bob Williams, Superintendent Bob O'Link Golf Club, Dom Grotti, Superintendent Sunset Ridge Country Club, Frank Dinelli, Retired Northmoor Country Club, Ben Kronn, Superintendent Twin Orchard Country Club. These four men represent 200 years in golf course maintenance work. A record to be proud of and still being strong building up more years. Congratulations.

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**The Champion, Bob Kronn, M.A.G.C.S.**

The Midwest September 16 Annual Golf Tournament held at Indian Lakes Country Club was well attended. One hundred six enjoyed a wonderful dinner. Eighty-six played golf on a beautifully conditioned course. It is maintained under the watchful eye of David Meyer, Superintendent. The winners were: champion, Bob Kronn — gross 71. Senior champion Bill Krafft — gross 79. Closest to pin — 11½ inches, Cliff Behrendt. Longest drive under 35 years, Carl Landgrebe — 290 yards, 36 to 50 years, Paul Frankowski — 315 yards, 50 years and over, Albie Staudt — 275 yards.

### A CONFERENCE PREVIEW

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### NEWS FROM AROUND THE AREA . . .

**This news was furnished by Mike Bavier. The editor thanks you, Mike.**

Word has it that John Ebel is getting ready for the duck hunting season. By the looks of the birds gathering, we might just have an early fall.

Ben Kronn has a new assistant. Ronald Master came over from Woodstock Country Club to assume the duties from Jim Reed, who, as most of you know, has taken over his dad's job as salesman for the Toro Company.

Paul Voykin reports he is completely aerifying all his fairways, some as many as 10 times. He then seeds with his special Briarwood mixture. There are reports he has a hybrid "poa" seed that he is planting.

Calumet Country Club, where Bruce Burchfield is superintendent, has all but completed the new Toro system and Bruce is anxious to try it out. Guess with all the new automatic systems going in, we should take a survey to see just how many we have in the area.

We have really had another strange year weather-wise. Mother nature has a funny way of evening things out. This spring, the rain just kept coming up until the middle of July. Then all of August and part of September we had little, if any, rain at all.

Inverness Golf Club has contracted to have a new range put in which will include moving an old creek, building three new tees (total 20,000 sq. ft.), and putting in two target greens.

The Wadsworth Company has all but completed the forest preserve course across from Harper College in Palatine. The course is actually in Hoffman Estates.

Speaking of Harper College, they have started a Horticultural curriculum. One of the classes being offered this fall is a class in Soil Science, a four credit course. In the future, the Midwest membership will be notified of classes being offered.

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Doesn't play fast, nor too slow,  
Stands aside and lets us mow.  
Always speaks, with a friendly grin,  
Plays the **game**, not just to win.  
His wife stays home while he makes the loop,  
She **doesn't** belong to the ladies' group.  
He doesn't golf till the first of May,  
And stops right after Labor Day.  
Eats at the club, and buys a few drinks,  
Helps carry his share of the cost of the links.  
Plays once a week, usually Sunday,  
Sometimes a Saturday, NEVER a Monday.  
Plays the game square, U.S.G.A.,  
Doesn't care what the local rules say.  
Fixes ball marks, on the greens,  
Never on his putter leans.  
Sees no need for spiky shoes,  
That mar the greens, and leave a bruise.  
Now I've written these words, and I don't mean to sneer,  
But where is this golfer? — he doesn't play **here**.

WSS

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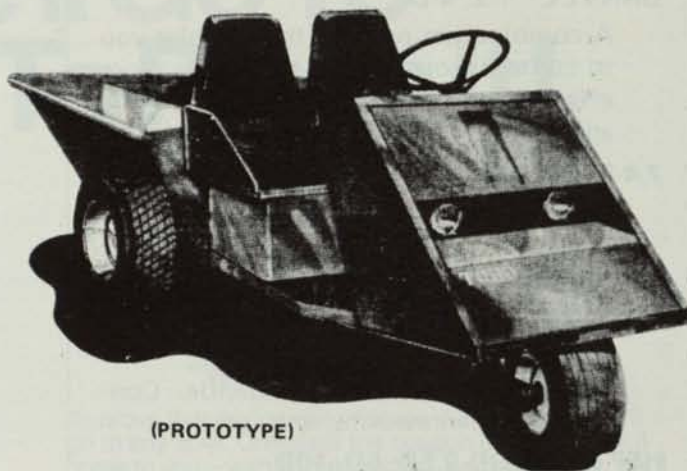
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Mr. Ray Gerber, Editor  
The BULL SHEET  
865 Hillside Avenue  
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137  
Dear Ray:

Sept. 14, 1974

This is to express our special thanks and gratitude to you and your fellow members for the prime-time in The Bull Sheet devoted to the Testimonial Dinner given for Herb and me.

One quick look at the crusade in the Hall of Memories and we knew we were still deeper indebted to The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents for their encouragement, guidance and affection that made possible whatever we may have contributed to golf.

While everyone seemed to be enjoying the affair, the flagrant (but sweet) testimonial perjury committed in our names must have set a record.

If any of the selected winners of the scholarships heard a tape of proceedings they probably would select a course in Criminal Law instead of Sports Journalism.

However, be it resolved and spread upon the calendars of the past 50 years: that the Graffis brothers have been fortunate, happy and rewarded with their relations with The Midwest Association and hereby duly share with its members the tributes paid them.

With cheers and blessings for your future,

Joe Graffis

### MUST HAVE BEEN THE CLUB PRO

The foursome of pretty fair golfers had just finished on a short, 135-yard hole when a ball came over the brow of a slight knoll on which the green was located. It rolled within inches of the cup, and the group raised appreciative eyebrows over what was obviously almost a hole-in-one by one of the duffers in the party following them.

One of the four walked over to the ball, and speaking in hushed tones to his party said, "Let's give this guy a real thrill." The other three nodded in agreement, and the ball was nudged into the cup.

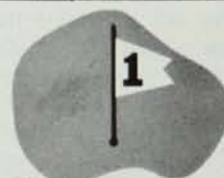
A few seconds later, a man hurried onto the knoll, looked around in a puzzled way, and asked the foursome, "Did any of you guys see where that ball went?"

One of the foursome pointed silently at the cup, grinned, and said, "You put her right in there, Champ."

The man hurried over to the cup, stared at the ball in disbelief, and ran to the edge of the knoll and shouted excitedly:

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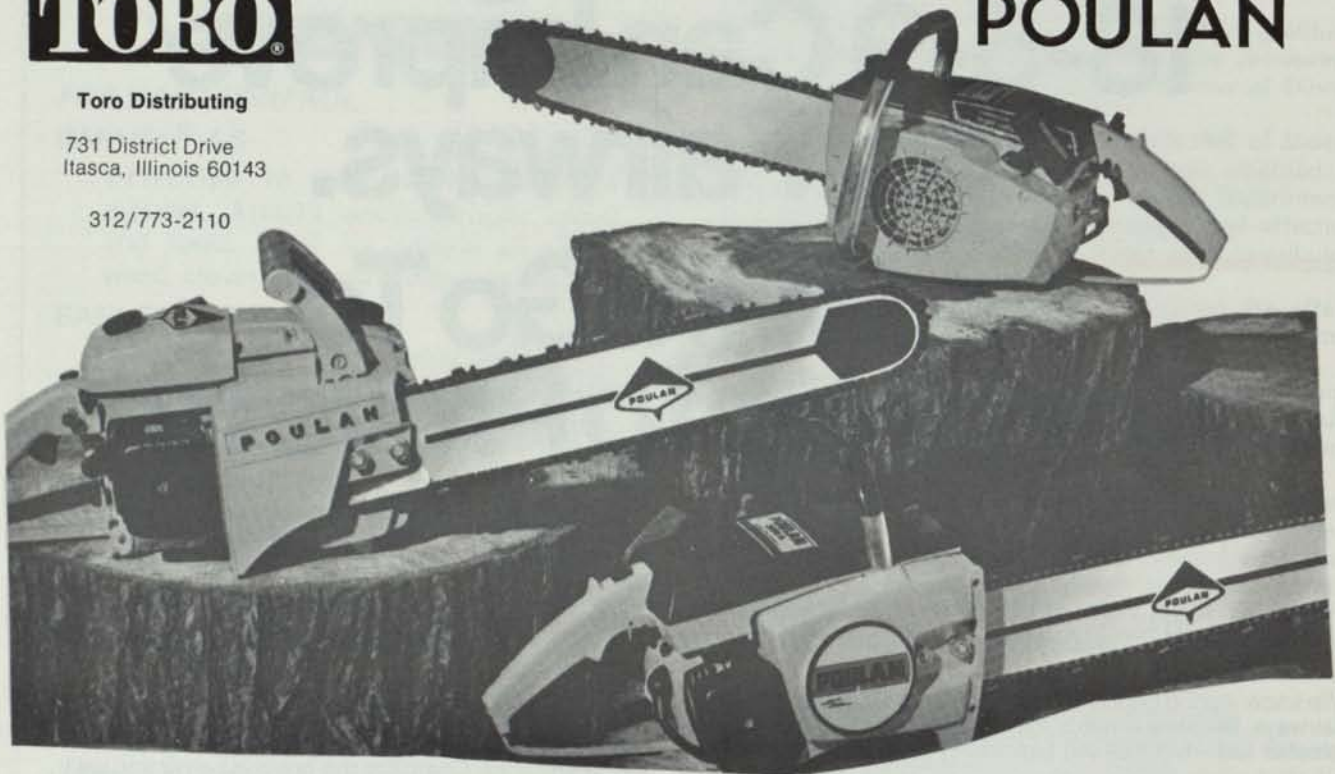
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Mr. Ray Gerber, Editor  
Bull Sheet  
865 Hillside Avenue  
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Dear Ray:

As I bid farewell with the close of the September/October issue of THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT, I specially want to thank you and the superintendents that your newsletter serves for helping us while we have been associated with GCSAA.

With your assistance we were able to produce a very extraordinary publication that has won the respect and praise of not only the golf industry but the entire field of magazine publishing.

It is regrettable that we are unable to follow the headquarters office to Kansas to continue the work we have started. In my case, family business interests make such a move financially unsound, even though it means severing my relations with a profession and a publication to which I have grown very close over the past four years.

Since so many of you have asked, I would like to explain my future plans. I will be continuing in the field of magazine publishing. Very similar to my proposal to GCSAA to produce THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT from Chicago, I plan to publish magazines for associations. I have found such contacts readily available since most associations realize they are not publishers. Also, since they are often too politically oriented, the field is right for this kind of service that we are offering. That is the reason, for instance, why the Club Managers Association, located in Washington, D.C., has its magazine published by a firm in St.

Louis. Similarly, in a recent action, the USGA's journal was turned over to the Chilton Publishing Company. For that matter, THE GOLF SUPERINTENDENT was once published under a similar arrangement by a firm in Wisconsin during GCSAA Executive Director Gene Nutter's tenure.

Fortunately for us I have discovered in exploring the situation that this is the current trend among associations. In any event, though, it saddens us to say good-bye to our friends, we wish you and the Association much success and leave with the hope that should GCSAA ever decide to return to this kind of arrangement you will keep us in mind.

Sincerely,  
Nick G. Geannopoulos  
Editor



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### Pest aside

## MITE-MARRED MAPLE UNSIGHTLY BUT ALIVE

By Stanley Rachesky  
Entomologist—University of Illinois

Each year about this time, we receive many letters and calls from folks who are concerned about their maple trees. In many instances, the leaves have red blotches covering the underside. This occurs primarily on silver maple trees.

The red blotches are caused by eriophyid mites. These mites do not cause any real damage to the tree and, therefore, there is really no need to worry about them. No control is recommended.

Another maple tree problem is the maple bladder gall. Their unsightliness is probably the most upsetting thing about them. They do little or no damage to the tree.

In general, insect galls do not harm trees or shrubs. They could be compared to a wart on your hand or knee. They're unsightly, but no cause for alarm.

If the galls on your maple tree bother you psychologically, you'll have to wait until next year for control.

Control measures have to be applied in the early spring, when the buds break open on the tree just before they unfold to form leaves. Apply Malathion.

Purple leaf plum trees are now being attacked by the pear or cherry slug. The leaves are becoming lacy in appearance.

The pear slug is small, fleshy, dark green to orange larvae, about one-half inch long. Cherries, pears, and plums are its favorite food. It has a voracious appetite. The insecticide, Sevin, will do an excellent job on control.

Those unsightly webs you see in a number of species of trees along the highways, golf courses, and in your neighborhood, are caused by the fall webworm.

The adult webworm is a moth which deposits its eggs on the underside of leaves. The caterpillar (larva or worm stage) hatches and immediately begins to form webs. The size of the web increases as the caterpillar expands its feeding area.

The color of the caterpillar varies. Fall webworms are found in a wide variety of tree species, but prefer wild cherry. When found on shade trees, the webs are usually widely scattered on the branches. Normally, the tree will not be injured by this insect. However, occasionally the tree may be defoliated if control measures are not employed.

Natural enemies of various kinds help to control this particular insect. Birds, insect predators, and internal parasites attack the caterpillars. Even the eggs are devoured by predators and insect parasites.

Probably one group of control materials you should give some thought to control of the fall webworm is the bacterial spore, *Bacillus thuringiensis*. It readily is becoming available at your local garden center and sold under the trade names of Dipel, Thuricide, or Biotrol. Because it is a biological agent, you'd have no worry regarding chemical residues. The insecticide, Sevin also will do an excellent job of control.

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Keep the golfers off soft greens or you may end up with a green looking like this!

## PREVENTING WINTER DAMAGE TO TURFGRASS

by Ted Woehrle, Editor

### A PATCH OF GREEN

There are basically two types of winter damage to turfgrass on golf courses:

1. Mechanical
2. Physiological

A good deal of the mechanical injury is caused by the golfer himself. This is the type of damage caused by **playing on frosted turf** in early spring and late fall.

When the turf is completely frozen and heavy traffic occurs — the actual wearing off of the grass becomes a problem — similar to drought conditions under heavy traffic.

Compaction of snow by snow equipment, snow-mobiles, skis, sleds, or foot printing can also cause damage which is noticeable during most of the next spring.

Traffic on partially frozen or wet soils causes turf injury also. This is actual soil displacement — foot-prints or ruts from golf carts. The indirect results of this injury could be called soil compaction.

There may also be mechanical damage caused by heaving of the soil. Heaving tears roots loose in the soil. This is common in peat or humus.

Mechanical injury, except for heaving, can be avoided by eliminating **all** traffic during periods of adverse weather or when soil conditions are poor.

Many clubs have adopted the "Alternate" green method during these periods. This involves the use of an area adjacent to the permanent green which is marked in some manner and a larger than normal cup and flagstick is used in this temporary green. Most of the golfers are kept satisfied and the entire membership is happier next spring when the greens are healthier and a lot smoother.

The physiological damage is what is most frequently referred to as "winterkill". This injury is caused by disease, suffocation, (ice sheet damage) desiccation, flooding and low temperatures.

a. DISEASES — There are two basic winter diseases: Pink and gray snow molds. Both of these can be controlled to a great extent by chemicals applied before winter sets in and one more application during the

winter, when the weather permits a second application.

b. SUFFOCATION — This is a condition which doesn't happen very often, but when it does it is disastrous! Turf that is covered for long periods of time, as was the case during the winter of '61 and '62 when they were covered about 100 days by a solid sheet of ice, will suffer extensive damage. Every possible effort should be made to remove the snow and ice from greens and tees if ice has covered these areas for 30 or more days. This can be accomplished in several ways — Physical chopping and removing, covering with a dark material such as lamp black or activated sewerage sludge to absorb heat with its dark color, and melting. Another material such as top-dressing would also work. If nothing else, punch air holes through the ice.

c. DESICCATION — This is the most prevalent winter damage here in the Southeastern corner of Michigan where we get very little snow coverage. Desiccation occurs when soil moisture is not available, because ground is frozen, and the winds dry out the turf and the plant dies.

Here again we can do something to slow down desiccation. It is recommended that greens be covered with something to cut down the wind damage. This could be top-dressing hay, straw, branches, plastic (punch holes in it first with a spiker to let out heat on bright sunny days). There are actually turf protection blankets manufactured for this purpose.

If you haven't covered your greens and you run into a period of dry windy weather it would be advisable to carry water to these greens — especially the elevated, exposed greens. Some Superintendents actually turned on their irrigation systems for a short period of time and then immediately redrained them after soaking down the greens.

d. FLOODING — This condition is caused by a heavy rain when ground is frozen, or when snow and ice melt faster than the soil can absorb it or surface drainage can remove it.

The turf becomes very susceptible to low temperature kill — the crowns actually rupture when encased in water and then re-freeze.

All water should be removed where possible. Dig drainage ditches through snow and ice, install surface tile drains, put in slit trenches; do anything you can to remove excess water.



Remove water from greens by cutting a ditch through ice.