

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
 SUPERINTENDENTS.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take time to thank everyone for their confidence in electing me to this office. It is a privilege and honor to serve as President of the MAGCS. The Board of Directors and myself will work to continue the high standards and traditions of this Association.

To get back to the subject at hand, this season has been one of unexpected events, becoming a day to day occurrence. With one of the coldest winters in many years to begin and one of the latest springs, add to this a dryer than normal year. The year is past, though, and it's time to sit back and look at the decisions we have made and second guess all that went wrong. Along this line is our Turf Clinic to be held at Medina Country Club the end of November, and in December the Illinois Turf will be meeting. This should give all of us a chance to talk to our member superintendents and exchange ideas.

It is astounding the amount of information that can be obtained and absorbed at these meetings, and if not from the speakers, just from associate superintendents. After talking to other superintendents, you can relate your problems with theirs whether the same or different, and gain valuable knowledge. In looking to the future for a more successful organization a thought comes to mind. It is not what you should do, but maybe what you should not do.

Joseph Grenko

MAGCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1977

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Ed Fischer	Don Hoffman
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The following is a list of office telephone numbers to the entire Board.

Robert Breen	
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THE POINSETTIA

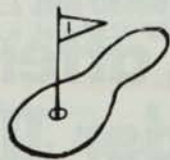
Clinging to this colorful and most popular Christmas plant is also a very sacred legend.

The early inhabitants of Mexico tell most earnestly that in Cuernvaca, Mexico, it was the custom for every church and chapel to have a manger in which lay an image of the Infant Savior.

On Christmas Eve the village folk flocked into these places to decorate them in His honor with flowers.

On one Christmas Eve, in the outer district of Cuernvaca, a small dark eyed child grieved and mourned because she had no flowers to take to the manger of the Christ. But, as she cried, a beautiful angel appeared before her and said, "Lovely child, weep no more. Go pluck a weed from the roadside, bring it to the altar, and wait." The little girl arose and did as the angel had told her, and when she had placed her weed on the altar it immediately became a vivid scarlet whorl. And today the Mexicans will tell you that is the reason why the poinsettia is today the most prized of all Mexican flowers for Christmastide.

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Larry Vetter Joins Northrup King Co.

Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota, recently announced the appointment of Larry G. Vetter as Manager, Professional Turf Products Division.

Vetter was most recently an Instructor in Turf and Golf Course Maintenance at Anoka Area Vocational Technical Institute in Anoka, Minnesota. He has over 15 years of experience in the turfgrass field including 11 years as Golf Course Superintendent and Superintendent of Grounds for Minikahda Club, Minneapolis; four years as Assistant Golf Course Superintendent for Park Land Country Club, Muscatine, Iowa and one year as the owner and operator of a commercial and home lawn maintenance company.

Vetter has a B.S. degree in horticulture and turfgrass management from Iowa State University where he received the Top Turfgrass Senior Award in 1965. He was assigned to Iowa State University's turfgrass research program during 1965. Vetter also earned a degree in business administration from State University of Iowa in 1962.

A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association, Vetter served as Director of the Minnesota GCSA in 1970-71, Vice President in 1972 and President in 1973-74. He has also participated as a guest speaker for several GCSA conferences.

Northrup King's Professional Turf Products Division markets improved varieties of turfgrass seed for professional users.

UPJOHN PROMOTES TWO IN AG RESEARCH

Niedbalski received his B.S. Degree from Cornell University in 1958. A native of Dunkirk, New York, he joined The Upjohn Company in 1966 as the Plant Health Technical Service representative for the northeastern United States, and later heading Technical Extension. The responsibilities of Niedbalski's new position include field service turf specialty liaison and technical extension activities in connection with the company's line of agricultural chemicals.

Both men reside in Kalamazoo, worldwide headquarters of The Upjohn Company.

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Author unknown.

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Mr. James A. Bertoni
Golf Course Superintendent
La Jolla Country Club
La Jolla, CA 92038

Dear Jim:

It's been a long time since receipt of your good letter and I'm embarrassed to have been this long in replying. It's been a busy month, hence this delay. I very much appreciated your remarks concerning my "Green is Not Great" article and I was pleased to have your observations since they open the door to many other areas of discussion.

First with regard to the agronomics of the question, we have come a long way in maintenance and management since the early days but the question I raise is - Haven't we gone too far in tipping the scale in the direction of pleasing the membership who normally judge perfection by color and not by turfgrass playing quality? Prior to the installation of fairway watering systems the only watered areas were greens and tees. Nature took care of watering the fairways and they looked good for a good part of the season with exception of serious stress periods. Fairways at that time were uniform and consistent, in fact I considered them more uniform and consistent for golf than many of the overwatered fairways of today. My contention, however, is that somewhere in between there is the better approach to uniformity and consistency. If members would accept that, it would make the superintendent's job more enjoyable and we would, in my opinion, have better playing turf. Moreover, in my opinion there would be less need for winter rules, less need for players to touch the ball anywhere but on the tee and green. In my experience I have found that the membership does exert influence on the superintendent's program. Such influence comes in many ways but especially through association and discussions with members during his term of employment at a given club. This is a natural outcome of long association with members. Most superintendents today have a finer rapport and certainly many have a lot more contact with their members than superintendents of the past.

As regard the need for better grasses in the future, this is definitely a goal of turfgrass breeders now. Several have changed direction with the major turfgrasses used on golf courses. Tough turf is the call of the future. Turf that will persist under adversity and the restrictions placed on it by rulings of regulatory agencies as well as the increased shortages projected which can only mean higher prices for materials.

As regard your comments on The Rules of Golf and the Decisions of Golf being responsible for the superintendent's dilemma in his quest for consistency, I discussed this with P.J. Boatwright since these are not my prime fields of endeavor and these are his main points of comment:

When I was growing up, golf courses did not have the sophisticated watering systems that now exist and therefore golf courses in the main were not overwatered. In other words, it seems to me that overwatering became commonplace when modern watering systems came into existence and certainly not because of the Rules of Golf.

The Rules of Golf have changed very little since modern watering systems came into effect. In 1959, the Rules were changed to allow the repair of ball marks on the line of putt and to allow cleaning of the ball on the putting green. These two changes were

perhaps the most significant changes in the Rules in many, many years and why were the changes necessary? I would guess it was because greens were becoming too soft from overwatering and it made it impossible to play the game fairly if ball marks could not be repaired and the ball could not be cleaned on the green.

Mr. Bertoni says that the Rules should simply require that you play the course as you find it and you play the ball as it lies. Of course, that would be ideal, but it is impractical. There must be provision at least for a ball unplayable. Otherwise, many players could not finish a round.

Mr. Bertoni refers to the great amount of lifting of balls that takes place now under the Rules. Of course, there is a great amount of lifting in tournaments on television, but much of this lifting is due to television equipment. Certainly, it would be unfair to require a player to play a ball from under a television tower, which was there purely for the purpose of documenting the event for television audiences.

Most other lifting of the golf ball is probably due to ground under repair and, in my experience, most ground under repair is a result of overwatering or poor drainage and the subsequent tracks or ruts caused by vehicles passing over the overly-wet area.

Jim, I can't agree with your statement that the use of water as we know it today is due to the demand for turfgrass consistency. I respect your position because I know you believe in it but I must confess I am on the other side of the fence entirely. Grasses that are managed just to keep them alive are, in my view, more consistent for golf than grasses that are forced for purposes of aesthetics.

We have a lot to discuss when we meet again. Thank you for writing as you did. There's a lot of food for thought involved and I trust that it will benefit our common goal, which is better turf for better golf!

Sincerely,
Alexander M. Radko
National Director

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To: **GCSAA Executive Committee**
From: **1978 GCSAA Nominating Committee**
Re: **Affidavit of Nomination for 1978 GCSAA
Election of Officers and Directors**

After very careful evaluation of each prospective nominee's background, character, references and qualifications, it was unanimously decided to place the following candidates on the slate for election at the 1978 Annual Membership Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

For President: George W. Cleaver, CGCS
For Vice President: Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS
Charles H. Tadge, CGCS
For Directors: Daniel L. Hall, Jr.
(Two to be elected) David C. Holler, CGCS
Robert W. Osterman, CGCS
Clarence H. Wolfrom, Jr.
James A. Wyllie, CGCS

By the 1978 GCSAA Nominating Committee whose signatures appear below:

Robert M. Williams, Chairman
Richard C. Blake, CGCS
Daniel L. Hall, Jr.
Quinton A. Johnson, CGCS
John A. Zoller

Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America
1617 St. Andrews Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044



Editor
MIDWEST BREEZES

By the date you receive this **Bull Sheet**, I hope you have completed all of your new work as well as the regular fall work. Those who got a late start may have found some difficulties due to weather conditions. One thing that is a must is the proper draining of the irrigation system. This is one task that should be done as near perfect as possible. I am sure many golf course Supts. remember the problems that they were faced with at the end of this past winter. Let us hope old man winter will not repeat itself two years in a row. Be sure to get that snow mold treatment on after the heavy rains are over and before the snow gets too deep. The word has gotten around that there will be more snow this winter than usual.

The tree nurseries have experienced a good planting season. A little too much moisture for a couple days but all in all not bad. The golf clubs have been some of their best customers. It appears that trees help make a good golf course.

The September 1977 issue of the **Bull Sheet** carried a picture taken many years ago at one of the M.A.G.C.S. summer meetings. The question was where was it taken and who are the Supts. in the picture? The editor has had no response. The contest is over. The Club - **Timber Trails**

From l. to r. - **Mel Warneck, Roy Chaplin, John Darrah, Bill Stupple, Bill Rueck, Walter Hoyt, Frank Mastroleo, Andy Gillett, Jack Langel, Norman Johnson, Fred Ingersoll, Stanley Arendt, Herman Woehrle, Charles Shiley, Ray Gerber, John Botteger.** Nine of these Supts. have passed away. Roy Chaplin, John Darrah, Bill Rueck, Andy Gillett, Jack Langel, Norman Johnson, Fred Ingersoll, Stanley Arendt, Herman Woehrle. May they rest in peace.

The November 8th MAGCS Annual Meeting held at Midwest G.C. was attended by 44 voting members. The highlight of the meeting was to elect officers and directors for the coming year. The results were - **Joseph Grenko**, president; **Roger La Rochelle** - 1st vice president; **Robert Breen** - 2nd vice president; **David Meyer** - secretary-treasurer; **Dennis Fulton, Don Hoffman, Richard Kensinger, Thomas Vieweg** - Board of Directors.

A rather lengthy discussion took place on the increase of annual dues. An increase is now in order. Reports are golf course maintenance budgets will be going up approximately 8% in the Chicago area.

Mike Bavier, super at Inverness C.C. reports his club is building a new swimming pool, along with a club house addition. This area will be for club storage and golf cart storage.



Passing of the gavel, Joe Grenko on left receives from Carl Hopphan, outgoing president.



Newly elected officers for M.A.G.C.S. and Directors for 1978. Seating, President Joseph Grenko, Dave Meyer, Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Breen, 2nd Vice President. Standing l. to r. - Carl Hopphan, Emeritus. Don Hoffman, Thomas Vieweg, Dennis Fulton, Richard Kensinger, Roger La Rochelle. 1st Vice President Ed Fischer absent in picture.



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POTASSIUM - The Lacking Element

In reviewing soil tests it becomes quite evident that most turf areas are low in potassium. This has been mainly due to the continuous use of descending ratio fertilizers like 10-6-4 or 6-4-0.

Potassium is an essential element for plant growth. It is second only to nitrogen in the amount required for a plant. And yet it is usually the most neglected when it comes to fertilization.

A potassium deficient plant has a lower disease resistance, is more susceptible to winterkill and may be more susceptible to insect damage. Potassium deficient plants have high water losses, thus require more water than those not deficient in potassium.

Potassium is the most active of the essential plant nutrients. It is easily leached from the soil and may even be leached from plant leaves during a rain or during irrigation.

It is because of its leachability and normally low availability in our soils that, in general, fertilizers should be used which contain high amounts of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K). Suggested fertilizer ratios are 3-1-2, 4-1-2, 2-1-2, etc. If pH is controlled, soil phosphorus supply is usually adequate and thus not as much as required.

Potassium is commonly available as muriate of potash (0-0-60). When a soil test indicates the soil potassium supply is low, muriate of potash may be added at the rate of 2 pounds per 1000 square feet or use a fertilizer of the ratios listed above to supply the equivalent of 1 pound potash per 1000/sq. ft. Potassium sulfate may also be used at the rate of 1.5 pounds per 1000/sq. ft.

When high amounts of nitrogen in relation to

potassium are supplied to a plant the plant produces a lush succulent type of growth. This type of growth is easily winterkilled, more susceptible to insect and disease and requires more water to keep it alive. Even though this is a fast growth rate it is not a desirable growth rate.

Potassium tempers the adverse effects of a high nitrogen supply when it is supplied in large enough quantities. The value of a good potassium level in the soil and plant cannot be over emphasized.

FALL FERTILIZATION

This is the time of year to get the most for your fertilizer dollar. Fall is the time that cool-season grasses, especially Kentucky bluegrass, develop new tillers, healthy rhizomes and sturdy roots. A complete fertilizer containing a slowly available source of nitrogen (ureaformaldehyde, IBDU, or natural organic) is preferred because sufficient nitrogen can be applied with a single application. Coated nitrogen materials are questionable at this time as some will imbibe water, split open from freezing and release soluble nitrogen. Lawns should receive 2 to 3 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet at this time of year. You may wish to try a dormant or winter fertilization. Turf fertilized in mid-November attained an attractive green color as much as four weeks earlier than turf fertilized the previous summer. Timing of fall fertilizer applications will vary from one area to another. In studies in 1974-75, the mid-November application worked very well at U.N.H. However, as you live further inland, you may want to move the date up to the first of November.

Credit - New Hampshire Turf Grower
October, 1977

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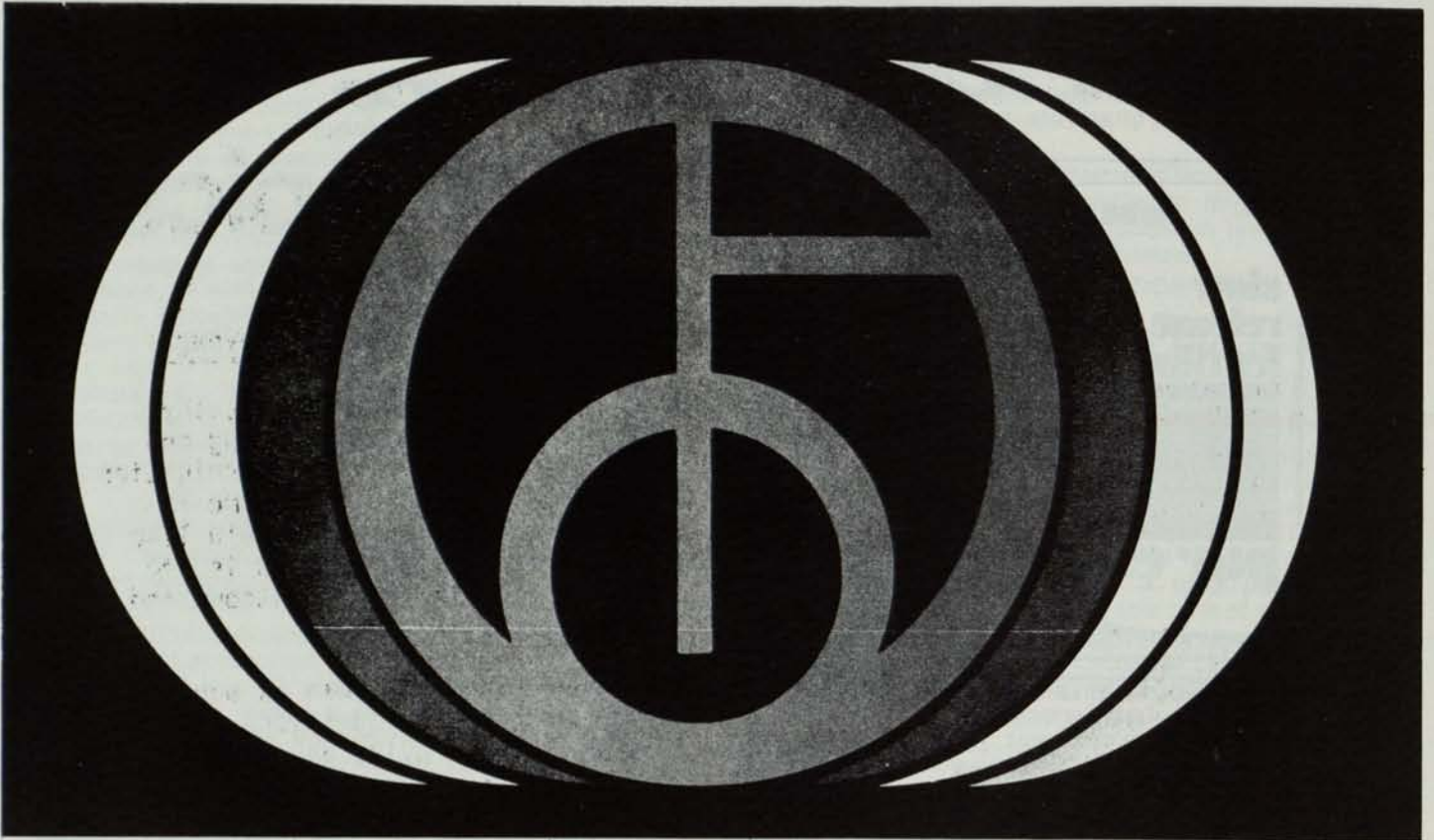


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hibits featuring new products for the turf industry will be open February 14-16; the conference will be in session February 12-17. This is the place for you to meet the other people who make the turfgrass industry dynamic and to capture dollar-saving ideas. See you in San Antonio in '78.

Conference Highlights

- preconference seminars
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- general education sessions
- special interest assemblies
- turfgrass industry show
- annual meeting and election
- golf course tour
- ladies' program
- social events

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