

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

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**Bull Sheet** printed by Ever-Redi Printing, La Grange,  
Illinois 60525. Phone: 312-352-4378.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, November is gone and forgotten, and we get into December and look back to the Midwest Turf Clinic just past. This Clinic has to have been one of the best in many years. Carl Grassl and his committee have to be commended for the fine planning, and many long hours that went into it. I'm sure everyone who attended went home with many new ideas.

Looking ahead to January thoughts turn to vacations, sun and sand. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to and planning their trip to San Antonio in February to the National Conference. I'm hoping to see most of you there. This will be the time to visit with our many friends from across the country. Possibly even a few from out of the United States. To exchange thoughts and views and gain from the wealth of knowledge that will be exchanged at the Conference.

I would like to take this time to wish all of you the best of holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Ray:

You scared the hell out of me when you wrote "If you do not appreciate receiving the **Bull Sheet**, please let me know and I will remove your name from the mailing list".

I enjoy your magazine so much that I will give my little news item to stay in good graces of the editor.

You might be interested in a resume of our Minnesota summer.

We had adequate rainfall most of our growing season. Shortly before and after the 4th of July we experienced such extreme high temperatures and humidity that "Pythium Blight" plagued our turf. Once this condition subsided we were attacked by "Atenius Spretulus". We finally got that under control and are now enjoying a beautiful fall.

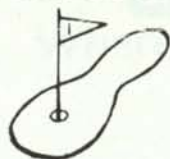
I enjoyed the "Olde Timers" pictures, especially Walter Fuchs, Sr. and Frank Dinelli; maybe Walter is just a Sr. in name. But Frank Dinelli brings up many memories. I admire the professionalism of the Midwest group.

I will always remember that it was the Midwest group that put me over for the Presidency.

You are a good group.

Sincerely,  
Harold Stodala

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Even though enlarged to 375 exhibits, covering more than two acres to accommodate a still growing list of exhibitors, the 1978 Mid-America Trade Show is already more than 79% "sold out".

More than 150 exhibitors, drawn from every section of the country, have already reserved space to show a wide variety of plant materials, supplies and equipment during the show's four day run, January 15-18, 1978, in Rosemont, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. The final count of exhibitors is expected to top 250 companies.

The added space has permitted many new exhibitors to enter Mid-Am/78, some for the first time, and allowed several returning exhibitors to enlarge their displays.

Sponsored by the Illinois State Nurserymen's Association, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, and the Wisconsin Landscape Federation, the 1977 Mid-Am attracted more than 4,000 attendees who came to Chicago from 37 states and Canada.

The Mid-Am is held at the O'Hare Exposition Center, located just minutes from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. A complete professional education program is offered in conjunction with the show. Additional information regarding exhibiting or attendance is available from Mid-Am Trade Show, 4902 Tollview Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008.

**The Mid-Am Trade Show**  
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**Gentlemen:**

As of our Annual Meeting and Election on November 17, Dennis Davenport will assume the position of Executive Director and Carol McCue will be Associate Executive Director. This change is being made on the recommendation of Miss McCue and approved with understanding by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Miss McCue wishes to lessen her responsibilities in the day to day operation of the Association though she will remain as a valued member of our staff.

Mr. Davenport has been with the Association for almost eight years and is thoroughly grounded in all facets of our operation. Katherine Cardwell will continue as Travel Coordinator and Donna Kubic and Sue Kaszewicz will remain as Administrative Assistants.

Be assured our staff will maintain the same high standard of prompt and complete service you have come to rely on and please join with us in wishing both Miss McCue and Mr. Davenport well in their new duties.

**Very truly yours,**

**John E. Kenny**  
President, Chicago District Golf Association

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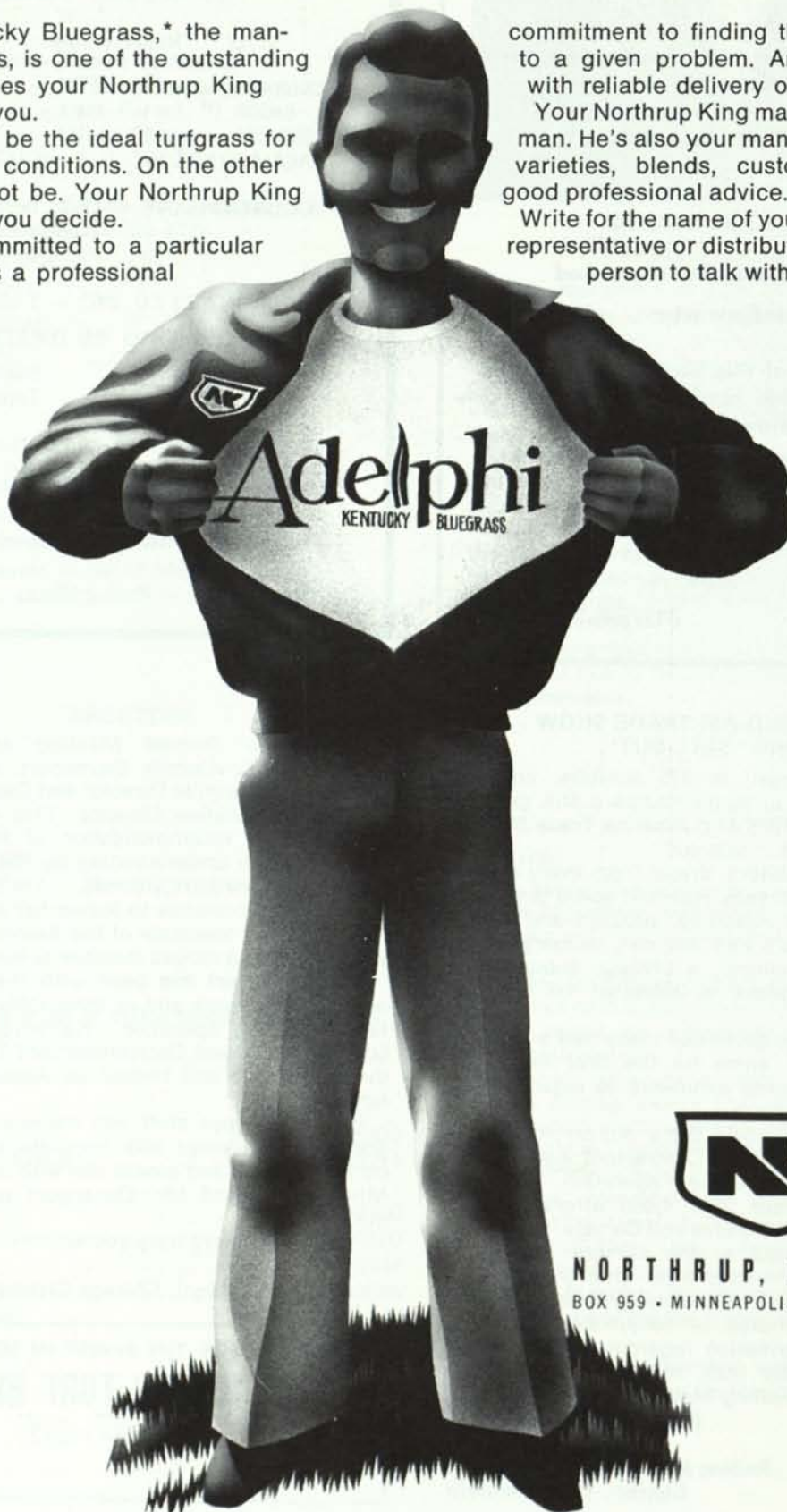
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\*\*\* \*\*

Gentlemen, there is only about a month left before departure for the convention in San Antonio. If you have not yet made your arrangements or would like to change any travel plans you have, now is the time to do so!

Remember, we have a chance to save a lot of time and money on air travel through the group and individual air-fares that are being offered. As much as \$73 per person can be saved. But you must call NOW!

Remember, Bob Malpede will be arranging air travel not only to the convention, but also to the golf tournament in Corpus Christi, and any travel needs you may have around the convention.

Just call Bob Malpede at 312-249-3220 if there are any questions!

\*\*\* \*\*

### ANNUAL ILCA SEMINAR EVENTS

This year's Seminar will be held at the Indian Lakes Country Club, Bloomingdale, IL on February 16 and 17. For further information contact Carole Rachesky, P. O. Box 484, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

Very truly yours,  
**Carole Rachesky**  
Executive Secretary

Illinois Landscape Contractors Assn.



Editor  
MIDWEST BREEZES

The MAGCS 25th Annual Clinic, held on November 30th, was one of our best educational meetings. We are grateful that the Medinah Country Club provided their outstanding facilities for our use. Our first clinic, a two day event with outdoor temperatures of nine degrees below zero, was held at Medinah. All of us extend our appreciation to host Superintendent John Jackman and Manager Bob Nelson and his staff. Their efforts were a very significant part of the success of the clinic that was attended by one hundred forty. The moderators and speakers deserve special recognition. Although it was the first time for some of them, they demonstrated an ability to prepare and present their subject material in a very professional manner. They are to be commended.

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Dave Fearis, CGCS at the Country Club of Peoria, gave a presentation at the National Institute of Parks and Grounds Management on "Modifying Equipment to Meet Your Needs".

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Reports are that some people who will attend the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Antonio will be driving their car. This sounds like a good idea because there are many interesting places to see in the great state of Texas. To get a free book about these interesting places, write to "The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Travel and Information", P. O. Box 5064, Austin, Texas 78763.

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The January 10th meeting will be held at the Arrowhead Golf Club. Supt. Robert Breen will be our host.

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This is the time of the year that friends get together and wish each other Health and Happiness for the coming year. The **editor** joins in with the same wishes. The **Bull Sheet** had a very good year in 1977. This was made possible by our **advertisers** and **Ever-Redi Printing**. Our wish for a prosperous 1978 is extended to all of you.

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Numerous Christmas party gatherings take place before the Holidays. **Walter** and **Bonnie Fuchs** of Turf Products held their annual Christmas party on December 2nd. The refreshments and food were beyond my capability of giving proper credit. There was one thing that was missing this writer looked for and could not find. It was the **mistletoe**.

On December 16th **Adolph Bertocci**, Supt. at Lake Shore C.C. was host to his annual Christmas party for many of his friends. It appears the number of friends grow each year. And Adolph being the type of man he is, it is understandable. The editor is happy to be one of them.

The food was more than ample and of the best and the number of varieties ran into numbers too high to remember.

Two of the young ladies in the picture acted as bartenders and what a remarkable job they performed. I am sure a percentage of male bartenders could get some good pointers in watching these ladies perform.

The lady with the dark glasses, furnished the entertainment and what a marvelous voice she has.

The sad part about a party of this nature - it will be twelve long months before another Bertocci Christmas party.



#### AERIFYING BLUE GRASS FAIRWAYS

Woodridge Golf Club, as well as many of the daily fee golf courses, allow golfers to play as long as weather conditions permit in the fall, as long as no damage is done to the ground. Therefore, we delay aerifying our blue grass fairways as long as possible before the ground freezes, due to the fact that the plugs from the aerified holes stick to the golfers shoes and hand cart wheels. Last year we were about half finished aerifying our two courses when a three inch snow fell. The ground underneath was not frozen, same as this year, so we continued aerifying to do an excellent job. This year on Nov. 28th we did likewise, and finished Dec. 1st. Weather permitting, within the next couple of weeks we will then apply 200 lbs. per acre of 5-20-30 fertilizer and this is the only treatment our fairways will get for the whole year. We have been doing this for the past eighteen years and results seem very gratifying.

Tony Meyer, Supt.

The fall dinner-dance was held at the River Forest Golf Club. There is no better way to get acquainted and to find out if one is as old as one sometimes feels. We all thank our host and hostess **Gene and Ed Stewart**, Manager **John Jones** and all of the employees who helped to make this evening enjoyable for the one hundred twenty-one who attended. The following list of door prizes was provided for the editor by the entertainment chairman, **Ed Fischer**. The donors and winners are:

Snow Pup by Toro - Mary McKanna  
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 \$10.00 Gift Certificate for Marshall Fields from Bo Jo Supply - Jeanetta Drye  
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 House Plant from Vaughn-Jacklin - Steve Stewart  
 House Plant from Vaughn-Jacklin - Pete McConkey  
 House Plant; Christmas Cactus from Vaughn-Jacklin - Mrs. Roger Jury  
 House Plant from Vaughn-Jacklin - Mrs. Clemens  
 House Plant from Vaughn-Jacklin - Jerry Adank  
 House Plant from Vaughn Jacklin -  
 Crock Pot from Nell Johnson - Mrs. Keith Fuchs  
 Fry Baby from Layne Western - Mrs. Ed Smith  
 Camera from Thorton's Turf Nursery - Donna Buchanan  
 Clock Radio from Art Clesen Co. - Joe Grenko  
 Sisco Irrigation - Emmett Murphy  
 Cutting Board from Lake Shore Supply - Ben Kronn  
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Speaker - Pete Leuzinger

### **FAIRWAY RENOVATION: FROM BLUEGRASS TO BENT**

In 1975, following the installation of our automatic irrigation system, a group of members approached Art Benson and me with a question: Is it possible for St. Charles Country Club to ever have Bentgrass fairways? They stated that they preferred this type of playing surface and would like to see a conversion made. I must say that this took us by surprise, because, at the time, we had pretty good Bluegrass fairways. We were asked to come up with an acceptable program for fairway renovation, how it would be done, and, of course, an estimate of conversion time.

You have to ask yourself sometimes, what, if anything, is wrong with what we have. From the greenkeeping aspect, bluegrass fairways are great, but maybe not from the aspect of golf. Apparently our membership thought this was an improvement they wanted for their golf course. Now, what is wrong with Bluegrass in comparison to Bent for fairway situations? Is it the flier we have heard so much about these last few years? That might be one of the reasons. Or it could be that Bent is nice to look at - that contrast in color and texture to the taller, less manicured rough grass. Maybe it is the cushion affect Bent-poa fairways give that golfers make good comments about. And possibly there is a little prestige involved, too. I do not want to start an argument over which fairway grass is best, but I would like to discuss our method of conversion and give you some idea on how we are doing after two complete seasons.

After several meetings with the Permanent Plans Committee and the Board of Directors, the go-ahead was given to start a three to five year program designed to make a gradual transition from predominately common bluegrass to predominately Bentgrass fairways. At the same time, we made a commitment to cause as little inconvenience to the golfing membership as possible. We were to introduce Bent by over-seeding in the late Spring and late Summer seasons, or twice a year. The costs would include the purchase of two pieces of machinery, the seeder and a sweeper used for clean-up after the seeding. Of course, the cost of the seed had to be included.

The idea is to get as much bent as possible while the bluegrass gradually fades out, with as little *Poa annua*

encroachment as possible. You have to provide an environment suitable for young Bent seedling. It's not as easy as it sounds because you have to keep in mind that you are watering an area that people play golf on. Of course, watering is just one of the maintenance practices that have to be altered. (1) Cutting height has to be altered slightly. We moved our mowers down to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " bench setting from 1" with the hopes of gradually weakening the bluegrass. And I think it is interesting to note that our membership is playing on great fairways right now that offer the resiliency of the bluegrass along with the thickening cushion affect of Bent and poa. So right now we have the best of the three. (2) Feeding has to be considered, and we have found that timing is critical. Two to four pounds of actual N per year seems to be adequate, but when do you put it down? We have found that if the existing turf is left hungry prior to our late summer seeding and then given a  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 lb. feeding two to three weeks after seeding that this gives the seed a nice start. If you feed prior to seeding, the existing turf fills in so fast that the young seedlings barely get their start before being buried alive. And I mean that literally. We have also found that the existing turf is less vigorous in the late summer and this is the best time to over-seed. So, as of 1977, we have eliminated our Spring seeding.

I think it is interesting to note that when you over-seed through existing turf, you do not get nice straight rows of young seedling sprouting through that existing turf. Every time we over-seed we probably get 90-95% germination, but within two weeks it gets pretty difficult to find those little critters. What is the reason? I can't make a qualified statement why they damp off. Whatever the reason, or reasons, I think that it is safe to say the crowding out affect of the existing turf predisposed whatever other reason the new grass has trouble getting a start.

We started it all in early August of '75 by cutting at  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Prior to this, we were on a 1" six day/week cutting schedule. In mid-August, we started seeding with an old grain drill (borrowed from another club) at a rate of 30 lb/A. The results were poor to mediocre. A 30 lb. rate was too heavy as crowding out resulted even prior to seedling development. In mid-September, we again seeded using a Rogers seeder at an 18 lb/A rate. The results were a little better, but we were still too crowded.

After trying two types of seeders, we decided that the one with the dethatcher was better for us because it really brought up the thatch and mixed a little soil in with the seed. The slit made by the dethatcher seemed to give the seedlings a bit of a competitive edge. We seeded again in May of '76 at a rate of 10 lb/A and found this to be most suitable for us. We were still cutting six days a week as the bluegrass was growing fast. I must admit that we were down on our hands and knees looking for signs of mature Bentgrass coming through the bluegrass. At least the bluegrass was not fading out too fast.

By the middle of July 1976, we were finally getting what I would call some mature Bent spreading in our fairways. There was no pattern to it, but here and there in every fairway were patches of Bent with runners moving out. This was significant but unexpected. We thought we would see lines of Bent rather than small patches maturing. By August, some of these patches were coalescing and forming even bigger areas of Bent with very little *Poa annua*. After seeing the new Bent filling in this way, we wanted to know why. I'm sure there is more than one reason for