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## BOB WILLIAMS TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Bob Williams is retiring from Bob O'Link at the end of this year and many of his friends and his former students have been seeking an opportunity to publicly honor him and applaud his contribution to our industry and to our lives.

A group of his former students have formed a committee to coordinate this occasion with the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Chicagoland Golf Association and have chosen the dinner following the MGCSA Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club on Tuesday, November 27.

We honor Bob for many accomplishments, among them his development of on-the-job training for 67 young men studying agronomy. 32 of these men are now head superintendents at fine clubs throughout the country. Bob originated and published budget forms which have become standard throughout the country as well as developing the first contract form for superintendents titled "A Letter of Understanding and Agreement". It is currently used in the GCSAA brochure "Hiring A Superintendent". He has set records as both a speaker and writer on behalf of golf course superintendents. If you receive this letter, you're his friend and you know all this already, so we'll stop the plaudits for now.

Our plans are to have everyone gather at Medinah at 5:00 P.M. for cocktails and dinner on November 27. Dinner tickets will be \$22 and there will be a cash bar. If you attend the MGCSA Turf Clinic at Medinah on November 27 and 28 - cost of the dinner is included in your registration fee.

If you are not attending the Turf Clinic and wish to attend the dinner for Bob, please send check for \$22.00 to - The Bob Williams Dinner Committee, Room 300, 2100 Clearwater Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521. Medinah Country Club is located on Medinah Road about 30 miles west of the Chicago loop. It's about 30 minutes from O'Hare Airport. This should be a super occasion. Please make every effort to come to honor Bob and see all of your old friends. We're all looking forward to it eagerly.

**The Bob Williams Student Alumni Committee**  
Bruce Sering, Glen View Club, IL 312-729-7600  
Fred Opperman, Glen Oak Cnty. Club, IL 312-469-6220  
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Editor

## MIDWEST BREEZES

Our August 6th meeting was held at Spring Brook G.C. and had a dinner attendance of sixty. Forty-five of these played golf and reported the golf course in excellent condition. We congratulate our host Supt. **Gary Dorsch** for doing such a splendid job. We all thank **Bill Nadler** from Harley Davidson for the refreshments and for the use of the extra golf cars. The dinner consisted of barbecued chicken and pork chops, biscuits, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, two different kinds of drinks and plenty of ice cream, all for \$6.50 - a real bargain.

The educational part of the meeting was that up to this date, August 6, there had been very little turfgrass disease. Beware, the season is not over.



Chow time at Spring Brook G.C., August 6

Yours truly read an article in one of the chapter news publications that referred to a suggestion that the operations of Chapter Associations should come under the so called "Big Tent" in Lawrence, Kansas - so the article stated. My observation of the "Big Tent" operation is that due to the turn over of the personnel they should get this problem taken care of before wanting to take on the operation of the Chapter Assoc's. The M.A.G.C.S., which I have been a member of for nearly fifty years, has always been among the more active local golf course Supts. Assoc's. My feeling is, why should we give this up and be dictated by someone from the "Big Tent". I am sure many will agree with me that they have problems of their own within their operation. If my memory is correct, at one of our recent conferences this idea was voted down. If it comes up to another vote, my vote will be **NO!**

We had 45 golfers at Spring Brook Golf Club on August 6, 1979. The golf course was in excellent condition, **Gary Dorsch** is to be congratulated.

**Dean Taggart** was our low gross winner with a 77, a great game. First Blind Bogey winners were **Pete Leuzinger, Frank Krueger, and Ken Shepard** at 77; second Blind Bogey winners were **C. Shiley, Tony Meyer, Fred Hall and Bill Nadler** at 82.

The Peoria winners were **Dave Meyer 67, Rodger Boyd 68, Len Berg 69, Phil Bersin 71, Don Hoffman, Bill Miller and Bill Walsh 72, and finally Dave Nadler, John Potthoff, Gary Dorsch and Fred Opperman** with 73's.

Don't forget the next meeting will be the annual Golf Tournament, let's all attend and have a good time.

Golf Committee



Bryan Meyer and the Grand Champion.

The DuPage County Fair is over and **Bryan Meyer**, fourteen year old son of **David and Penny Meyer**, is a very happy young man. What was the event that made Bryan so happy? A steer that he had raised and had shown at the fair was chosen as the **Grand Champion**. It was a black Angus steer weighing 1,005 lbs. and was sold at auction for \$2.50 a lb. Bryan also had the Reserve Champion, a cross-bred Angus. I am sure Bryan will never forget the 1979 DuPage County Fair. The Champion was purchased by Winkler Mobil gas station in Naperville, IL.



Stan Mikita, Bob Breen, "Grouchy" Voykin

Wife: "I think I'll join the Women's Lib movement. They are advocating a man pay his wife for doing housework."

Husband: "Sounds good to me. I'll pay you \$25 a day; but I only need you to come in on Thursdays."



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## SOME IDEAS ABOUT ROOTS

### Introduction

1. What is a root?
2. Where are the roots?
3. Roots are plant membranes
4. What is water-air balance for roots?
5. Roots are strong
6. How would you insult roots?
7. What could you do to favor roots?

### Conclusion

#### Roots - Turfwise

Our historical roots, as a family and individuals, have recently received special attention. However, the roots of concern in turf are those little white stringy things that supposedly are below the grass you see on the surface.

**First, what is a root?** Roots are initiated at the nodes occurring along stems. These may be concentrated in a crown or spread along a stolon. Portions of mature roots are mainly conductive tissue plus providing some storage of nutrients, especially starches.

The working part of any root is the soft adsorptive root tip and the root hairs near it. This is where the payload of water and elements are adsorbed for transfer to the crown, stems, and leaves known as the turf cover. And, woe is the plant which had **lost** its root tips! So, a living root is that plant tissue joined to the node and extending to and including a root cap. Although some branching is normal, when individual root tips die, the older root parts seldom initiate new root tips. Physiologically the plant's response is to initiate a new root at the node and just start again (provided extra energy is available and time is allowed). In other words, the energy path is to start a new root, which has least transfer distance for nutrients. So, keeping root tips alive and active is the first challenge of turf managers.

Bud Esterline at Muncie one time said, "Bill, on Monday I cut the cups and could see roots about five inches deep. It was dry, so Monday evening we made a big effort to water the greens real good. Tuesday morning early it rained and it was so cloudy and wet that we couldn't mow Tuesday. Although still raining, we finally mowed a little Wednesday afternoon, and the rain just set in there. Brown patch began to show. We finally got our greens mowed on Friday, and on Saturday the weather cleared up and all I had for roots were a few black strings! I lost my complete root system between Monday night and Saturday morning." Now what? Bud knew he had to lightly water those greens, to watch for wet wilt, to keep the leaves moist enough so they wouldn't wilt until new roots would generate. If he could get by for about seven days he'd have some new roots growing, and later some good roots working again, and back to normal. Five days of wet weather cost Bud his root system, and then it took him ten days to get partial replacement.

**Where are the roots?** Would you believe 90 percent of root length is in the upper two inches or 5 cm. In West Germany my friend, Dr. Boecker, reported extensive testing.

Inches	Roots	%	Boecker found
0-2	cm	90	81 to 91% for fescue
4	0-5	5	86 to 94% for bluegrass
6	-10	3	85 to 93% for bentgrass
	-15	2	Root distribution in June and December were near equal.
	below		

Don't fret over this distribution; just realize that it is the active root tips doing the work.

Ideally, a diffuse extensive root system is desired, but for every use, management, rootzone and irriga-

tion, what is normal, adequate, and necessary will vary. As turf managers, you want all the roots possible or practical.

Roots have been found over 100 inches long under Bermuda in California tests. However, roots of three feet for fescue and zoysia, 2 feet for bluegrass and bentgrass would be considered quite long. When trenches are made across roughs or tall grass areas the long root extension in the soil profile is usually impressive.

**Roots are plant membranes.** "Here, you root; do this! Absorb (take in) 5000 pounds of water plus one pound of elements the plant must have. By the way, **keep out the excessive and avoid the unneeded.** Meanwhile, let's hope nematodes make no holes, and rhizoctonia doesn't infect. And, while you're constantly expanding, we'll try to keep the leaves healthy, the mower sharp, the wear distributed, the drought averted, and we'll try to avoid scalping or other turf stress." After all, the top must send energy clear down to the root tip. When energy is short the number of root hairs diminishes, the diameter reduces, and the root initiation slows.

Roots are powerful adsorbers. Before the plant wilts roots will take water from soils down to 13.6 atmospheres, a pF of 4.5 or tension equivalent to 14 meters of water. The wise turf manager has every reason to utilize the reservoir of moisture within a rootzone between irrigations. In other words, it is foolish to ignore the rootzone moisture storage potential when managing fine turf.

**What is water-air balance for roots?** Incidentally, that root tip must have some oxygen as it works. Waterlogged soils are hard on roots. Being waterlogged for more than 24 hours under stress weather is a cause for concern. Most turf managers have seen roots growing over the surface of the ground in an attempt to be where there is air. Roots may be deep or shallow just in response to air supply. We've seen roots grow in water when air is added, but remember, oxygen travels through water 1000 times faster than through wet compacted soils.

**Roots are strong!** When roots are numerous their combined strength is in athletic field, tees and traffic areas. New roots in new soils always look good. A measure of success is to have sufficient roots to hold the soil mass for their entire depth of penetration when held by the surface sod.

Research on rooting of sods has been conducted to determine resistance to an upward pull after one month of growth.

#### How would you insult roots?

1. Reduce the air at root tips
2. Increase the water to excess
3. Compact the soil; use equipment and carts
4. Smear, seal the surface
5. Raise the temperature
6. Overcrowd the plants
7. Lose leaves to diseases; lose energy
8. Reduce leaf surface
9. Shade by trees, buildings, other plants
10. Overfertilize and stress plants

#### What would you do to favor roots?

1. Increase oxygen in rootzone
2. Avoid any overwatering or continued wetness
3. Vertically core, spike, slit open rootzone surface
4. Topdress to raise cutting height
5. Topdress to minimize surface compaction and effect of thatch
6. Increase leaf surface
7. Avoid or spread wear
8. Avoid disease or turf weakening



9. Lower the temperature - cooling when possible
  10. Reduce shade or competition
  11. Fertilize - low to medium nitrogen
  12. Provide ample potassium and minor elements
- Turf managers and their crews can't make a root!  
You can help; let the plants make them. You can kill  
the root or slow it down.

Dr. W. H. Daniel  
Purdue University

## EDITORIAL

### Where have all the members gone?

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents currently has 362 members, but one could hardly know this from the attendance of our meetings. Where are you 362 people?

Let us, for a moment, analyze the possible reason for the lack of attendance at our monthly meeting. In January we toured Fermi Laboratory in Batavia and I'm sure some members stayed away because of the possibility of having their brains radiated. February brought the GCSAA Convention, at which I saw at least 361 of our members. The March meeting date possibly caught some applying their fungicide or shoveling off roofs. April was too nice a day to go to a meeting to learn about trees and shrubs. The May meeting was held out of state for some and others no doubt thought they would be pictured, printed, and arrested for hiring Mexicans. The June meeting was better attended but a disappointment to the host. Many members must have thought you had to be a senior to attend the Senior Day. Our July meeting was attended by 90+ masochists who had to 'Bear' dirty jokes. The August meeting could shape up, but as of this writing it appears perhaps only 60 or so can afford \$6.50 for dinner and camaraderie. (That's too cheap). September, as usual, will be one of our better meetings because the guys who couldn't attend all the previous meetings due to golf practice will be there to show us their stuff. October is usually a joke. That leaves the Medinah Clinic and our **least** attended meeting - the annual election.

Remember, **you** as members will receive no more or less from **your** association than you put into it. That's the way it should be, right Paul?

Don Hoffman, Educational Chairman

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