

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

Editor — Ray Gerber
 865 Hillside Avenue
 Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
 Phone — [312] 469-6467

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

PLANNING PRIORITIES

Sure we have to get the course ready for opening day. The debris left behind due to the winter weather gives the course a clean appearance whenever the final load is removed. The mechanic is making sure the mowers are cutting at proper height and with precision. The spraying and fertilizing programs are being put into effect also. While we, as golf course superintendents, are seeing that the present work schedule is being completed by our competent assistant or foreman this allows for some free time for us to do job planning. During budgeting time, the larger major construction projects are prioritized as to what our members feel are most important to our clubs. The decisions then are based on the improvement of playability and the cash flow of our clubs.

The early spring gives us the opportunity to plan our maintenance projects for the next couple of weeks or even months. When on the golf course, take a clip board with you or even a miniature cassette tape recorder and retain a record of things to do. For example, this list will consist of such maintenance as; collapsed drain tiles, broken tree limbs, cart path repairs, building maintenance, bridge repairs, fence mending, areas of turfgrass that are in need of extra maintenance and many more of our everyday necessary improvements. By documenting our maintenance need this will allow us to prioritize the immediate maintenance necessities. By planning our "out of the ordinary" work programs, this will allow for better utilization of the work force. Planning and prioritizing assists our staff in achieving greater work production. This list of special projects should be kept in the superintendent's office, on a blackboard, corkboard, or easel visible to the assistant and foreman. This is just another means of communications which is a tool for getting all the necessary jobs completed.

Len Berg

Dear Len,
 Thank you so much for sending me my card and certificate as an honorary member of the Midwest Association. I love being part of your group and am very grateful to have this honor.

Carol McCue
 Chicago District Golf Association

EDITORIAL

Extras On The Course - A Nice Touch

Talent goes a long way in the golf business. But using our talent in other areas of golf course maintenance can often be an unused resource. Individuals usually possess many hidden talents where if just a little imagination were used, those talents might surface and actually help in our overall performance levels. The golf course superintendent has so many opportunities to show off his abilities. Successful superintendents have already made this discovery and have found avenues in doing for others, getting involved, and enter the arena of public relations for the club and for themselves.

We superintendents can get in a rut when we think only in terms of the daily greenkeeping. Even our golfers get in a rut. Have you ever noticed how some conversations go like--"How is the course today Mr. Greenkeeper?" Or, "What is the weather gonna be like this afternoon?" All we talk about is the golf course. That is a rut! So, what do we do about it? I say, "Give them something else to talk about." Show off something other than fast greens and perfect fairways. Get out of that rut and plant some apple trees! Try peaches, cherries and pears too! Use your talent and grow something special. Get personally involved, help plant them, prune them and spray them. Let your apples do some of your public relations work for you. Share them with your employees, fellow superintendents and golfers. Pick bushels at a time and place them by the halfway house, free for the taking. Use your imagination and incorporate plantings in the golf course landscape. Trees like this have excellent floral display in the spring and offer good screening material near cart paths, tees and greens. Have fun with them. I guarantee, you will have more to talk about with your golfers. Personal involvement in something special like apple trees on the golf course makes you feel better. Besides, there is nothing better than one of your own home grown apples at 10:30 in the morning.

**Peter Leuzinger, Golf Course Supt.
St. Charles Country Club**

DUDLEY SMITH REPORTS —

The Midwest Association was saddened to learn that while members were in Anaheim, our friend David Zimmerman passed away January 23, 1981. David had been confined for several months at the Michael Reese Hospital receiving treatments for the dreaded leukemia.

In 1978 David completed the turf management course at Penn State University with local superintendents David Behrman and Michael Vogt. Zimmerman finished with the highest scholastic honors in his class.

He accepted a sales position with the Lakeshore Equipment and Supply Co. and was assigned the Chicagoland-Milwaukee territory. David inaugurated the van service-calls to our golf courses which first were objectionable to some; but which we all came to appreciate. David's success related to his personal integrity, sincerity, and quiet gentlemanly manner.

The LORD had a key position vacant, to beckon this outstanding young man from us.

Our sympathy is extended to his family in Rockford, Illinois and to his wife, Arlene, and infant daughter who reside in Elmhurst.

Two local boys graduated from the turf management course at Penn State University on Thursday, February 19, 1981. David Louttit of Silver Lake in Orland Park, and David Wollenberg of Dyer, Indiana completed the two year program. Louttit received the Penncross Seed Growers Award; a check for \$500.

David Louttit will accept a position with Warren Bidwell at Olympia Falls C.C., David Wollenberg will resume duty as assistant to his father, Edwin Wollenberg, at Gary Country Club.

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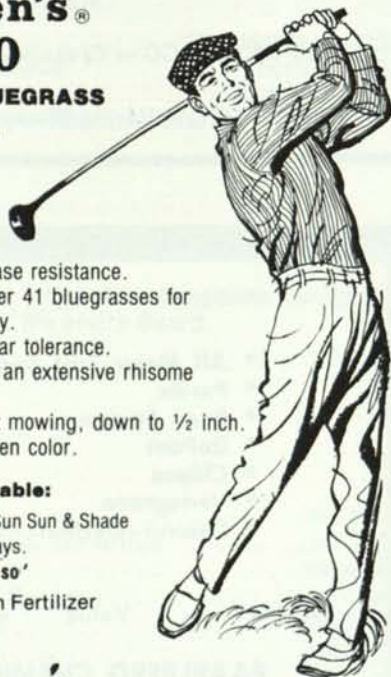
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I suppose some of the skeptics will call it coincidental, but it is a fact that the golf courses of Central and Southern California that received just one day of rain since last March, were refreshed with three successive days of rain beginning on the day Mike was elected President.

We in the Chicago area who watched Mike progress through the Chairs of M.A.G.C.S. and the G.C.S.A. know that it is just the way Mike Bavier gets things done. Mike has the talent and ability to accept the challenges of his new position and come up with positive results.

I would like to suggest to him, however, to take time to "Stop and smell the roses", as this should be one of the most memorable years of his life and should be savored, enjoyed and shared with Penny and the children.

While on the subject of elections and presidents, I think it would add a touch of class to the M.A.G.C.S. if we adopted the practice of passing the gavel and introducing the members of the board of directors at the Annual Dinner Dance. I believe that the two would compliment each other and add to the festivities.

I would also like to applaud the start that Lenny has made and to urge him to continue to work with what I consider an exceptional board, and to suggest to them that "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link" and that they share a tremendous potential to do great things this year.

The most important ingredient of a successful association, however, is the membership. If they do not participate in the meetings and association functions, there is no way that an event can be a success.

So plan to take advantage of events and become involved in the association's offerings. You might start by writing a line or two for the **Bull Sheet**.

That brings us to Paul Voykin's article in the February issue of "Weeds, Trees and Turf." I have suspected for a long time that Paul was a closet conservationist, a person who uses good cultural practices instead of unnecessary chemicals to achieve the goal of good turf. This article seems to prove that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

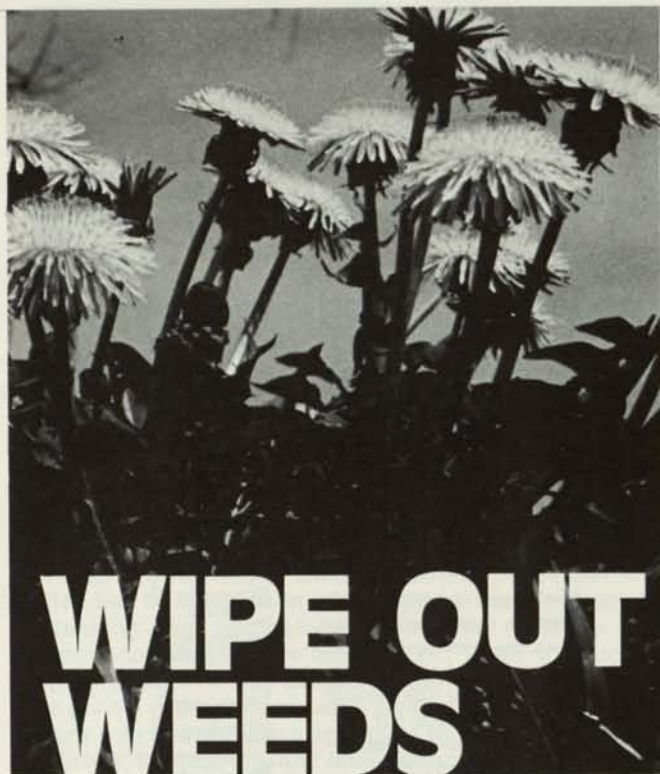
Bob Breen
Supt. - Arrowhead C.C.

Q. AND A. — THE AGRONOMY CORNER

Q. - We have been told it is injurious to irrigate grasses during the day, especially when the water is applied in the hot sun. We've been told that it "cooks" the grasses. Is this true?

A - It is important to remember that it's not **when** you water, but **how much** water you apply. Yes, grass will "cook" if water is applied at a faster rate than the soil can absorb it. When water puddles or saturates the soil, oxygen supply is cut off or severely impaired and the plant collapses. If your soil is mostly silt and clay and drains poorly, it is best to water lightly and more frequently. For example, if you regularly water one hour and the water puddles, change your schedule to allow time for the water to penetrate. You may find that 15 minutes of water applied four times over a period of four hours is best, as compared to 60 minutes of continuous irrigation. Learn the right schedule for your conditions and irrigate any time convenient to your schedule.

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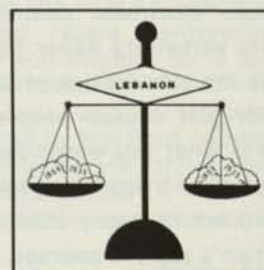
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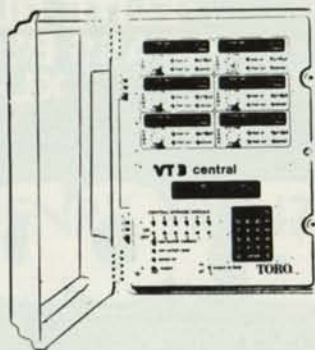
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MIDWEST BREEZES

The Mechanics Service Seminar held at the Village of Woodridge Municipal Building on Feb. 13, 1981 was attended by thirty men who showed their interest by attending this worthwhile educational meeting. The attendance should have been larger. Meetings such as this will return many dollars in savings on equipment by giving it the proper care. This editor wonders how many millions of dollars are spent by golf courses, park districts, cemeteries, and other areas such as these due to faulty maintenance care. There should be more of this type of meetings. All employers should insist that personnel who are responsible for the care and operation of equipment make notes of the information the speaker has provided for them. New equipment is costly; repair parts and labor are also costly. Let everyone keep this in mind and help hold down budget expense.

The **Bull Sheet** is sorry it did not list the information of the C.D.G.A. Green Seminar in the March issue. The reason was the information did not reach the editor until three weeks after the tenth of the month deadline.

There have been some reports that a problem has been noticed as of this date, March 10th, on the C15 strain of bent grass on greens. I hope those who have this problem will investigate the makeup of the fertilizer they are using. It could be that a change has been made and the Supt. is not aware of it.

A correction is in order. The March issue of the **Bull Sheet** gave credit to a **Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burns**. It should have been **Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gilman**. Sorry this happened. The names have been changed but the two smiling faces remain.

M.A.G.C.S April 6 meeting will be held at Elmhurst C.C. **Tom DiGuido, Supt.** will be our host. Golf will be available if conditions permit. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. - Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Frank Gasperini, Sales rep. for Dupont Co. will be our speaker. His topic will be "Spray Tank Calibration".

M.A.G.C.S. March 9 meeting held at Nordic C.C. was enjoyed by 85 members and guests. The afternoon was available for bowlers, racquet ball and swimming and a wonderful dinner. The guest speaker was well qualified on his topic - Taxes and What to do with Your Extra Money if You have any left over After you have Paid Your necessary Bills. We all thank our host **David Meyer**, Supt. for everything.

Since economizing costs seems to be the topic of the times, we (the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents) are conducting a charter airline flight to New Orleans GCSAA Conference.

Currently, the super saver weekend fare is \$294.00 on Delta airlines. Comparatively, our charter flight price with a party of 10 or more is \$243.00.

Terms of charter:

- Departs Sunday morning before conference
- Must travel together outbound
- Return can be any time on Delta up to 30 days
- Tickets must be issued at least 7 days in advance of flight
- 10% cancellation fee for cancellations within 7 days of departure

For reservation or answers to any questions call **Carl Landgrebe**, 312 - 986-5332.

Dear Len,

Thanks to you and all the Midwest members for the continued support this year. I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation. My position as President of GCSAA was due only through the great efforts of many fine individuals, many of them from this area.

As I travel the country, the "class" and expertise that surfaces in this area is second to none. We as a group should be proud of our accomplishments and continue to grow and promote the wonderful game of golf.

To those that were able to attend the party Wednesday night--thanks for coming. To those unable to attend--thanks for the encouragement along the way. To those that got lost along the way--I hope GCSAA can stir your interest this year and bring you back to the fine golf association.

Many thanks to all!

Mike R. Bavier, CGCS
President, GCSAA

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Your donation to the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund during our recent Conference and Show in Anaheim made you eligible for a drawing of prizes donated by our exhibitors.

Your name was drawn and you won a toy Ford truck and trailer set donated by the Ford Motor Company. Your prize is being shipped via United Parcel Service and should be arriving shortly.

Thank you for your donation and continued interest in GCSAA.

Palmer Maples, Jr., CGCS
Director of Education

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MATCH NITROGEN SOURCE TO PLANT NEEDS — Says McVey

The biological activity of methylene urea products can be substantially altered by manufacturing technology to satisfy the varying nitrogen needs of a wide range of plants, according to a paper presented by George R. McVey, Senior Researcher, O. M. Scott & Sons, at the annual meeting of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO; in Seattle.)

According to Dr. McVey, selection of the proper source of methylene urea results in increased nitrogen efficiency (less nitrogen leaching or volatilization), reduction in turfgrass clipping removal and a reduction in plant injury as compared to more soluble nitrogen materials. He urged that methylene urea be labeled to depict more accurately the various fractions of these products.

A complete copy of the talk and illustrations is available on request from O. M. Scott & Sons, Dept. BB, Marysville, OH 43041.

Don't keep forever on the public road, going only where others have gone. Leave the beaten track occasionally and dive into the woods. You will be certain to find something you have never seen before. Of course, it will be a little thing, but do not ignore it. Follow it up, explore all around it; one discovery will lead to another, and before you know it you will have something worth thinking about.

Alexander Graham Bell

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PINE WILT DISEASE CITED IN 14 COUNTIES

Pine wilt disease is killing off pine trees in Illinois, says James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County. The disease is caused by the pinewood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus lignicolus*, and has been found in 14 counties, as far south as Massac County and as far north as DuPage and Winnebago counties. We suspect it is in other counties as well says Fizzell, but are still trying to confirm this.

Fizzell says the nematode was first found in Illinois near Collinsville in late 1979. Although there is no indication of an epidemic in Illinois or the United States, Fizzell feels the potential for significant damage does exist.

Pines are the only known host of the nematode, and in Illinois the disease appears to be most common in Scotch and Austrian pines. It essentially is limited to mature and nearly mature pines, which are attractive to the insect carriers.

The disease is spread through a relationship between the nematode and a beetle species not yet positively identified in the United States; but thought to be the Southern Pine Sawyer.

In Japan, where the disease has reached epidemic proportions in forests, it is known to be carried by a wood-boring sawyer beetle, *Monochamus alternatus*.

The infection process is cyclical, Fizzell explains. In June and July, adult beetles carrying nematodes emerge from dead trees. Together the beetles and nematodes infest healthy pines. The nematodes reproduce rapidly and destroy cells, killing the trees. The beetles lay eggs under the bark of dead wood in the summer. This is precisely where live nematodes that killed the tree are found in the greatest number. Beetle larvae and nematodes overwinter in the wood and emerge in the spring, with the beetles carrying the nematodes to healthy pines.

Species of affected pines with longer, softer needles show obvious wilt of needles over the entire tree, as if its moisture source had suddenly been cut off. The most obvious symptom is the sudden decline and death of the tree within a few weeks or months after the first sign of the disease has been noticed.

The only accurate way to identify the nematode is by microscopic examination, Fizzell says, and he advises sampling **only** when the entire tree dies suddenly and rapidly in one season.

For sampling, Fizzell recommends taking three or four trunk borings at chest height from a suspect tree. Wrap them in aluminum foil and place them in a tightly sealed plastic bag before mailing. For Scotch pine, a combination of trunk borings and branch sections is preferable. Make sure the branches are 6 to 8 inches long and taken from near the butt end of at least two opposing lower branches that still have their needles.

Samples from more than one tree must be bagged separately. Include information such as tree species, estimated age, type of planting and date symptoms developed. There is a \$12 charge for culturing; the check should be included with the sample. Address to: Plant Clinic, St. Mary's Road, Urbana, Ill. 61801.

Fizzell recommends two preventative measures. One is to keep living trees vigorous and pruned of dead branches. This makes the trees less attractive to the beetles. Also, burn or bury dead trees, immediately to prevent emergence of the beetles carrying the nematodes.

James A. Fizzell
Senior Extension Adviser, Horticulture
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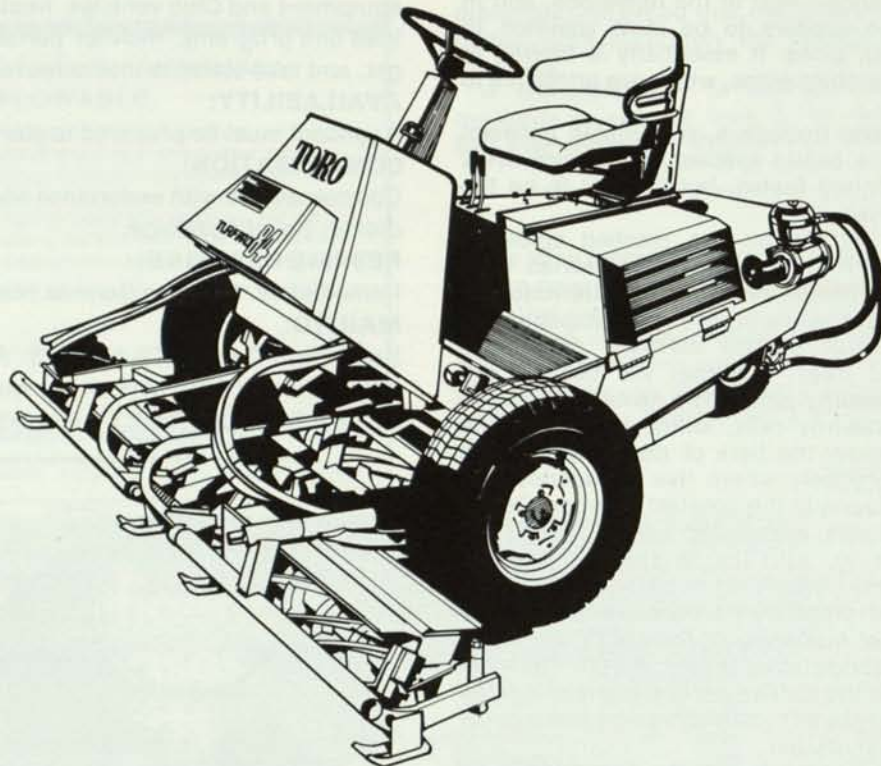
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