

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS**

In today's golfing era, the golf club has made it known that the Golf Course Superintendent and his staff are appreciated by the golf clubs. The clubs, board of directors, interests lie in achieving the highest quality of golf course maintenance. The members at a golf club are already aware that they go to the club for one important reason: to enjoy a game of golf on a well maintained 100-140 acres of land.

The Golf Course Superintendent has to continue to strive for greater membership (or public golfers) awareness that there is a highly professional staff responsible for maintaining the golf course. Be proud of who you are and what your job description is for the golf club. Get out on the golf course, introduce yourself to the fine people playing the golf course in which they enjoy and most important find out what some of their feelings or ideas are on the golf course.

A means in which one can stimulate interest is change. Doing things different or new ideas being applied to the course increases the awareness of our members of the importance of the golf course staff. Some areas in our maintenance programs that will stimulate member awareness are: new construction, resodding bad areas, decorative fencing, landscaping on the golf course and around the club house, excellent putting conditions, clean shelters, tee accessories, flower beds, and much more. New ideas for your golf course can come from many areas. The easiest way to learn or discuss new ideas is to attend monthly superintendent meetings and become more involved in the turf industry. Today's superintendent has to be an innovator in order to increase the interest of our members (the golfing public). Keeping our golfers aware of the golf course maintenance will help increase the potential for approving the necessary improvement projects.

Len Berg

**May 4—meeting**  
Deer Creek G.C.  
Park Forest, IL  
Dave Behrman, Supt.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**June 8—meeting**  
Bon Vivant C.C.  
Bourbonais, IL  
Mike Hart, Supt.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**July 13—meeting**  
Sportsman G.C.  
Northbrook, IL  
Tim Miles, Host Supt.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**August 3—meeting**  
Village Greens of Woodridge  
Woodridge, IL  
Len Berg, Host Supt.  
\*\*\*\*\*



Speakers at the Green Seminar of the Chicago District Golf Association at Butterfield Country Club were (left to right) **Dr. Houston Couch**, Virginia Tech; **Len Berg**, President, Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, **Mike Bavier**, President, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, **William J. Lunn**, CDGA president and **Carl Hoppfan**, President, Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents Association.

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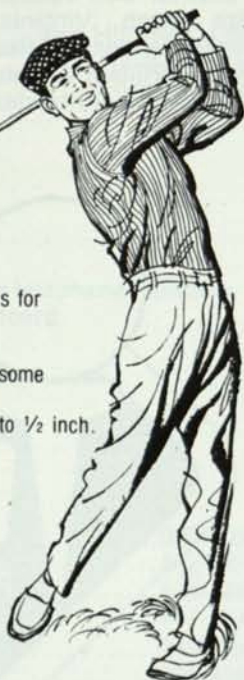
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At one time or another we all ask someone for some help. It may be a friend, a next door neighbor, perhaps one of PHd's at a local university or maybe an association such as the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, or our National organization. But what do we do for those who help us?

Our friends and neighbors will most likely ask for our help some day so favors are repaid. How do we repay the Universities or our Associations? We should repay them by taking pride in these organizations and participating in their programs.

I can hear everyone right now, sure I take part, I do my part, but do you? The G.C.S.A.A. held it's convention in Anaheim, CA this past February. Were you there? We have 200 Class A and B members in the MAGCS, yet only 55 attended the National Conference and Show. OK, it was a long way from home, but it is always the same people attending, even when the Convention is closer.

I still understand that the National isn't for everyone, and distance has a lot to do with not attending. But that cannot be an excuse for failing to attend either or both the Illinois Turf Conference or the Purdue Conference. In attending there is always something new to learn, but more important it shows Dave Wehner and Bill Daniels that we are interested in their programs, and give them encouragement to do more. Only 30 MAGCS members were at the Illinois Conference, and just 20 members were at Purdue.

This last summer some of us in Chicago were hit by a disease we called RED LEAF SPOT, and were looking for help. We got help from all over, and I am sure we are all very thankful that Dr. Phil Larsen, Dr. Joe Vargus, Dr. Dave Wehner, Dr. Bill Daniel, Dr. Houston Couch, and others got involved. Then the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America along with United States Golf Association and Chicago District Golf Association got involved and started a program that may finally find the answer to this problem, but how much did we cooperate? Questionnaires were sent out, just 18 questionnaires to be exact. Some of us were asked to fill them out and return, no traveling, no expense, just a little time to sit down and fill them out. Not much to ask us to do to help solve a major problem. Well, just 50% did that, 9 people wanted to get involved so that an answer might be found. That is ridiculous.

Get involved. Attend conferences and shows, take part locally, I promise it won't hurt. Let's give up one Monday a month, and attend the monthly meetings. You cannot get anything out of our Local or National Organization, or our Universities unless you put something into them. Show up! Participate! All of us will benefit.

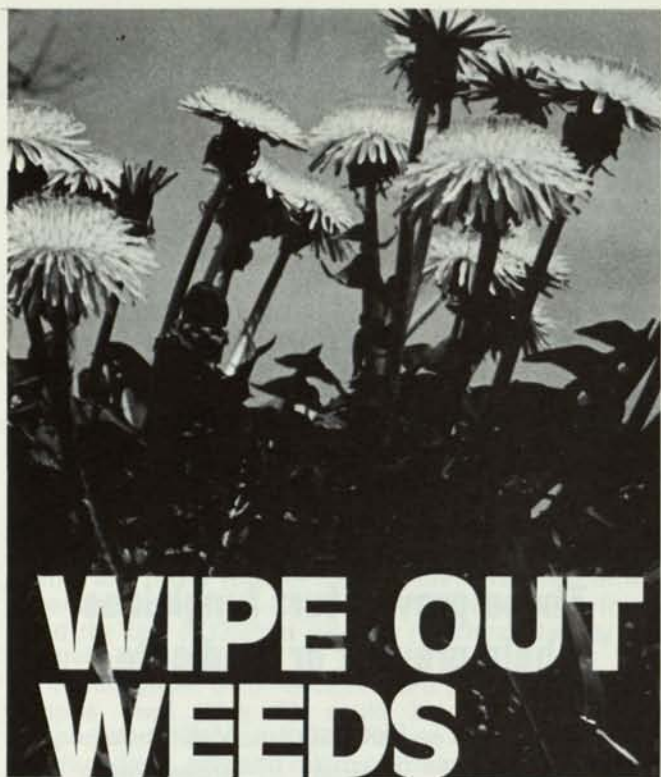
Ed Fischer, Supt.  
Old Elm G.C.

Dear Leonard,

Thank you all very much for your thoughtfulness in renewing my honorary membership in the association. My brother Joe and I always highly prized this recognition of a happy relationship with the association that existed from the birth of the organization. Most of the founders are in the green pastures now but always living will be the high standards of a high art that the Midwest men continue to maintain for the delight of all who play golf.

Again my thanks to you all.

Herb Graffis



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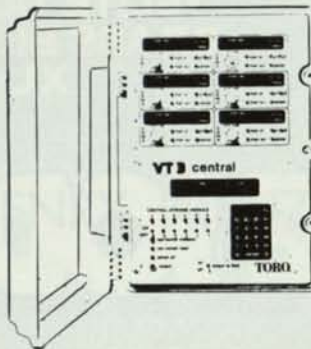
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## C-15 - SOME THOUGHTS

About a month ago, after a winter passed without dealing with the C-15 dilemma, my thoughts naturally started leaning toward how to deal with the problem this spring. Much has been stated about the "do's and don'ts" of C-15 management - and with the much awaited visit from Dr. Houston Couch, who heads up the GCSAA appointed team to find a solution - Spring is here! Dr. Couch has made a visit to Chicago with some very interesting news and a possible solution. However, we superintendents who have this so-called "red leaf" now must still deal with it until the appointed team finalizes its analysis.

Last July at the Medinal Country Club MAGCS meeting, many possible management practices and/or cures were discussed.

**Fungicide Application:** Many different tank mixtures were discussed from heavy weekly applications of Dacomil and Acti-dionne TGT, to going back to the possible use of mercuries. The possibility of Stripe Smut and heavy rates of 3336 or 1991 drenched in was mentioned as a cure. And finally, cool weather Pythium and the use of DuPont SP was recommended by one individual.

**Fertilization:** C-15 requires more nitrogen! Anybody knows that! Also Ph could be a factor, sulfur applications, gypsum, and the use of fertilizers with sulfur added. Iron and micro-nutrients added weekly to the spray tank certainly wouldn't hurt. All through this part of the discussion my thoughts keep going back to "some" recommendations that green greens are not necessarily good greens and that low N produces stiffer upright leaves for a smoother and tighter putting surface.

**Cultural Practices** - C-15 under stress will not survive vigorous cultural control such as verti-cutting, aeration, brushing, or combing. Also, one wise experienced superintendent told me once that C-15 does not like heavy top-dressing. The possibility of overseeding with other bents should be initiated immediately.

**Drainage and Irrigation** were mentioned and everyone naturally agreed that proper use of both is mandatory.

Now - Dr. Couch has made his report to the Chicago area and has some very encouraging news. To review his findings to date:

1. The dying out of C-15 in the Chicago area was not red leaf spot, cool weather Pythium, nor was the disease incited by parasitic nematodes.

2. The disease is primarily in the roots and possibly crowns of the plants.

3. Soil Ph has a factor on all fertilization practices, but it in itself is not the cause of the dying-out of C-15.

4. There is no relationship between either manufacturer or analysis of fertilizer used and the development of the disease.

5. There is no relationship between types or amounts of pesticides used and the occurrence of the C-15 dying-out.

6. The disease hits C-15, but only C-15 which is growing under certain stress conditions. They are: 1. high soil moisture, 2. low air temperatures, 3. high radiant energy, and 4. low cutting heights. Another factor that seems to contribute to the development is **iron deficiency**.

Dr. Couch seems to think "the disease" is "procaryote." Procaryote is a primitive bacteria-like organism. If found to be the pest, we could be spraying with antibiotics. We with the C-15 problems are all anxiously awaiting the final conclusion.

But for now, what maintenance practices should we

follow. We can raise the height of cut, add sufficient iron to the spray tank mix, try not to disturb the sick grass by mechanical abuse, and just generally follow sound maintenance practices.

I remember last fall when we were experimenting with one particular green at Hillcrest. We had raised the height of cut, applied additional fertilizer, and quit brushing. A concerned member walked over to me after putting out on the green and asked what we had done to this green. After downheartedly trying to explain the "C-15 red leaf problem", and why the green wasn't as fast and short as the others, he looked at me and said, "Gee, do you think we could make them all like this one?"

**Bruce A. Burchfield, CGCS**  
Hillcrest Country Club

**EVENT** - I.L.C.A.'s Annual Summer Field Day

**PLACE** - D. Hill Nurseries, Union, Illinois  
Routes 47 and 176

**DATE** - Wednesday, August 5, 1981—8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The day will consist of demonstrations by the exhibitors, a steak luncheon, annual horseshoe tournament and the Scholarship auction. Tours of the new D. Hill Nursery will be run all day.

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David L. Amory, Green Committee Chairman



Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Architect



Oscar Miles, Supt. Butler National G.C.



Dr. Joseph Duich



Stanley Zontek



W. G. Buchanan



## MIDWEST BREEZES

The M.A.G.C.S. April 6 meeting held at Elmhurst C.C. was enjoyed by everyone present. The attendance was not up to par. Less than sixty enjoyed a steak dinner. Those who played golf reported the condition of the golf course was in super condition, this was made possible by our host, **Tom Diguido**, golf course Supt.

Directions for our May 4 meeting at Deer Creek G.C. at Park Forest, Ill. is from the North. Take 294 South to I80 - go west to Rt. 57. Then South to Rt. 30, then East to Western Ave. Then it is 4 miles South on Western. All others - consult your road map.

The U.S.G.A. meeting held on March 24 at the Marriot O'Hare Hotel was well attended. Golf course superintendents, green chairmen, club presidents, club members, and golf professionals were present to hear what the speakers had to offer. I am sure they left for home satisfied that this day was not a loss.

One of the topics discussed was "Sand Topdressing". This subject is still debatable. In the future it may be settled, I hope. Another subject was divots on bentgrass fairways. The speaker suggested that filling the divots with seed and soil will reduce the chance for a golf ball to come to rest in a divot hole. The hole will heal over more quickly and you will have a smoother fairway.

**Dr. Vargis** showed many interesting pictures on various subjects pertaining to golf course maintenance work. It has been said that one picture is worth a thousand words. One of his slides showed the right and the wrong way of spraying chemicals on greens and tees. Another slide illustrated the wrong way to hand water a green. This editor hopes every Supt. that was present made a note of this.

One of the speakers stated, "Many problems would not have happened if a little common sense had been applied before it happened." Should a problem of this nature take place, common sense will help solve the problem.

A few pictures were shown and a statement made that there was more disease noticed on turfgrass areas treated often compared to areas that were treated only when necessary.

It was also recommended that when a golf course turfgrass area is being checked for problems such as wilt, it should not be done from a riding vehicle. The proper way is by walking.

On March 25 the Chicago District Golf Association sponsored their annual green seminar at Butterfield

C.C. This is a super place to hold this yearly event. The facilities are the best; location could not be better. The service is tops and the food is truly outstanding. The speakers were all in their prime.

**Marv Ferguson**, golf course architect, did a splendid job on construction planning and the many things to guard against. When a golfer makes a poor shot he usually blames something or someone for it. It should be remembered the ball went where he drove it. **Dr. Ferguson** mentioned the high cost of maintaining a golf course and the indications are it will keep on unless the golfer is willing to accept a lower standard of maintenance. At the present time it appears he or she is a little spoiled. The type of construction is also a factor in maintenance cost. Some of the problems that are found are caused by the automatic irrigation system. He stated it may be necessary to reset the timing. **Dr. Ferguson** sure did an excellent job and mentioned many things that would improve the playing conditions and also help keep down the cost of maintenance.

**Dr. Houston Couch** was at his best. His subject was C15 turfgrass problems. He does not condemn this strain of bent. He is also sure the problem is not red leaf spot. I am confident that with his knowledge he will solve the problem. He made one mistake at this meeting. He stepped away from behind the podium and got in front of the man with the camera, which happened to be this editor. Everyone had a good laugh and this is hard to beat. The picture tells the story.

**Mr. David Amory**, C.D.G.A. green committee chairman acted as M.C. at the seminar and he sure never finds himself for the lack of words. This is a gift most of us do not have. The attendance was 245, a record! **Charles Price**, writer for Golf Magazine, gave a summary on golf, going back several years. This is always interesting at least to someone like myself. He mentioned the older architects such as **Donald Ross** being among the greatest. This editor will sure agree with this, because I had the pleasure of working with **Mr. Ross** in building Woodhill C.C. in 1916 and 1917 at Wayzata, Minn. This is considered to be one of the finest courses in this country.

A statement I do not agree with is in regards to the late **Tom Bendelow**. He was the architect at Medinah C.C. I also had the good fortune to work with **Mr. Bendelow** in the building of #2 and #3 courses at Medinah C.C. There have been some changes made on Medinah #3 since its' original layout in the middle twenties. Many people do not know the history behind #3 at Medinah. **Tom Bendelow** was also the architect at Big Foot C.C. at Fontana, WI. This is a great layout. Anyone who has played it will agree. Many parts of certain fairways had to be hand spaded. The reason was the peat bog would not permit horses and a plow. Tractors were not around for this kind of work. **Mr Price** made some interesting statements on golf cart paths. One of the statements was that there are over 12,000 miles of cart paths in this country.

**Dan Schei**, son of **Ray Schei**, supt. at Ruth Lake C.C. is the new supt. at Brookwood C.C. Congratulations, Dan and the best of everything.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

In case you find mistakes in this bulletin, please remember they were put there for a purpose. We try to offer something for everyone in this periodical. Some people are always looking for mistakes.



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