

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

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

**Associate Editor —**  
Len Berg, CGCS  
1575 W. 75th St.  
Woodridge, Illinois 60515  
Phone — 985-8366

**Pinch Hitting for Ray Gerber —**  
Fred D. Opperman, CGCS  
Office: 469-6220



**President**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time honors all. It's a busy world and sometimes we forget about some of the nice things that are going on around us. We get so darn busy with everyday agendas that we fail to notice what some of our friends are doing. It's nice to have friends and it's great being in a profession where a variety of people can get together so often. We get together, compare notes, argue, bawl each other out, and slap each other on the back.

It's about time we bring an old friend to the front and slap him on the back. Since 1972 ... our friend Ray Gerber has been toiling with the monthly periodical, **The Bull Sheet**. Our editor has received many awards for his work; yet sometimes it is a thankless job. All those trips to board meetings, educational symposiums, visiting golf courses, taking pictures with that old, reliable camera, and taking notes, mean a lot of work and organizing of research for all to read. Ray has asked for help many times, but usually it's still Ray that ends up spending that last weekend putting the final touches on the **Bull Sheet** so the deadline can be met. Have you noticed that the **Bull Sheet** is sent out by first class mail? Ray says, "First class material should be sent out in a first class way." Have you noticed that feature articles, solicited by Ray Gerber, appear each month to keep our publication first class and worthwhile. Have you noticed that advertising, solicited by Ray Gerber, appears each month to keep us going. Sure, advertising is a mutual benefit, but it's necessary to keep our publication first class and on its feet.

I can't give Ray much. I can be his friend by giving him encouragement. As a MAGCS member, I can report a few newsworthy items. Ray gave us a bit of a scare last month when he got unusually sick and had some surgery. So I sent him a get-well card. That's not much, is it? So I hope that the following proposal will help Ray and point out to all readers that his years of work really have been appreciated by some pretty important people: his friends.

The idea came from Carl Landgrebe and Joe Williamson. They would like to see an Annual Ray Gerber Award presented to the best feature article or editorial written for the **Bull Sheet** by a golf course superintendent. This idea will be put into action by an appointed committee of Len Berg, Mike Bavier, and Bruce Williams. Their format for the competition will be spelled out in the **Bull Sheet** and a presentation for the single best article will be awarded at the Annual MAGCS Turf Clinic in November. The Turf Clinic provides the best forum for recognition of achievement. Congratulations, Ray!

## 1983 BOARD MEMBERS

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## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS — 1983

<b>Employment</b>	Pete Leuzinger, John Berarducci Roger Stewart
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## THE MUSSER INTERNATIONAL TURF-GRASS FOUNDATION

This letter is being sent to official representatives of GCSAA affiliated G.C. superintendents and related turfgrass groups. Each group is asked to consider the proposed plan carefully. Money realized will be used in a way that will cooperate with other research agencies so as to minimize duplication of effort.

Dear Colleague:

Golf course superintendents have the rare opportunity to be the No. 1 fund raisers in the nation for turf research. The plan is simple and uncomplicated. It conflicts with no other fund-raising plan.

Among the millions of golfers, there are those who rarely get the chance to play on a fine course. Many would be glad to pay a fee for the opportunity. Many private clubs are closed on Mondays.

A request from the superintendent, backed by the pro, made to the Board of Directors through channels, would result in many clubs opening the course for one afternoon (or a day) to non-member golfers for a fee. It would not be a tournament. There would be no frills, no food-just golf. Arrangements and publicity (invitations) would be wholly in the capable hands of the superintendent and the pro. They would set the fee and collect the money.

No cost to the club would be incurred. The superintendent and the pro would be doing their regular jobs. It could be an opportunity for concerned club members to play with paying guests. All should be informed that the urgent reason in back of fund raising is that research funds at experiment stations are drying up. Budgets have been slashed severely. Turf research is at the crossroads.

Money raised from superintendents and their clubs within a state will be split 50/50 with the turfgrass organization in that state that traditionally makes research grants to the state experiment station. The Musser Foundation would retain 50% share to build the Fellowship Fund which earns income that is used to finance graduate students doing turfgrass research at various institutions.

Example: In Maryland one half of the money raised will go to the Maryland Turfgrass Council for research at the University of Maryland. In Virginia 50% would go to the Virginia Turfgrass Council. Florida has a Florida Turfgrass Association that would receive half of the money for use within the state. Each state will determine where the money will go for distribution to the selected research institution(s).

Herb Graffis says, "...I'm for you and I've got to cheer for you."

The plan is simple, uncomplicated, and there will be recognition for those who pioneer this unique fund-raising effort. Best of all, there will be money for turf research and for graduate students who represent the FUTURE in our profession.

**Fred V. Grau, President  
The Musser Foundation  
P. O. Box AA  
College Park, MD 20740-1014**

## A MESSAGE TO ALL DOG LOVERS

Of all dogs the hot dog is the noblest, it never bites the hand that feed it, but always feeds the hand that bites it.

**C. E. (Scotty) Stewart**

Dear Ray,

(March 28, 1983)

Your ad offer is most generous. I've enclosed a typed copy which I hope can be used at the end of this letter.

Ray, I had no idea what was going to happen when I was sponsored into a distributorship for Amway and other products. With this as a vehicle to make \$\$\$ for turf research, and with the Musser Foundation backing me on the fund raising plan, it is all coming together. I am thrilled with the potential.

Some distributors are worth millions and they buy expensive cars to show that they are successful. Eventually I want to be able to make tax exempt gifts to the Musser Foundation for turf research. We are considering projects in soil microbiology and related projects that will take years to implement. It will take money. We need to know what happens when we apply powerful chemicals to our turf. This and more! There are ryegrasses that contain a fungus inside the cells. When a bug bites the plant, the plant bites back. This project was discussed in Atlanta, but the money to finance it is not there.

I don't dream up these things all by myself. The Highest Authority has been guiding me and I thank God that he gives me the courage and strength to keep on working. It is a way to thank my superintendent friends for all they have given me — and it has been a lot.

— ss Fred V. Grau

## GRAU-AG INTERNATIONAL

This is the name of my business. I am a distributor for many products, but the principal one of interest to my golf course superintendent friends is Amway's All-Purpose Spray Adjuvant, a non-ionic wetting agent that has many uses.

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The product is good or I would not represent it. The money I make will be used largely for turf research through graduate students financed by the Musser Foundation. They are our future. Normal office expenses, naturally must be met. (I could use a full-time secretary).

On request, I will send a color brochure and other information. Write or call: Fred V. Grau, GRAU-AG Int'l., P.O. Box AA, College Park, MD. 20740-1014. Phone 301/864-0090.

## CDGA GREEN SEMINAR

The Chicago District Green Seminar held at the Butterfield C.C. on April 5th, 1983 had one of the largest turn-outs ever. Total attendance was 253 and the breakdown is as follows: 101 Superintendents, 36 Green Committee, 9 Presidents, 14 Professionals, 11 Managers, and 82 others.

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**Hal Laman**





Employee safety is very important to the management of Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., 912 Pitner Avenue, Evanston, Ill. At the recent Annual meeting of the National Arborist Association, the firm was recognized for its outstanding safety record during 1982.

The National Arborist Association is a trade association of commercial tree service firms spanning the United States. Some 400 firms are represented with over 25,000 tree service workers. The plaque accepted by Joel Johnson is a tribute to both the employees and the management of the firm.

## LETTERS TO RAY

Dear Ray:

Sure a lot of enthusiasm wrapped up in the Merry Month of May.

"MAY"

As Spring parades the lovely Month of May,

With great appreciation, unitedly We say,

Thanks for the Green Grass, Thanks for the Trees,

Thanks for the Blossoms, that perfume the breeze.

Thanks for the Sunshine that brightens up the Day,

Thanks for the gorgeous Springtime Month of May.

Many Thanks ring out, from Birds that sing above,

As the Young around the Maypole dance,

With Hearts that are filled with Love.

What a Blessing Springtime gives, in a unique way.

Thanks Springtime, for the Merry Month of May.

\* \* \* \* \*

Superintendently — Kenneth R. Zanzig  
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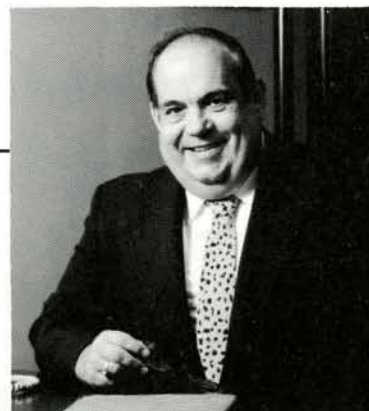
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## A TREE PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

On my first visit to Westmoreland Country Club in the Spring of 1963, I was impressed by the beauty of the golf course and especially the aesthetics offered by the mature American Elms that enclosed each hole from tee to green. Mounted on a wall in the Board of Director's room in the club house was an elaborate map in full color showing the location of each of the 1,296 trees on the club property. The tree inventory listed 25 varieties of trees and a close look showed 84 percent of the trees to be in three varieties; 773 elm, 214 mulberry, and 96 cottonwood. Today our tree inventory lists 1,862 trees and 101 varieties. Our present list shows 65 elm, 140 mulberry and 47 cottonwood. In a twenty year period we have removed 831 trees and planted 1,397 new trees.

It was in the mid-fifties that the Dutch Elm Disease reached the Chicago area. Around this time Westmoreland Country Club recognized a potential tree problem and embarked on a tree program. The program consisted of an elaborate Dutch Elm Prevention Program and a tree planting program. The tree planting program was the purchase of 200 small trees which were lined out in a tree nursery for future transplanting onto the golf course. Of these 200 trees, 150 were of the Augustine Elm variety. At the time the Augustine Elm was said to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease — today we have 14 Augustine Elms remaining. As for the Dutch Elm Prevention Program, it worked well until 1970 because we were able to hold our losses to under 5 percent per year. Then came the ban on DDT and in 1974 our loss was 132 trees or 40 percent of the existing trees in one year.

In 1968 a committee was formed to review our tree situation and a Tree Program was established. The Tree Program Committee sets guide lines for tree planting, reviews sources for obtaining trees and establishes methods of financing the tree purchases. The committee became a permanent branch of the Grounds and Greens Committee and still functions to this day.

The guide lines for tree planting outlined the types of trees to plant, location of trees and the procedures for planting. From the beginning we have attempted to plant as many tree varieties as are adapted to our area. Our tree groupings have been planned to contain two or more tree varieties in an attempt to avoid the loss of an entire tree planting as has happened with a disease such as Dutch Elm.

In addition tree selection has been based on soil condition. The soils at Westmoreland range from a very well drained sand to a high water table organic soil; we have selected tree varieties to tolerate the various soil conditions. Shade trees have been placed at a minimum of thirty foot spacings in order to continue the use of seven gang rough units, the only exceptions have been evergreen and ornamental tree plantings. For two years after transplanting soil bridges have been left around trees to aid in watering the new trees. Our well drained sandy soil requires more tree irrigation than other soil types. These newly planted trees contain a yellow band which indicates to the golfer that he is allowed a free lift for such conditions. Each August we evaluate our tree program and plan for the fall and winter plantings. The first priority is to replace the key trees lost during the year, from there we work on additional tree groupings. Several times over the years we have obtained the services of a Golf Course Architect to advise in selecting tree planting locations.

We have used just about every available source for obtaining trees. We maintain our own tree nursery in an out of play

area of the property and raise many of our own trees. The nursery area will hold 175 trees spaced on 10 foot centers. We line out 1 to 1-1/4 inch stock and transplant the trees on to the golf course when they are in the 2-1/2 to 4 inch range. We purchased a tree spade attachment for our loader tractor for the purpose of transplanting our own nursery stock. Another source of trees has been our local tree nurseries. Over the years we have purchased quantities of 2-1/2 to 4 inch trees and our grounds crew has transplanted them on to the golf course. A number of trees larger than 4 inch have also been purchased, but the planting of these trees have been contracted to local nurseries or landscape contractors. Club members and neighbors have also been a tree source. We have obtained a number of Colorado Blue Spruce, White Pine, and Austrian Pine in the 12 to 18 foot range from these donations. From one member alone we obtained 26 trees. The club has picked up the tab for the transplanting which we contract out and our grounds crew generally fill the hole and sod the area from which the tree came. From this tree source we have been able to establish some beautiful evergreen plantings with sizes of trees that would cost a fortune otherwise.

A major portion of our tree program has been financed through membership donations. In the beginning a gift tree program was established to allow a club member to donate a tree. These trees are mostly in the 6 to 12 inch range and have been a tremendous aid in replacing key Elms lost on the golf course. Each of these trees contain a bronze plaque with the tree variety and the inscription desired by the donor. Over the years there have been 194 trees donated from the gift tree program. The plaques are attached to the tree by a stainless steel lag screw. The lag screw must be backed off about twice yearly as the tree resumes normal growth; we actually had a willow tree swallow a plaque one year. Only in 1974, the year we lost 132 Elms, did the club have a tree assessment. Otherwise our Capital Tree Expense has been in the \$3,000 range yearly.

Our tree program has not been problem free and I would like to point out a few items, some of which we learned the hard way. One often has a tendency to over plant, particularly when a key tree is lost. We have had cases where four to five trees were planted to replace one; now we are transplanting some of those trees to other locations.

Beware of "tree deals," the cheapest route is not always the best way to go. We had such a problem in which a member heard of a party who would furnish and plant trees at less than half the cost we have been paying our local competent tree nurseries. In this case \$15,000 was spent for seventy-five, 5 to 9 inch trees. We lost 75 percent of the trees because they were not treated as live material. It also may be added that we never found the guys again, even to honor their guarantee.

Remember where one puts guide wires and removes them after a year. We lost two nice evergreens because guide wires were left on for over five years and caused the girdling of the trees.

Be sure everyone is aware of your proposed tree planting locations — it is much easier to move a stake than a tree. We have practiced staking tree locations in September or at least two months prior to planting so that criticism from golfers can be weighed. We have been persuaded to reconsider a location.



Know your soil conditions. A tree grown in a well-drained soil may die of wet feet if transplanted in a poorly drained location.

Investigate the causes of tree death. One should avoid transplanting another Sugar Maple in the same location where a Sugar Maple died because of Verticillium wilt.

When planting balled and burlapped trees, remember to cut the twine from around the trunk. If the twine is made of nylon it could in time girdle the tree.

When selecting plant material, take along a committee member. It will relieve you of possible criticism should the tree not meet the vision the donor had in mind.

Tree planting and maintenance is another of the many functions of our position as golf course superintendents. It has been rewarding to watch the trees develop that have been planted over the past 15 years. Where once beauty was found in the uniformity of mature trees, now there is a different beauty in the variety of color, flowering, shapes and sizes produced by the various varieties used in the new plantings. It is amazing the rate at which a tree can grow when given adequate care and fertility. One can find tree management equally as enjoyable as turf management.

Julius Albaugh, Westmoreland C.C.



President Pete Leuzinger accepting in behalf of Ray Gerber, Editor of the BULL SHEET the third place award for the best publication from Lorraine Abbott from the National Golf Foundation.



Bob Miller at the CDGA Seminar



## MIDWEST BREEZES

Dr. Hank Wilkenson is selling a paperback book "Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases" which should be in every Superintendents reference library. It is very descriptive with many colored pictures and is highly recommended. To order it, send a check for \$15.00 made out to "TURF", N423 Turner Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61821.

Remember to mark your calendar now for the Turfgrass Field Day at the University of Illinois on July 27th, 1983.

Warren Bidwell, Superintendent of Olympia Fields C.C. is retiring May 1, 1983. Warren has been a superintendent for 53 years. He is going to be a full time consultant to the seed firm Tee 2 Green. He has just purchased a 26' motor home and he is planning to drive across the country visiting courses and giving talks at various meetings. He will be back here in the Chicagoland area around July 4th. Then he is scheduled for a six week trip to South Africa. Warren visited that same area back in 1981. We all wish Warren and his wife the best in their new ventures. We will miss his valued opinions and expertise in the turfgrass field.

Bob Miller, an old time friend of many superintendents, was honored by a small group of friends at a dinner party at the Park Ridge C.C. on April 6th, 1983. Gordon & Madeline Bethards of DuPont were the hosts for this gathering. Bob Miller was retired from DuPont at the age of 65 and has been working for Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Company since leaving DuPont.

## GAS IN WATER WELLS

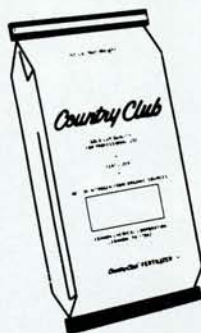
Many water wells in the Chicago area give off a flammable gas such as methane gas and hydrogen sulfide gas. While hydrogen sulfide gas is readily detected by its rotten egg odor, methane gas is tasteless, odorless and colorless and where the concentration is high enough may accumulate and mix with air to form an explosion. The Bureau of Mines states that a mixture of about 10% methane in a gas-air mixture will support combustion.

Where a pump house containing a well has been closed all winter the superintendent is advised to thoroughly ventilate it before starting up any of the electrical machinery, otherwise an electrical spark might set off an explosion.

C.E. (Scotty) Stewart



# COUNTRY CLUB



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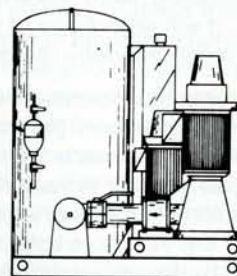
# Royal Coach/Buckner



## PUMP STATIONS

... NEW OR REMODELED

Aerial Photos  
of courses  
are available.



## Builders

PLUMBING SUPPLY COMPANY  
IRRIGATION DIVISION

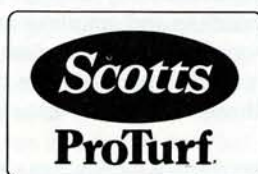
133 South Route 53 Addison, Illinois 60101  
(312) 629-8100

COMPLETE LINE OF IRRIGATION  
EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS

— Call Collect —

**Scotts most  
successful product is  
not available for sale...**

**only for advice and  
support... your ProTurf Tech Rep.**



DAVID FEARIS  
6525 Cedarbrook Lane  
Peoria, Ill. 61614  
Phone: 309/691-4245

DICK EVENSON  
Technical Representative  
443 Woodview Drive  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
Phone: 606/837-6563

GARY DORSCH  
601 Glen Ellyn Place  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
Phone: 312/790-1584