

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
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President's Message

When I sat down to write this month's President's Message, I found myself examining many different aspects of our association in an attempt to arrive at a suitable topic. I don't have a particular axe to grind or a specific request of the membership, nor do I have memorable words of encouragement for my peers who suffered the ravages of this time of the year. What then could I tell my constituents concerning their association that would be of interest to them?

The first thing that came to mind was the good feeling I have for the progressive nature of MAGCS, particularly in the last few years. We are now recognized in Chicagoland as the group to contact when an individual or organization needs help or information concerning golf turf. We have gained more respect than ever before from allied associations in golf and turf management. We have more members than ever before which is a signal to me that MAGCS provides the services that our members want to receive. This is possible through the efforts of people such as Penny Meyer, our Executive Secretary, our strong Education and Golf Committees, The BULL SHEET and it's Editor, Fred Opperman, the active Employment Committee, and many others who donate their time and energy to help make MAGCS the best it can be.

The Board of Directors, and the others previously mentioned, provide the direction and leadership to guide this association. The foundation for the existence of MAGCS comes from it's members who are more active now than ever before. There is more interest and participation in MAGCS activities from monthly meetings to the Midwest Clinic. That confidence in the integrity of MAGCS will keep us in the forefront of the golf business moving toward even greater achievements in the future. I think a heartfelt THANK YOU from the Board of Directors to the membership for their enthusiasm and support is in order and as President, I am happy to be able to express that message to you. We will continue to give you every reason to be proud to be a member of "The Midwest".



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Roger A. Stewart Jr.
Roger Stewart, CGCS

MAGCS Directors Column

Educational Update

David Behrman

Educational Committee Chairman

Now that the golf season has passed into late summer, I would like to take a moment to bring everyone up to date on the educational program scheduled for the Midwest Clinic this fall. As we have for the past two years the Midwest Clinic will be held on the second day of the North Central Turfgrass Exposition, in conjunction with the University of Illinois. However, a few changes have been made in an attempt to improve the quality and increase the attendance at the conference. First off the NCTE has been relocated to the Rosemont O'Hare Exposition Center. This larger facility will allow exhibitors more space and provide a more uniform floor plan for the exposition. Secondly, the conference has been moved back to December 10th, 11th, and 12th. Hopefully, we will all have our irrigation lines blown out by then and our attendance will be better than ever. The Midwest Clinic will be held on December the 11th. The following program will be presented at that time:

Theme: **Looking Back To Move Us Forward**

- 9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks — Joe Williamson
- 9:45 a.m. Keynote Address — Jim Timmerman
- 10:15 a.m. History of the Midwest Clinic — John Ebel
- 10:30 a.m. A look back at his first year as a superintendent — Steve Biggers

Break

- 11:00 a.m. Budgeting — Rick Kroeger
- 11:15 a.m. Management —
- 11:30 a.m. Flowers — Bill Roberts
- 11:45 a.m. To be announced

Lunch

- 2:00 p.m. Awards Presentations
- 2:20 p.m. New Sprayer Information — Sean Daley
- 2:40 p.m. State of the Seed Industry —

Break

- 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. **Poa annua** Irradication Symposium
- The use of Endothal — Jim Evans
- El 500 tested at Crooked Stick C.C.—Dan Pierson
- The use of Tri-Calcium Arsenate — Cecil Kerr
- 4:15 p.m. Questions and Answers

The education committee has put in a lot of time and effort in the hope that these topics and speakers will be timely and beneficial to all our members. So, make your plans now to attend the entire conference. Our continuing education not only reaps up personal benefits, but, serves to advance the industry as a whole.

On another note, you can look forward to these guest speakers at our upcoming monthly meetings.

August — Joe Williamson will present slides and speak on his trip to Scotland.

October — A presentation on the emergence of geotextiles in the golf industry and their many uses as underliners and coverings.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has helped organize our educational programs for this year and to ask those who have not contributed to consider participating in the future. Fresh ideas and new faces have brought us to where we, as an association, are today.

Lionel Callaway First '84 NGF Outstanding Service Award Winner

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Lionel F. Callaway, best known for creating the golf handicapping system that bears his name, has been named the first 1984 recipient of the National Golf Foundation's Outstanding Service Award.

The award, inaugurated last year, is "reserved for those who have provided continuous and exceptional service to golf, the people who play the game and the environment in which it is played."

Other recipients for this year will be announced during the Foundation's 1984 Golf Management Workshop Oct. 28-31 at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, W. Va.

"Lionel Callaway's contributions to the game go beyond his handicapping system, though that would certainly be enough," Joe Much, NGF executive director remarked. "He is one of golf's true pioneers, and is responsible for countless innovations and ideas to make the game easier for all."

Callaway, 88, was born in England, the son of a golf professional and golf course architect. He turned professional at the age of 13, and immigrated to this country four years later, in 1912. One of his first stops was Boston, MA, where he came up with the idea for an outdoor putting game, which evolved into miniature golf. Callaway also was responsible for combining outdoor miniature courses with driving ranges.

By 1920, he was professional at Pinehurst Country Club in North Carolina, where, as a contemporary of Donald Ross, Babe Ruth, J.P. Morgan, Grantland Rice, Bobby Jones and Harry Vardon, he remained Pinehurst's tournament director until his retirement in 1971.

Like most professionals of his era, Callaway split his time between a winter club, Pinehurst, and Pennhills Country Club in Pennsylvania. The more tournaments he staged, the more he realized the need for a better handicapping system, and he set out to develop one.

"I just used it locally at first," he explained. "Then people heard about it and wrote to me, and it developed into quite a thing. Everywhere I go now they seem elated that I'm there, and I don't even know why."

Under the Callaway system, a player's handicap is determined after each round by deducting from his gross score for 18 holes the worst individual scores from among his first 16 holes, according to a table based on the golfer's final score.

"It's a fair system," Callaway said, "and using it, professionals, amateurs, men, women, children, husbands and wives can all play in the same tournament."

Another important contribution Callaway made to the golf industry occurred in 1914, when golf ball manufacturers were accepting trade-ins on golf balls whose paint covering had chipped. Callaway suggested that rubber be mixed with the cover enamel to prevent the cracking. The idea was hugely successful, although Callaway did not profit from it.

"I made no money on most of my ideas," he once said. "I prefer to call them my contribution to a game that has been good to me."

Even in retirement, Callaway remains very active, both on and off the course. "I'm coming out with something soon that will be very unusual, and just fantastic," he remarked. "I can't tell anybody about it yet."

Fairway Soil Aeration — A Cultural Practice or Renovative Process?

By Julius Albaugh, Westmoreland C.C.

Aeration and aerification are the words used to describe turfgrass cultivation. In turf, unlike other crops, we must selectively till the soil in a manner that will not destroy the sod characteristics. The words aeration and aerification are perhaps misleading because often times the improved water movement is just as important as the improved aeration. In turfgrass culture aeration and aerification can further be broken down into turf aeration and soil aeration. Turf aeration is basically the slicing or grooving of the sod layer and will be covered in the verticutting presentation. This presentation will focus on soil aeration. The use of a machine with either tines or spoons that penetrate the sod and soil layers and brings a core containing a portion of the sod layer and soil to the surface. This is called coring. Other forms of soil aeration may be the new schafter core method, spiking or forking. In the past we have been led to believe that soil aeration should not be used as a routine cultural practice, but only as needed to correct problems associated with soil compaction. Today we are finding more and more golf course superintendents using soil aerification as a cultural practice and it is proving to be a tremendous aid to them in maintaining quality turf.

Let's look at what actually happens in the coring process of soil aerification. First we have the cutting of a hole through the sod layer. This action also cuts the stolons or rhizomes of our desirable grasses and promotes new shoot and root growth. Also this opening into the sod layer provides an avenue for air, water, and nutrient movement into the rootzone. Next, we have the penetration into 3 to 4 inches of soil. This action breaks up any layering of soils that may exist and relieves partial compaction before it has caused a visual problem. Finally we have the removal of a core to the surface containing a portion of the sod layer and a few inches of soil. This hole increases infiltration of water and improves surface drainage. It gives an opening to incorporate an improved soil mix should we so desire, here one would remove the surface cores before adding a top dressing mix. The soil brought to the surface itself provides many benefits. It is an economic source of topdressing for large turfgrass areas, just think of how difficult it would be otherwise to topdress 30 acres of fairways. This topdressing effect aids in the decomposition of thatch. The loose soil when worked back into the aerifier holes provides an unrestricted area ideal for new root growth. This filled aerifier hold also provides an excellent home for a desirable grass seed, overseeding should be a part of our aerification program. The increased infiltration of air and water helps dry the surface and lessens the likelihood of disease development. The effects of soil aerification are positive and do tend to enhance turfgrass quality.

Today many golf course superintendents are looking at fairway soil aerification in terms of a preventative cultural practice rather than a curative renovation process in fairway maintenance. For years we have treated greens, tees and collars in this manner and it has proven beneficial. We have all removed plugs from greens in August and found our healthiest roots are in those spring aerification holes. Those who are aerifying fairways as a cultural practice are finding the same thing in their fairway turf.

(cont'd. page 6)



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(Aerification cont'd.)

I doubt that there is one of us who has not had ill experiences with fairway soil aerification. If we look back our worst experiences can be associated with the approach we have taken with soil aerification. We have often used it as a last resort, a curative treatment, after we have had a compaction problem and our turf has developed a restricted root system. As a result we did receive excessive turf tearing, poor spoon or tine penetration, plugging of tines or spoons and of course, a period of prolonged recovery. This has provoked the wrath of the golfer because of the brutality of the operation and the resulting unplayable conditions. We have had our reasons for waiting, many times heavy event scheduling in spring would not allow time for aerification and we were forced to omit it. In the spring when preventative aerification would be most beneficial our fairway turf is at its peak and many golfers feel, why disturb it. But today with increased play, fewer caddies, more golf cart traffic and a greater than ever demand for quality turf throughout the golfing season we should review our use of fairway aerification. One approach is more communication with our Grounds & Greens and Golf Committees and perhaps suggest setting aside a couple of weeks in late spring with fewer events so that we can use fairway aerification as a cultural practice.

Today we have over twenty companies manufacturing various types of machines for the purpose of soil aerification. In my short twenty years in this profession we have seen great advances in aerification equipment. I can remember when it was a struggle to aerify six greens in one day, today with the improved equipment many of us are aerifying twenty greens with ease. There is still much room for improvement. Many of us would like to see a machine designed for large area use, fairways, that punches as many holes as a machine designed for small areas or green use. We should look at all the machines, ask for demonstrations at our own golf courses and then make our judgements on what works best for us.

Today we have a growing number of golf course superintendents using aerifiers which were designed for greens or small area aerification on fairway turf. This is perhaps the ultimate in fairway aerification. It is a slow process, but it is providing results. Many are using two machines and tackle a fairway a day in spring and fall as weather and play permits. The basic aerification technique goes as follows: Start first off in morning with two or more machines, send in relief operators to keep machines going during coffee and lunch breaks. It takes a full working day for the average par 4. Next they may overseed with a desirable grass seed. Then in late afternoon when the aerifying is finished they will dragmat the cores in two or more directions and then mow to further break up the cores and work it into the turf. The final step is blowing the turf tufts into the rough with a large tractor mounted blower. Some may prefer to wind row the debris into the center of the fairway and pickup. In this manner the finished job is more complete and one is not spreading bentgrass stolons into bluegrass rough. When finished the fairway appears as if nothing has happened. There golfers are accepting it, they merely push the cores aside, play their shot and continue on. They have been shown that the next day after cleanup that that fairway will be back to normal again. They feel that their golf course superintendent is performing a cultural practice that will help provide a quality turf throughout the golfing season.

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Yes, we have all been burnt by aerification experiences, many things can go wrong. We should constantly monitor our aerification procedure and look for ways to improve the technique. Sometimes just a simple change can mean so much. This fall while aerifying fairways as a means of renovation, we were correcting a compaction problem and overseeding, we were getting a lot of turf tearing. The dragging operation was making it much worse. After aerifying, we broadcast seed, then were dragging in the same direction the aerifier had traveled. The dragmat was pulling many of the pieces of sod, up to one square foot, completely out. After a close observation of how the weak, shallow rooted **Poa annua** turf was being lifted by the aerifier, the problem with the dragmat operation was found. The aerifier was pulling the pieces forward and the dragging in the same direction would pull the pieces completely out. We started dragging in the opposite direction and found that 90 percent of the pieces would flop right back into place. This simple change in procedure saved many man hours of replacing the turf and made for more playable conditions the next day.

We have all had problems with plugged spoons or tines and poor penetration. We should experiment with different spoon or tine sizes, irrigate the night before or in some cases wait for a rain for better results. We have all had problems because of unforeseen changes in the weather. This past August 1, I had had some turf failure and decided to spot aerify and overseed a few fairway areas, the weather was in the 70's, partly cloudy and everything worked well. The membership was pleased to see us making an attempt to bring things back. Well, the next Monday we continued on, the forecast was for near 80, but a cool front moving in by noon and cooler, especially near the

lake. By noon we had 1½ acres aerified and overseeded, but no cool front, the temperature reached 98, sunny and windy. The end result was a 60 percent loss of the turf we had left. I was forgiven because it was realized that we were attempting to make improvements, but such an experience tends to make one leery of summer aerification. With soil aerification we are working with three variables, the turf growth condition, soil moisture and weather. Ideally, we want the turf actively growing for rapid recovery. The soil should be moist for better tine or spoon penetration and less plugging. The weather is most ideal in the mid 60's or 70's, a light breeze and sunny skies are helpful especially when we want to work up the cores. We generally find these conditions in mid to late spring and late summer and early fall. Those are the times we should plan preventative fairway aerification, we have done this with our greens, tees, and collars for years.

Today, the demand for quality fairway turf throughout the golfing season is greater than ever before. We are seeing more and more changes in fairway maintenance practices to make this possible. Three years ago most of us felt that the few who were triplex mowing fairways and removing clippings were going a bit overboard. After 1983, many of us are proposing the use of lighter equipment and clippings removal because we are realizing its merit. Many of the same golf course superintendents who have gone to lighter equipment and clipping removal have also made preventative fairway aerification a part of their overall fairway management program. Preventative aerification has much merit, why wait and use aerification as a last resort, aren't we in effect closing the door after the horse has gone?

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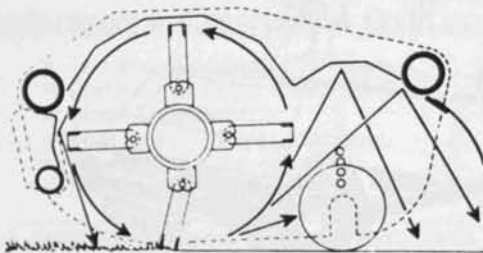
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Fairway Recontouring

by David Ward

Ravisloe Country Club

The initial interest in a fairway recontouring program at Ravisloe Country Club was caused by membership complaints about the lack of definition between the fairways and the roughs. This lack of definition was caused by changes in the mowing patterns through the years and because the rough was mowed at a height which allowed the annual bluegrass and bentgrass to invade the Kentucky bluegrass. After investigating the possibility of recontouring, the club decided the program could offer many benefits other than improved rough - fairway definition.

These other benefits include:

1. Improving the aesthetics of the golf course. Ravisloe is a relatively flat course without a great deal of interesting terrain. By changing the contours of the fairways, aesthetics could be improved without costly and inconvenient earth moving.
2. The amount of turf maintained as fairway could be reduced. This reduces maintenance costs and also makes triplex fairway mowing feasible. The recontouring actually reduced our fairway acreage from 42 to around 30.
3. Playability would be improved because of a more uniform rough grass and because various sized landing zones could be established for golfers of differing abilities.

The first step in the recontouring program was testing the proposed technique for regrassing the rough borders on a limited area. In the fall of 1982, the edges of two fairways were killed with the nonselective herbicide, Roundup, and then seeded six days later with various blends of Kentucky bluegrasses and mixtures of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Through this test, potential problems were identified, techniques were refined, rates were adjusted, and materials selected. The test also sold the membership on the merits of the program.

During the summer of 1983, the grounds and greens committee at Ravisloe made the decision to proceed with the program that fall. Half of the fairways were to be done in the fall of 1983 and the other half in the fall of 1984.

Next, a golf course architect needed to be hired to design the new contours and stake out the new fairway edge. Several architects were interviewed until the committee found one it felt comfortable with. The selected architect then staked and painted the new fairway - rough borders the week before the herbicide was to be sprayed. The design took into consideration landing areas for golfers of all abilities, the location of present and future bunkers, and the natural terrain of the course.

On September 6, 1983, the day after Labor Day, the roughs around the newly established fairway borders were sprayed. The herbicide Roundup was used at a rate of 2½ quarts per acre. A modified Cushman sprayer, with diaphragm nozzles and flat spray tips, was used to do the spraying. The herbicide was sprayed just after sunrise while the wind was calm and the dew was still on the grass. A dye was added to the spray mixture to help avoid skips and overlaps. As an added precaution, one man followed the sprayer to watch for plugged nozzles.

In all, eleven acres were re-sprayed with the herbicide. The width of spray around the fairways varied from eight feet, one pass, to more than thirty yards depending on severity of the contour change and on how far the annual bluegrass and bent-

(cont'd. pg. 11)

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