

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

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President's Message

Thank you very much for electing me to lead the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in 1985. Hopefully, I can take some of the programs that Roger Stewart started and continue them as well as start some of my own. The new board intends to put a disclosure statement on the back of the new dues statement. This will allow us to keep up with our membership as well as feed current information into the computer.

I would hope that we can print a new directory in 1985. If this occurs, the disclosure statement filled out properly would help us out tremendously in getting proper and current information in the directory.

As you may not know, the University of Illinois is breaking away from the Midwest Clinic for 1985. Our education committee will have a large task facing them in finding a facility suitable for the Midwest Clinic. Hopefully, we will be able to go back to Medinah Country Club, but those arrangements must be made.

I begin my year as President with a very good financial situation. Our balance at years end (September 30) was \$14,255.47. We expect to end the calendar year with a balance of approximately \$9,000.00. I would like to end my tenure with a minimum of \$12,000.00 in our bank account. This can be accomplished through hard work on the part of the Board of Directors.

I am looking forward to a great year and would ask that if you are approached to serve on a committee, you accept the challenge. What a better way to find out how **your** organization functions than serve on a committee. Let's all work together to make 1985 a banner year for the M.A.G.C.S.

Joe P. Williamson, C.G.C.S.



We are not copyrighted and would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and "The Bull Sheet" credit.

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The **Bull Sheet** is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page, and by the full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white. Circulation is around 500 issues per month.

MAGCS DIRECTORS COLUMN

Multiplan, Microsoft, Diskettes?!!!!?

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is now the owner of an IBM PC Computer. On Monday, September 24, 1984, Tom Fermanian delivered the computer.

Within a matter of a few hours of instructions, words such as Multiplan, Microsoft Word, Processor, Diskettes, and many more had entered my vocabulary. After three half days of instructional sessions from Tom, I found myself seated at the amazing machine.

The computer will not alleviate work but will surely make the Secretaries work more efficient. One of the major activities the computer will be used for will be an up to date mailing list which is an ever changing thing. Included with the dues statement next month will be a disclosure statement that every member of the Association is asked to complete and return with their dues. There will be fifteen questions to answer. This will enable the secretary to complete all information and enter it on the mailing list. When the membership booklet is compiled this coming year the information will make the job somewhat easier than ever before. The 15 fields that can be printed are:

Last name	Zip code	Firm
First name	Home phone	Dues paid
Address	Business phone	Date certified
City	Members starting date	Member GCSAA
State	Members classification	Any notes

The order of the list to be printed can be:

1. Alphabetical by firm
2. Alphabetical by membership class
3. Sequential

Record keeping, inventories, and a variety of accounting records can be accomplished. Computer communication and the access of data over telephone lines has been built into the system. A weather data bank has been installed at the University of Illinois which contains historical weather data and current weather information. By plugging the telephone into the computer and into the phone lines this information can be readily available via a wats line, a modem is responsible for this. Another service called a Dialog Information Service can provide access to journals, newspaper articles and reports covering areas of science, business, current affairs and many more.

In time, with the help of Tom and a few much needed classes, I hope to be able to use the computer to its fullest and for the benefit of the Association.

Penny F. Meyer
Executive Secretary, MAGCS

PLEASE NOTE

At the golf outing at Cress Creek Country Club at Naperville in October when Tony Meyer went to get his shoes in the Locker House they could not be found. There is a pair of black two-tone golf shoes there, size 10½ with locker number 35X. Tony's locker number was 35 and they were cordovan/black two-tone Foot Joys, size 8½. Please check to see if you have the wrong pair. Thanks. — Tony (312) 969-1898.

1984 Ray Gerber Editorial Award Winner

Bruce R. Williams
Bob O'Link Golf Club
Highland Park, IL

Bruce has won this year's award for his article, "Lightning Can Strike Without Warning" which was published in the August 1984 issue of "The Bull Sheet". In winning this award which was first given in 1983, Bruce adds his name to which we hope will be a long list of future winners who have all helped "The Bull Sheet" be in the fore front of newsletters.

The award was started to give recognition to Ray Gerber for his many years of service to the Superintendents thru his leadership, knowledge and participation in association activities. Ray Gerber served as Editor of "The Bull Sheet" for many years and brought much attention and respect to our profession. It is sad that Ray never lived to see the first award presented to Dave Ward at the NCTE last year. But he knew that an award was being named in his honor before he passed away.

Bruce Williams has been Superintendent of Bob O'Link Golf Club for seven years. He succeeded his father Bob Williams. During the past year, Bruce has contributed other articles for "The Bull Sheet" besides the one which won him this award. He is presently serving as Editor of the "Verdue" and treasurer of the Chicagoland GCSA. Bruce has a B.A. degree from Baldwin Wallace College and then went on to graduate with honors from Michigan State University.

Honorable Mention Ray Gerber Editorial Award for 1984

Edwin Wollenberg

The Editorial Committee felt that Ed should be presented with an Honorable Mention for his article, "The Good Old Days" which was published in the April and May issue of "The Bull Sheet". There can only be one winner of the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" since the winner is presented with a traveling plaque and two people can't share it at the same time. With this in mind it was decided to have an "Honorable Mention" and give a wall plaque and recognition for an outstanding article.

Ed Wollenberg is currently the superintendent of Gary Country Club, which he has been for the past 25 to 28 years depending on who you talk to. One thing for sure is that managing turfgrass has been a life long endeavor for Ed.

His career began around the age of ten working at Olympia Fields Country Club, where he began to learn the basics of golf course maintenance. Years later he worked a short time at Idlewild Country Club and eventually took over as superintendent of Navahoe Hills Country Club. At some point during these formative years he was also called to serve his country. Not being side-tracked by this Ed used his skills to landscape Air Force bases before being sent overseas.

In addition to his working credentials Ed has contributed to the golf industry as a speaker at conferences, by writing articles, and often as an organizer behind the scenes. He is an active member of the M.A.G.C.S., having served as a past president. He is also active in the Michiana Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Obviously, committed to serving the golf industry from the beginning Ed's career can serve as an inspiration to us all.

Why You Receive Duplicate Copies of Mailings from the University of Illinois

Each time a direct mail campaign is staged from the turfgrass program of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a large volume of non-deliverable mail is returned. Despite constant efforts to update and correct the professional turfgrass managers list utilized for these mailings, return mail always shows up. This is a recognized cost in direct mailing.

An additional problem has cropped up over the past few years which is entirely different from normal list maintenance. When the NCTE was formed two years ago, due to its multi-organization format, numerous mailing lists are used to send the pre-registration announcement. Lists were solicited from the USGA Green Section, MAGCSA, CIGCSA, past NCTE participants, etc. This year, the total of all lists involved numbered over 13,000.

In order to organize, sort, and identify duplication out of a group this large, a main frame computer would have to be utilized. The present facilities in the turfgrass program can handle lists approximately one-third this size. In addition, personnel would have to be temporarily hired, trained, and supervised to track down the duplicates and remove them EACH time a mailing is prepared. The cost of this procedure far exceeds the loss of funds due to duplicate mailing.

As a Federal employee, working with the Cooperative Extension Service, I am allowed to send first class mail at no direct cost to my program. While the University of Illinois in total has limitations to the amounts of mail that can be sent on a postage-free basis, no charges at any time are assessed to the turfgrass program. With essentially free mailings, the only cost involved is that of printing, typesetting, artwork, and other processes necessary for each piece that is enclosed in the mailing. The cost of each piece in the recent mailing of the NCTE brochure was approximately \$.20. If you received seven copies of this mailing for a total expenditure of \$1.40, it would take us approximately one hour of time (sorting, searching, verifying, and eliminating, etc.) to effectively remove the duplicates of one organization from the list. Even at minimum wage, that represents \$3.50.

However, you can help us in holding down mailing costs by passing on duplicates to others that have not received brochures. They might simply be others in your organization or acquaintances interested in U. of I. turfgrass programs. Your assistance is most appreciated.

We will continue to provide information on current and future programs conducted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Thomas W. Fermanian, Ex. Turf. Spec.
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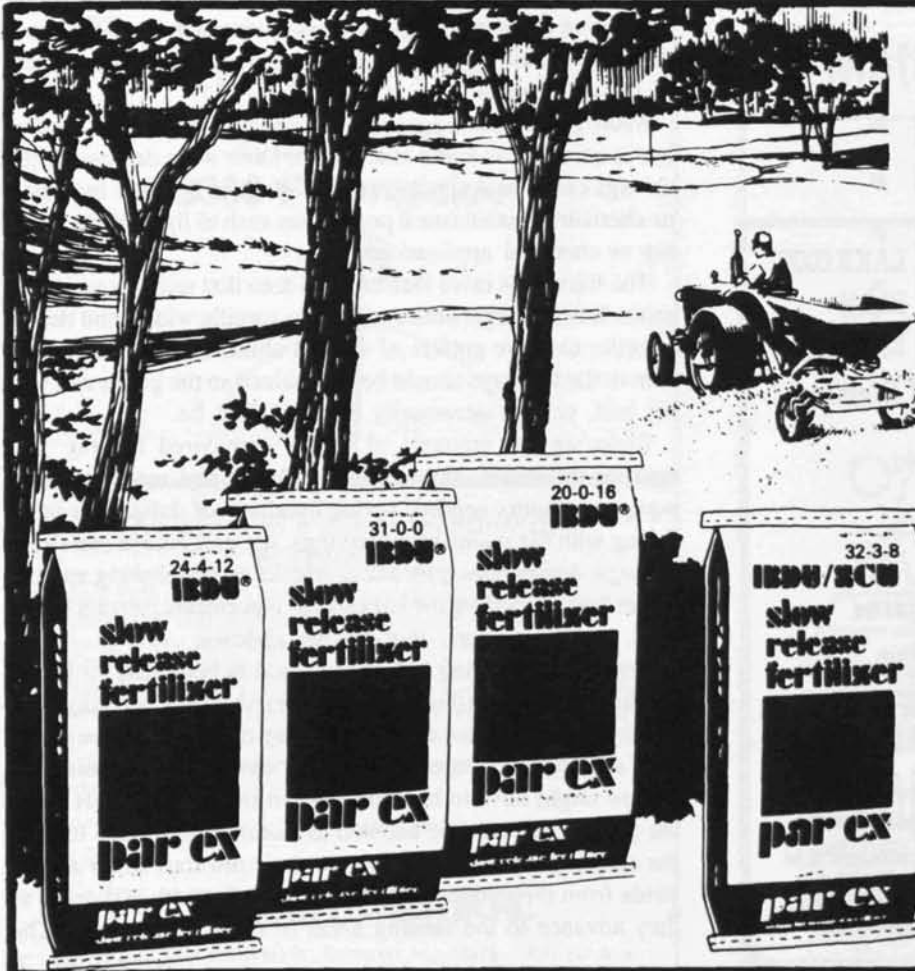
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An Architect's Opinion Contour Mowing for Playability — And It's Worth It

by Bob Lohmann

Modern equipment utilization, unmaintained out-of-play areas, overgrooming is overspending, the natural look, native areas; these are all phases of the 80s that everyone is saying and hearing. But let's not forget the elementary rules that a golf course must obey as stated by Bobby Jones over 45 years ago: "The first purpose of any golf course should be to give pleasure, and that to the greatest number of players ... because it will offer problems a person may attempt according to their ability. It will never become hopeless for the duffer nor fail to concern and interest the expert."

The typical club membership includes players of a wide range of abilities. It must serve men, women, seniors, juniors, beginners, duffers, bogey and scratch. For this reason, playability of a golf course is very important and should be reviewed constantly by the superintendent, professional, and greens committee. Playability can be created or improved by the inexpensive practice of establishing new mowing patterns, not by rebuilding the entire golf course, as many people believe. Playability is the combination of flexibility, fairness, difficulty, distinction, accuracy, finesse, challenge and shot value.

Most American country club members will not accept a completely natural golf course on a daily basis. But on the other hand, the golfer has become educated to the point where he realizes that the wide, long, straight-lined fairways present on many golf courses today are out of date, unimaginative, and overly expensive to maintain. Most golfers are willing to accept the target golf concept as long as it is not a do-or-die situation, and it adds to the strategic playing interest and eye appeal of the golf course.

Many golf course fairways are overmaintained, not in quality, but in quantity. In some cases, if the latter were decreased, the savings could be applied toward the former in either increased or alternative maintenance procedures such as lightweight mowing or chemical applications.

The fairway is more than an open area that receives your golf shots. It is the target area designed to specific widths and depths in order to serve golfers of various abilities. The rough adjacent to the fairways should be maintained so the golfer can find his ball, yet not necessarily have an ideal lie.

Reducing the amounts of highly manicured fairway also reduces the water, chemicals, fertilizers, and manpower and equipment hours needed, saving hundreds of dollars per acre. Along with the maintenance savings, the golf course can stress strategic design principles and aesthetics by establishing specific target areas based on the various tee placements, terrain of the land, and the golfers' shot-making abilities.

Beginning in spring, when the grass is beginning to grow, the new fairway outlines should be established to conform to the terrain of the land and any existing or proposed tree plantings or hazards. Depending on the circumstances, this procedure might have to be completed in the fall. In either case, the golf course must be allowed to mature into its new look as the season progresses. The target areas can start as far as 150 yards from the middle tees and decrease in width and depth as they advance to the landing areas of the scratch golfer. The

(cont'd. pg. 7)

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(Contour Mowing cont'd.)

average width of the fairway can vary from 30 to 50 yards based on the skill of the golfer hitting to each specific area.

When a club decides to revise its mowing patterns, it needs to inform and educate its members and introduce the changes slowly. The golfers' scores will no doubt go up, but the golf course will become more delightful for all classes of golfers as it is studied and played.

Editor's note: A native of Wisconsin, Bob Lohmann received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin — Madison in 1974. His experience both on the drawing board and in the field are indicative of his qualifications as a golf course planner. Mr. Lohmann has been actively involved in designing, building and remodeling golf courses for the past ten years. He is a registered Landscape Architect and a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

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Pruning is a Wintertime Garden Chore

Mid-winter is an excellent time for pruning trees and shrubs. There are some real advantages to pruning during winter. Plants are dormant so there is no bleeding. There is less likelihood of disease transmission. The deciduous plants are bare so the branching can easily be seen.

First a word of caution. Spring flowering shrubs and trees have already set flower buds. Any pruning on these plants should be restricted to repair so that flowers are not sacrificed.

Inspect your plants to develop a plan. Note the natural shape of the plants. This shape should be preserved during the pruning. Look for broken branches, branches which cross each other, and overgrown stems.

Prune multi-stem trees to keep the center open and prevent smaller stems from being crowded out by a larger stem. Try to select and maintain several well spaced branches of similar size. Remove branches growing into the center on the tree and crossing other branches, and bottom suckers.

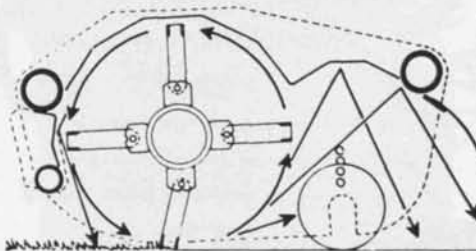
Large trees present a special problem and pruning should be restricted to removal of broken branches. Contrary to popular opinion, severe pruning is not necessary for a tree and may actually be quite harmful. In any case, major pruning of large trees is dangerous and should be left to professional arborists.

Pruning is an important part of the culture of ornamental plants if properly done. Don't try to overpower plants with pruning. Use judicious pruning to guide the natural growth of your plants.

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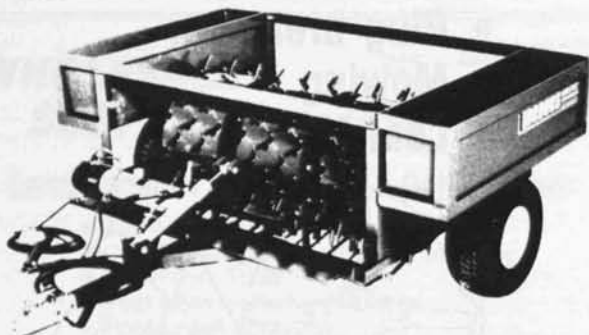
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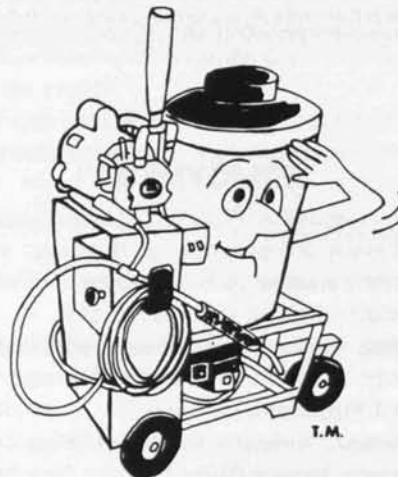
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As our every day world becomes more hectic people long to return to simpler times and tradition of the past. Cutting the Christmas tree is a tradition that is becoming a more popular family activity each year.

While it is no longer possible to cut a tree in the wild, tree farms now let us enjoy cutting our own tree and give us an even better tree at the same time.

Christmas tree farms produce trees as a crop. Selected varieties are planted, pruned, and nurtured for seven to ten years to provide the perfect focal point for our Holiday decoration.

In Northeastern Illinois we are fortunate to have quite a few Christmas tree farms. Most will open the day after Thanksgiving, so you can take advantage of the long weekend to select a tree.

Before starting out, measure the space in your home the tree will occupy. Then measure the tree you select before you cut it. Trees always look much smaller outdoors.

Give the tree farm a call to make sure it is open. Then bundle up the kids and pack a picnic lunch and head out for a great day in the outdoors. Be sure to dress warmly and wear boots so you don't get too cold and wet to enjoy the outing.

Start early in the day so you can select your tree and get it cut before darkness sets in around 4:00 p.m.

While most tree farms have saws and rope, it saves time if you can bring your own.

When you get your tree home re-cut the bottom. Keep the tree in a bucket of water in a cool place until you are ready to take it indoors.

The following is a list of Christmas tree farms where you may cut trees. There may be others that we don't know about. If you find one, let us know and we will add it to our list.

Antioch — Hayden's Christmas Tree Farm - 395-4127
42880 Hunt Club Road, Antioch 60002 (Take I-94 to Route 173 exit, turn west ½ mile to Hunt Club Road, turn north and go 1½ mile.) Red, White, Scotch Pine; Spruce, Red Cedar — Trees 10 feet and under — Daylight hours only — Limited selection — Open only the first two weekends after Thanksgiving.

Aurora — Marmion Abbey
Butterfield Road, Aurora 60504. Red, White, Scotch Pines — Evergreen boughs available — Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Downers Grove — Ide Tree Farm - 985-9299
1500 - 83rd Street, Downers Grove 60516 (From I-55, take Lemont exit 271B to 2nd traffic light, turn left on 83rd, go ½ mile, on right.) Some Red Pine; Austrian, White, Scotch Pine; Douglas Fir; Norway Spruce 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Friday, Saturday, Sunday ONLY, starting Saturday after Thanksgiving (may close early if run out of trees, and/or if weather is bad).

Downers Grove — LaRue Tree Farm - 985-7890
340 Oldfield Road, Downers Grove 60516. Red, White, Scotch Pine - Limited supply. Weekends only, starting after December 8 — 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Open only for two weeks.

Grayslake — Century Tree Farm - 362-7571
17516 W. Gages Lake Road, Grayslake 60030. Red, White, Scotch Pine. Weekdays, 1-4 p.m., Weekends, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — starting November 25th.

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