

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

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**President's Message**

I would like to thank the membership for electing me to direct the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in 1986. It is certainly a privilege to have the opportunity to lead the fine organization that we have. During the next year I plan to reinforce the programs and procedures we have as well as introduce new ideas that will benefit us all.

Some of the first orders of business will be to follow up on the salary and budget survey conducted in 1984. I am sure that anyone who has reviewed the recent national surveys, done by the G.C.S.A.A. and the National Golf Foundation; will conclude the results represent too large of a geographic area to reach any conclusions concerning budgets in the Chicago area. We as members need to assimilate our own data with which we can make responsible decisions concerning our own compensation and our clubs expenditures. The other pending project is to have a new directory printed. This will take place immediately after the final deadline for 1986 dues payments. At this time all unpaid members will be removed from the membership list and the directory will be published; thus providing an accurate accounting of the membership.

It is evident to me that the success of any given president or board depends upon communication. By this I not only mean that we communicate effectively, but also, that the members have an open line of communication to the board. As an elected board we are here to guide and execute the wishes of the membership, not dictate their needs. So, I will ask as my predecessors have, to please make your voice heard and if possible serve on a committee; because as our association grows and interests peak so do the demands put upon your board. We need your help in order to maintain the level of success our organization has achieved.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a happy and enjoyable Holiday Season. I hope to see many of you at the North Central Turfgrass Exposition in Peoria.

**David R. Behrman**

## Pfister Potpourri

by Dudley Smith, Silver Lake C.C.

At the twentieth annual Wisconsin Turf Symposium in Milwaukee the speakers presented these thoughts to digest.

Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State pathologist:

If you want to encourage bentgrass over *Poa Annua* in the fairways —

1. Use only 2 lb. Nitrogen/per 1000 sq. ft. annually
2. Verticut lightly
3. Use the new growth regulator, CUTLESS
4. Aerify while the *Poa Annua* is **seeding** (May). The bentgrass will fill in the aerifier holes. The *Poa Annua* roots are dormant while the plant is flowering.
5. Only use arsenicals if you like to play with fire.

Kevin Dushane, Michigan superintendent:

Fairway mowing with a triplex mower is VERY expensive. The annual cost with a single triplex was \$9000, with a 7 gang unit \$3000. The triplex offers these bonuses: less watering, less fertilizer (only 2 lb. Nitrogen), less fungicides, the ability to mow in different directions, less syringing, eye appeal, and less grain. However, the fairways will have a thatch buildup and must be verticut **six times a year**.

Billy Buchanan, PGA Tour Agronomist:

1. Golf course superintendents maintain **PUTTING SURFACES**, not landing areas. We do not control the golfers ability to hit the shot, that's what handicaps are for.
2. The game should be played on firm surfaces; not hard, not dead ... but firm. The golf ball should bounce, not plug.
3. Nitrogen levels and clipping weight removed are NOT important. It's the stuff that's left after mowing that is important. The 1/8 inch of stubble is what the tournament golfer is interested in. That's why frequency of cut is so important. Championship courses mow their greens nine times a week!
4. Let's keep golf a forward game, not backward (backspin). The course should play to 7100 yards, not 7200 yards with 100 yards of backspin on the greens.
5. Three steps in grooming good greens: frequent mowing, spiking to let fresh air in, and topdressing lightly with dry material.

Jim Latham, USGA Agronomist:

While the superintendent is thinking agronomically about the needs and quality of his turf for 1986, his member golfer thinks only about this particular fairway as he approaches his next shot.

Yardage markers every ten yards are a pain in the butt. Arborvitae bushes at 150 yards, red maples at 200 yards are silly. Joe Dye, former USGA executive director, was a purist. All bushes, etc. used for yardage indicators were yanked and sodded in one year before the competition date. The sod repairs were not to be visible to the golfers.

Visibility and depth perception are a part of golf. See your optometrist, as well as your golf pro, to sharpen up your game.

Yellow balls sliding down a pole should be reserved for one occasion ... Times Square on New Years Eve.

Ted Woehrle, Michigan superintendent:

Ted led a discussion on the problem of earth worms and their deposits on fairways mowed at 1/2 inch. The mess they create on the rollers when the fairways are wet. Another problem, the  
(cont'd. bottom of next column)



*Randy Wahler, left, accepting the 1985 Ray Gerber Editorial Award from President Dave Behrman at the 33rd Annual Midwest Turf Clinic.*

### 1985 Ray Gerber Editorial Award Winner

Randy has won this year's award for his article, "Landscape Renovation on the Golf Course", which was published in the September 1984 issue of "The Bull Sheet". In winning this award which was first given in 1983, Randy adds his name to which we hope will be a long list of future winners who have all helped "The Bull Sheet" be the fine newsletter that it is.

This award was created 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.

Randy has been Superintendent at Knollwood Club for the past 5 years. Before that he was at Glen Flora for a period of 6 years. Randy is married to Christine and he has 2 children, Joseph is 10 years old and Grace who is 7 years old. Randy is a graduate of University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and graduated with honors. Randy states that he has to give credit to an elective course he had at U of I on business and technical writing which he feels helped him to win this years award. (The judges felt that way too.)

Asked why he chose the maintenance end of the golf business and he states that he felt it was the more creative side of the business. He feels that the landscaping end of the golf maintenance is the part that adds the final touch needed to have a beautiful course.

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(Pfister Potpourri cont'd.)

encroachment of **MOSS** on putting surfaces mowed at 1/8 inch. There was no solution to either dilemma.

Ted Woehrle, lurching with current U.S. Open Champion Andy North at the Pfister, took time to visit kitchen boy T. C. Chen.

Over 200 people attended this excellent Wisconsin program. More Chicago superintendents should take the two hour drive North and enjoy our neighbor's hospitality.

## 1986 Northeastern Illinois Pesticide Clinics

Commercial category (Applicator) pesticide clinics in the Chicago area will not include General Standards Training. Each category clinic will be preceded a day or two earlier by a day of General Standards Training (9 a.m. - noon) and testing (1 p.m.).

Schedule for Turf Management and Woody Ornamentals Training and Testing

8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Weeds, Insects & Diseases of Turf

10:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Calibration Training (both categories)

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Weeds, Insects & Diseases of Woody Ornamentals

1:30 p.m. Testing (Applicator & General Standards)

There will be a charge at the door of \$5.00 per person per day for General Standards or Category training. Study guides will be available at the door and from county cooperative extension offices at an additional cost. There is no charge for the testing alone.

For testing sessions, please bring your current license or past test results. If you have further questions about the training, call (312) 920-0760. If you have questions about the testing or law, call (312) 920-9256.

Feb. 11 St. Charles — General Standards Training: 9 a.m. - noon, Testing: 1 p.m.

Kane Co. Coop. Extension Office, 535 Randall Rd.

Feb. 13 St. Charles — Turf & Ornamentals Training: 8:30 a.m., Testing: 1:30 p.m.

Kane Co. Coop. Extension Office, 535 Randall Rd.

Feb. 19 Grayslake — General Standards Training: 10 a.m., Testing: 1 p.m.

Lake Co. Coop. Extension Office, 33020 N. Highway 45

March 4 Glencoe — General Standards Training: 9 a.m. - noon, Testing: 1 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake-Cook Rd. Call (312) 991-1160 to pre-register

March 5 Glencoe — Turf & Ornamentals Training: 8:30 a.m., Testing: 1:30 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Gardens, Lake-Cook Rd.

March 18 Joliet — General Standards Training: 9 a.m. - noon, Testing: 1 p.m.

Holiday Inn East, Larkin Ave. & Interstate 80

Call (815) 727-9296 or (312) 532-4369 to pre-register.

March 19 Joliet — Turf & Ornamentals Training: 8:30 a.m., Testing: 1:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn East, Larkin Ave. & Interstate 80

Call (815) 727-9296 or (312) 532-4369 to pre-register.

March 20 Wheaton — Plant Management & Aquatic Weeds Training: 9 a.m. - noon, Testing: 1 p.m.

DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd.

April 3 Glencoe — General Standards Training: 9 a.m. - noon, Testing: 1 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Gardens, Lake-Cook Rd.

April 23 Grayslake — General Standards Training: 10 a.m., Testing: 1 p.m.

Lake Co. Coop. Extension Office, 33020 N. Highway 45

April 29 Wheaton — General Standards Training: 9 a.m. - noon, Testing: 1 p.m.

DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd.

May 1 Wheaton — Turf & Ornamentals Training: 8:30 a.m., Testing: 1:30 p.m.



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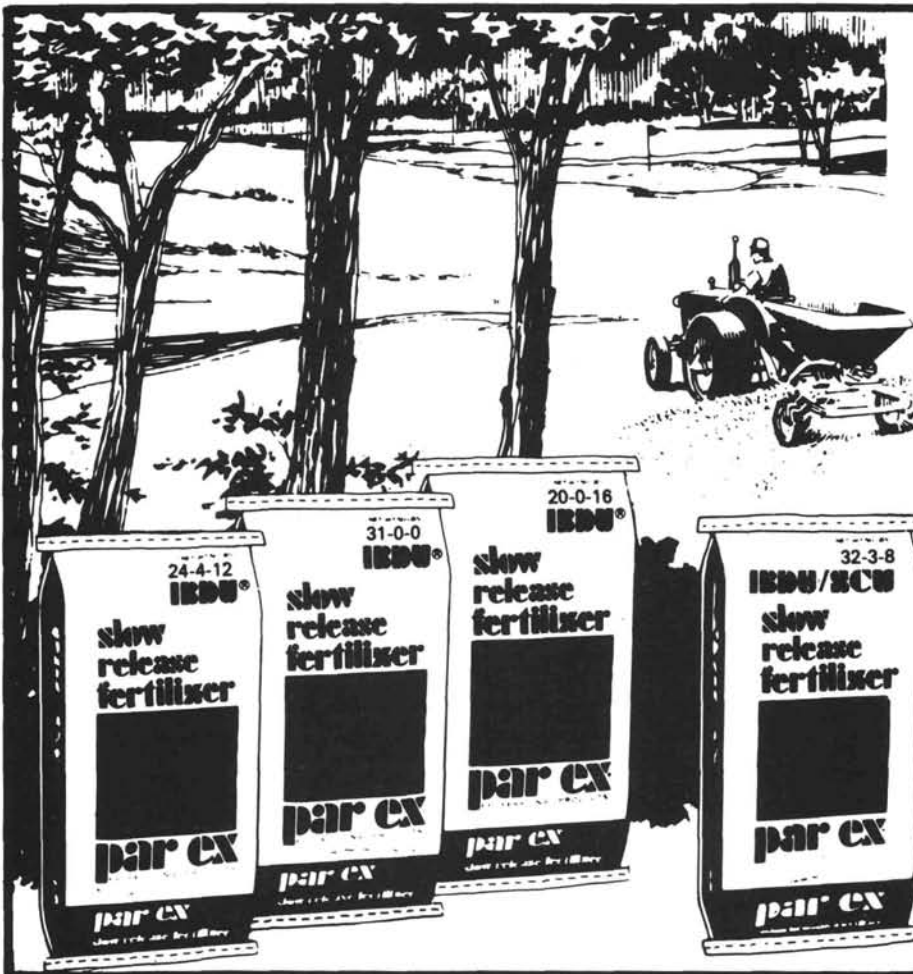
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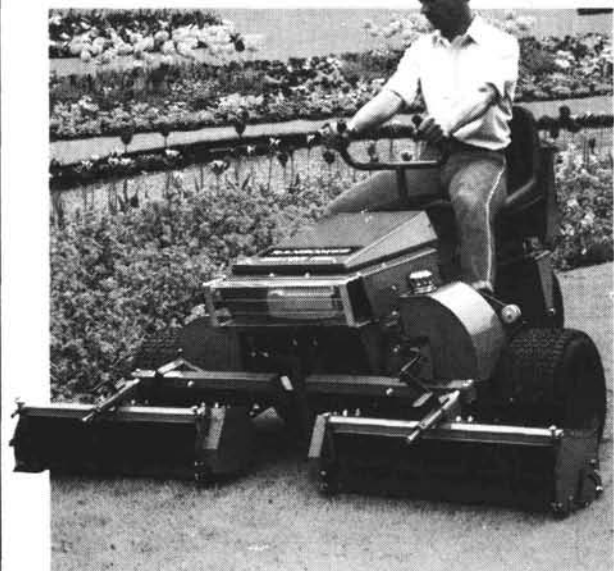
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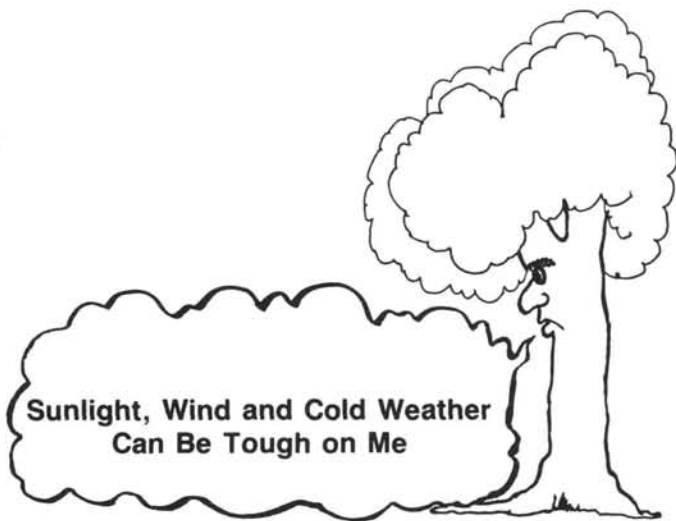


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Man's reaction to cold is immediate — we bundle up, move indoors, or suffer the consequences with alarming rapidity.

Trees may look contently inactive all winter long, but they also can suffer at the hands of winter. The damage may not show until spring, but nonetheless, winter is a test of strength for trees just as it is for other living creatures.

Low temperature isn't the sole culprit. Cold, bright sun, wind and soil frost combine to take their toll in the forest. Come spring, the appearance of brown, dead branches, and whole trees as well, will attest to the severity of another Wisconsin winter.

"The problem is called 'winter burn,'" says Gordon Cunningham, retired University of Wisconsin - Extension forester. "During the deep freeze of mid-winter, moisture is removed or transpired from tree bark and foliage faster than the roots can replace it."

Many factors contribute to this dehydration. All plants lose water through their leaves or needles. Transpiration is a physiological cooling mechanism similar to perspiration. The winter burn problem begins when, despite the cold air, sunlight warms the foliage and branches enough to increase transpiration.

More warming can occur when snow reflects even more sunlight onto the plant. This reflected sunlight and wind can further increase the amount of water lost by carrying moisture away more rapidly.

Winter burn is caused by more than the rapid loss of moisture through transpiration. At the same time the tree is losing essential moisture to the air, it's also unable to replace lost water because its roots are threaded through frozen ground. Ice isn't a good source of water for plants because it isn't readily absorbed. In cold weather the liquid water that is available moves more slowly into the tree and through its cells.

"Sunlight, wind and radiation off the snow combine to cause excess transpiration, and set the stage for winter burn," Cunningham says. The extent of the burn also depends on how deeply the ground is frozen and how deep the tree's root system extends.

Statistical Reporting Service, late December of this winter showed an average frost depth of 5½ inches compared to 3½ inches last December. Both of these years are below the long-term aggravates the winter burn problem.

Winter burn isn't very visible in the winter. "The burn is initiated in the extreme cold of winter," says Cunningham, "but

it won't be noticeable until late winter or early spring, when damaged foliage starts turning brown, twigs don't bud out, or dead bark becomes noticeable. Just think how long Christmas tree needles look green."

When spring arrives, the dying foliage and branches will be most visible on the tree's south and west faces — the sides where winter sunlight is most intense. Severe winter burn can kill an entire tree, but more often it will damage only portions.

"Sometimes you can judge how deep the snow cover was in a spot by examining low evergreens for the extent of winter burn," says Cunningham. "Snow is a good insulator, so the parts of the evergreen that were buried will be alive and green. But there can be a sharp line above which needles are brown — these were above the snow and subjected to wind, sun and harsh weather."

Winter burn is harder to spot in bare, deciduous trees than in conifers. Thin-barked trees like maple will show "frost cracks." These are small cracks in the bark that form when a cold spell freezes sun-warmed water in the underbark. The extent of the damage to a deciduous tree won't be known until spring, when it will be clear which branches blossom and which don't.

For forest trees, winter burn is just one of nature's tests. It is a factor in the process of natural selection by which the more resistant survive to reproduce.

You can help lawn shrubbery and small trees by protecting them, Cunningham says. Install burlap shields around the south and west sides of susceptible plants. These shields will block wind and sun.

"You'll find more damage to shady-site trees like yews. These will winter burn more severely than sun-tolerant species like junipers," Cunningham says. This is because yew foliage has a thinner cuticle, or outer skin, which loses moisture more easily than waxy juniper needles.

In fact, one of the best ways to avoid losing trees to winter burn is to keep site-preference in mind when planting. In our severe winter climate, yews do better when they are protecting from the sun, perhaps in the shade of buildings, while junipers will tolerate the sunny southwest exposures.

**This information was made available by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UW-Madison.**



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## Terror at Tenerife

Everyone Was Burning to Death Around Him,  
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Norman Williams admits he was a wayward Christian — at least before he found himself walled in by flames scorching everyone around him. He was one of the few people to survive the Canary Island crash of two jumbo jets in 1979 in which six hundred died.

Amidst the chaos of the burning aircraft, Williams' head cleared and Bible verses he didn't realize he even knew came to mind. Above the screaming and cursing from burning people which filled the air, Williams shouted: "I stand upon THE WORD." Later from his hospital bed, Williams promised God he would tell his story to anybody who would listen.

Since then, Williams has traveled over 300,000 miles testifying to God's presence in his life to all who would hear. He will be sharing his story with us in San Francisco at our annual Christian Prayer Breakfast at the San Francisco Hilton on Friday, January 31, 1986. Coffee and rolls will be served at 6:30 a.m. with the program from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. The purpose of the breakfast is to seek God's blessing on the Conference, its affairs, our membership, our directors, our staff, our Nation, and to share God's love. Everyone is welcome.

At his moment of trauma, Norman Williams found Christ at the center of his life. But we don't have to wait for trauma. Christ stands just outside the center of our lives waiting for us to invite him in. If you want to know Christ better, take this opportunity and join us.

## New Association to Strengthen Turf Equipment Distributors

A new trade association has been formed to fill a void in the commercial turfgrass industry, according to its board of directors.

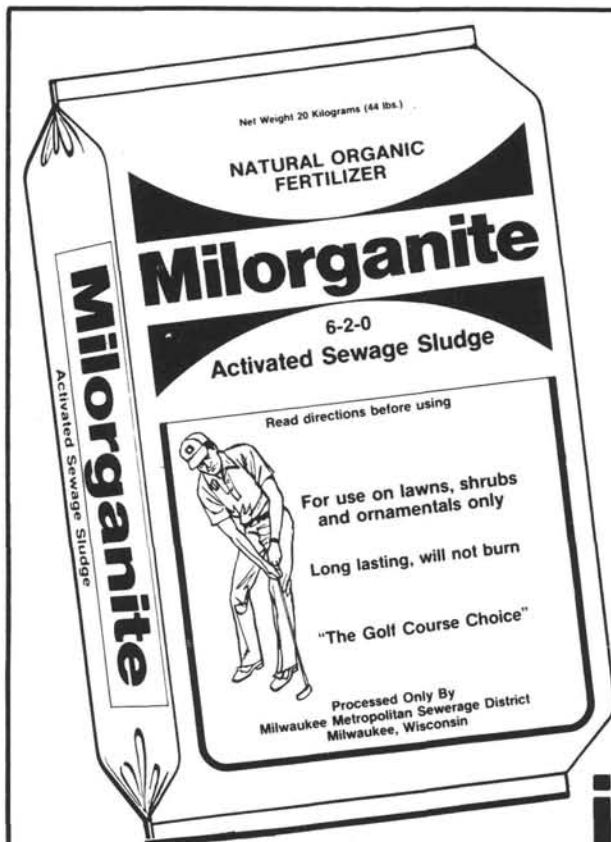
Named the National Equipment Distributors Association (NEDA), membership now totals nearly 40 old-line, primarily equipment distributors from throughout the U.S. and Canada, that serve golf courses, parks, cemeteries and other grounds operations in the 10 to 1000-acre size range.

"We've come together to address pressing concerns in these volatile times for our industry," said Robert G. Johnson, Chairman of the new association and President of Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., Orland Park, IL.

He pointed to the very strong need indicated by members to share ideas on internal operations such as computer systems and employee compensation, better product and service marketing, and other techniques to improve business.

Other NEDA directors elected are David L. DeBra of DeBra Turf & Industrial Equipment Co., Hollywood, FL; M. Frank Higgins of Sawtelle Brothers, Inc., Swampscott, MA; Robert Henshaw of B. Hayman Company, Inc., Santa Fe Springs, CA; G. Daniel Boyd of Boyd Distributing Co., Inc., Denver, CO; Charles M. Bolt of Porter Brothers, Inc., Shelby, NC; and Harold L. Vogler of W. F. Miller Company, Birmingham, MI.

In addition to directors, DeBra was appointed Vice Chairman and Higgins named Secretary Treasurer.



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After a busy summer season, many golfers — as well as course owners and managers — recognize that their courses need a “face lift.”

Many older courses were designed before the advent of the modern ball and clubs, and the hazards no longer come into play for the better golfers for whom they were intended.

With our mobile society, many golfers are able to play some of the newer courses around the country, which feature multiple tees, well-bunkered greens, and lakes that not only provide a visual accent, but serve as water retention basins.

John Watson, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, points out that there are other areas to study in a comprehensive master plan, such as fairways, irrigation system, landscape treatment and cart paths.

The actual redesign of a golf course can cover several elements. The architect, he explains, will evaluate the course, keeping in mind its integrity and the character that should be maintained, when developing a master plan that may well be phased in over a period of years.

An effective remodeling program, Watson notes, does not mean a total reconstruction program. The architect, in conjunction with a players' committee, manager, superintendent and pro — will review the following:

**TEES:** Tees establish playability and are prime targets of improvement. They tend to be much larger and longer than in the past because of the beating they take from concentrated play. It is not uncommon for tees to cover 5,000 to 7,000 sq. ft. in area on the modern course.

**FAIRWAYS:** “Sparking up” a fairway can involve the reshaping of mounds, bunkers, lakes or ponds, Major gradework may be required to eliminate blind spots or to soften severe terrain.

**BUNKERS:** The trend has been toward milder convolutions of the edges of the bunkers and more gentle rise from the bottom of the bunker to the top edge. Gentler contours make it easier to cut the edges with power mowers, reducing time and labor expenses.

**PONDS:** Artificial ponds may be recommended. They enhance visual impact, offering a stimulating challenge if they are strategically placed, and serve as a valuable water source. The excavated material can often be used to rebuild bunkers and mounds.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEM:** Good irrigation systems can't be overemphasized. The trend is toward completely automated systems. Installing an irrigation system is a relatively simple procedure. An 18-hole system can be installed in 4-5 weeks and is generally less disruptive than club members think. An automatic system can conserve water, reduce labor expenses and allow watering during night time hours.

**GREENS:** The shape, size and protecting features of each green should be in direct relation to the approach shot. Although larger than those of earlier eras — a good average size is 6,500 sq. ft. — today's greens should offer variety. More and variable pin placements are possible with larger greens that also alleviate problems caused by heavy play. Gentle undulations permit the use of machine mowers and reduce the risk of scalping. The green should be designed to drain in more than one direction. It is possible to enlarge a green but the best way is to reconstruct it entirely. It is less of a task to install additional drainage than

(cont'd. on bottom of page 21)

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