

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

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President's Message

I want to thank the membership of M.A.G.C.S., Inc. for electing me your new president for 1987. I would also like to thank those who have supported me the past three years as a member of the board of directors.

As a member of M.A.G.C.S. since 1981, I have witnessed a substantial increase in the dedication, professionalism, and strong leadership that has been exhibited by the executive committee and supporting board members. As a proud superintendent, and newly elected president of this association, I vow to uphold and enhance the commitment toward excellence. With the guaranteed support of all board members, and a membership that elects to become involved, this association will continue to grow.

In order to achieve our goals for '87, I ask for your support. All committees within the organization need your input, especially the golf committee. A tremendous amount of time and effort are spent to provide the association with well organized and enjoyable golf outings. The arrangements committee is always looking for new courses or clubs to hold meetings and outings, so don't hesitate to volunteer. The education committee seeks volunteers to speak at monthly meetings and the annual turf clinic. This allows the membership a good opportunity to share new ideas, review old methods in turfgrass management, or simply voice your opinion. Speaking of education, I will remind everyone to attend our Annual Turf Clinic to be held on Dec. 10 at the O'Hare Expo Center in conjunction with the NCTE.

I begin my year as president with a very good foundation, financially speaking. The 1987 fiscal year began Oct. 1 with a balance of \$14, 468.77. I would expect to end the year on Sept. 30, 1987 with a minimum of \$8,000.00 balance in our account. As the association continues to grow, so does our financial responsibilities. In 1986, we had a total income of almost \$90,000.00 and I would project that we will approach \$100,000.00 for the 1987 budget. Excluding the ordinary operating expenses, I would insist that a fair amount of monies will be donated to support turfgrass research in the State of Illinois.

I am looking forward to a great year in 1987. The current board of directors will no doubt be a pleasure to work with, for they have pledged their full support. I wish to welcome newly elected board members Dennis Wilson, Brian Chalifoux and Dave Loutitt. A special thanks to past presidents Dave Behrman, Roger Stewart, and Len Berg for their encouragement and support.

James E. Evans

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Director's Column

Leadership

by Mike Nass, CGCS
Bryn Mawr C.C.

The dictionary defines leadership as the ability to "guide, conduct, escort, direct or influence." Some desired qualities of good leadership are:

- Using established channels within a group
- Listening to members of a group
- Responding to the needs of a group
- Helping members of a group

As a member of the board of directors for the past two years I have spent a reasonable amount of time listening to the desires and opinions of my fellow members. I always try to listen with an open mind and communicate the desires back to the board for proper consideration. I am confident that the other members of the board have also done likewise.

Good communication within the board and between the board and the membership is critical for an organization to function efficiently and effectively. A strong organization must have not only strong leadership but also strong membership participation.

My concern is, can an organization that consistently allows 15% of its eligible voters to make all its major decisions be truly effective? This is what happens year after year with the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. At this year's annual meeting 41 voters had the responsibility of electing officers, voting on a proposed by-law and change and the possibility existed where they might have had to decide on a dues increase that would have effected the entire membership of four hundred and seventy.

I know I'm probably beating a dead horse but I feel its a point worth repeating. Maybe the time will come when we'll see as many as fifty members at a meeting!

The Ohio State University Golf Course Management Short Course

The first annual OSU Golf Course Management Short course will be conducted from January 12 thru 16, 1987, at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow in Columbus, Ohio. This short course will provide general and basic information on golf-turfgrass management. Emphasis will be placed on principles of agronomy, entomology and plant pathology. The short course is designed for all golf course personnel including golf course employees, foremen, assistant superintendents and superintendents seeking a more formalized training in the basics of golf-turfgrass management. The registration fee is \$200.00 and is tax-deductible. The deadline to register is December 19, 1986, or until 50 applications are received. Lodging facilities are available near the OSU Fawcett Center for Tomorrow. For more information, please contact Susan White or John Street at 614-292-2601 for course content or Doug Thompson at 614-422-4230 for course registration.

Drainage: Lessons Learned in 1986

James M. Latham, Director
Great Lakes Region, USGA Green Sect.



One of the unique properties of water is its capacity to exist as a solid, as a liquid and as a gas at temperatures within the normal range of biological activity. We know that, but perhaps have not appreciated the implications of this property until a year like 1986 rolls around. Seldom has any key element in turfgrass management become so downright vile and contemptible for such an extended period over such a wide expanse of territory and in such a democratic manner. The unfortunate thing about this is that few turfed areas other than golf course suffered damage. In fact, I can't think of any at the moment, but surely golf was not the only condemned classification.

By now all the alibis have been used, blames placed, remedies prescribed and work completed to get things green again. But have the necessary steps been taken to prevent recurrences even if the problems seem unsurmountable? Let's see.

In the epicenters of damage — Southeastern Wisconsin and Northeastern Illinois — the problems began last November with saturating rainfall and a surface icing by early December. Normal weather followed until a thaw in late January. The kicker was an extremely quick, deep freeze to about 20 degrees below zero. Later in the winter/spring came a series of freeze/thaw cycles. This combination led to damage from crown hydration, caused by ice crystals forming within and between water saturated plant cells in bunch grasses like **Poa annua** and ryegrasses. The faster the freeze, the larger the ice crystals, hence the most potential damage. Mike Vogt, Superintendent at Illini Country Club, wrote a very good descriptive article on this for this members.

Spring greenup brought good-news and bad-news, depending on how or where things were not green.

1. The folks trying for ryegrass fairways were badly hurt wherever snowcover was lost in January.

2. The folks trying for **Poa annua** control should have been pleased, because bentgrass and bluegrass survived. Damage was minimal where drainage was good. The degree of severity was varied, but depressions in the surface, flat spots and slow-to-drain swales were most heavily damaged.

If that didn't get the water-watchers on the ball, the fireworks after the fourth of July did. Again, water was blamed for a multitude of sins of omission. Steady rains which saturated the soil and thatch preceded a period of high day and night temperature. The water at the soil surface became a solar heat collector. The roots were deprived of an oxygen supply so that those which did not die were not very effective. Plant tissue was again saturated, just like in the spring. It bruised easily ... even squeegee pressure hurt it, not to mention those feet and mowers. Plant functions almost ceased, to the point that systemic fungicides were ineffective.

The occasional bug got into the act again this summer. Cutworms, of course, made three or four bombing runs and at least one set of sod webworms settled in on Detroit greens. Grubs are spreading over larger and larger territories so that 'rollemup' sod is becoming rather common in the Indiana/Illinois area.

Now came our very best time of the year for the Region. The glorious fall! But where did it go this year? The greens

(cont'd. page 4)

(Drainage cont'd.)

rebuilding operation at Aurora Country Club lost two or three weeks so that planting is very late and will require some kind of winter protection. The new River Run course in Kohler, WI has lost a season of play because of the tremendous amount of erosion in spite of excelsior matting on steep slopes.

What lessons can be learned from the three states of water damage this year?

1. Internal drainage is useless in frozen soil. Thaw water must move across the surface.
2. Internal drainage is priceless in getting oxygen needed for respiration to the root system.
3. High relative humidity significantly slows evaporative cooling in the daytime and reduces radiation cooling at night.
4. Evaporation is aided by air movement, especially under conditions of high relative humidity.
5. The climate in which turfgrass producers are interested is only a few inches high. We don't worry much about the waving of the flag, but how far down the flagpole the wind effect goes.

Water must move through and off the surface of the soil, quickly. This means more drainage is needed than **any** present golf course manager or **all** his predecessors ever thought about. Why? Just plain preventive management. Can anyone imagine how much havoc would have been wreaked if there had been **no** drains?

Early season (March) soil sampling forcefully brought anaerobic soil conditions to the attention of anyone who put the aromatic cores into a warm room. Later October inspection of aerifier cores showed the same. They were all over the place in mid-July. Not all of these "Black Layers" were in greens, either. They can occur anywhere that organic matter exists in an oxygen-depleted environment. Don't blame the well drained sand topdressing, but the impervious soil below it. Don't blame the anaerobic microorganisms which generate the hydrogen sulfide and related aromatics, blame the excess of water or really, the inadequately drained soil or the layer of thatch covered up by topdressing. The anaerobes only mirror the soil condition. Get air into the soil and the problem will go away.

Blame, however, should not be foremost in the mind of anyone in golf course management after this season. Sensible thinking would consider the 1986 season as being a guide to the design and installation of the ultimate golf course drainage system. It also demands a reassessment of fungicide plans to always have at hand an emergency program in which specific, **nonsystemic** fungicides can be used. And now that winter weather is upon us, the firewood opportunity presents itself to those whose turf was subjected to inadequate air movement because of undergrowth and/or trees. I hear of many incurable tree diseases this fall.

The 1986 season had no respect for location, budget, play history or age. The survivors were blessed with permeable soils, or better than average surface drainage, or an ongoing thatch management program, or the **good sense** to close the course, quit mowing and allow the grass to stay alive. The real losers are those who tried to make the grass do their will.

We all learned a great deal this year. If we retain the principles taught by this lesson, our turf will not have died in vain. If we do not, we'd better move to Madison or Green Bay.

Threshing the Journals

Tolerance of Tall Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass to Chlorsulfuron Under Field Conditions

by B. M. Malloy and N. E. Christians

A new herbicide that is 10 to 100 times more active than most weed killers has been labeled by DuPont for selective control of both broadleaf and grass weeds in cereal crops. This herbicide, Glean, contains chlorsulfuron.

Since tall fescue is a very difficult species to control selectively in a bluegrass turf, chlorsulfuron has been evaluated at Iowa State University for tolerance levels of both species. Parade, Adelphi, Glade and Rugby Kentucky bluegrasses and Kentucky 31 fescue were treated in field experiments with chlorsulfuron. The following results are of interest:

—Kentucky bluegrass can tolerate rates of chlorsulfuron in split applications 14 days apart up to 6 ounces per acre (424 grams per hectare) without showing serious detrimental effects.

—As the chlorsulfuron rate of application increases, clipping weights of Kentucky bluegrass decrease, although turf quality was not affected.

—Tall fescue was severely damaged by chlorsulfuron at rates of 2 ounces per acres (141 grams per hectare).

—Chlorsulfuron works very slowly, particularly following fall applications. Four to seven weeks to achieve complete kill of tall fescue is common.

—Kentucky bluegrass can be seeded into treated areas the season following application of chlorsulfuron.

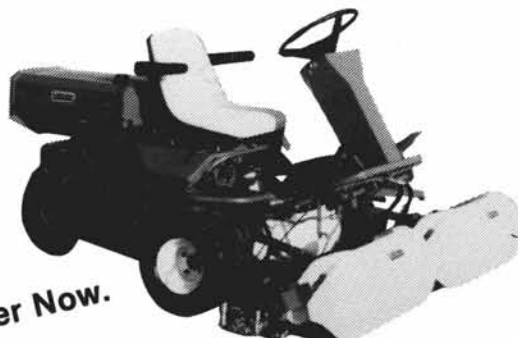
Credit: Weed Science, 1986, Volume 34, Number 3



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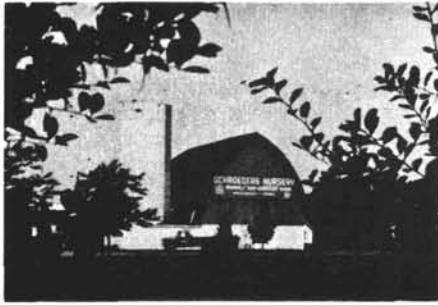
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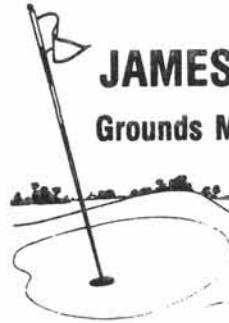
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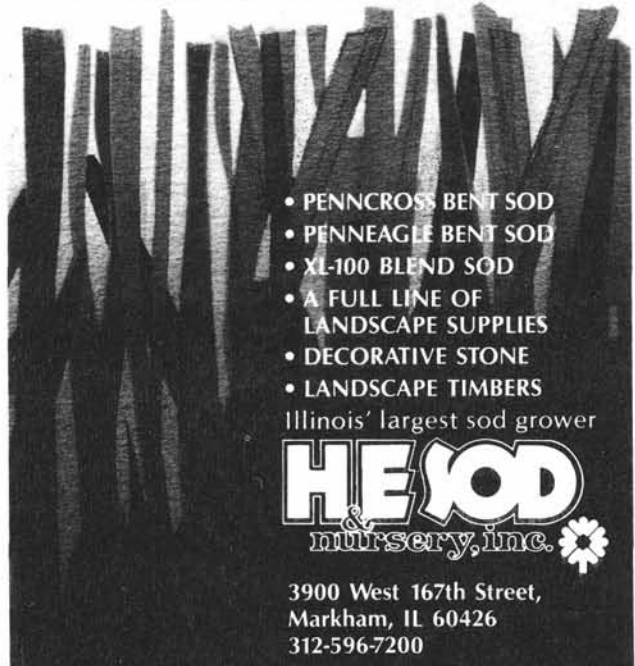
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Why Do We Have 18 Holes on the Golf Course

The following article was taken from the book "The History of Golf."

At the time the members of the Society of St. Andrews Golfers laid down the rules previously mentioned, the course at St. Andrews — what would now be the famous Old Course — had twelve holes. The first eleven traveled straight out to the end of a small peninsula. After playing these, the golfers returned to the clubhouse by playing the first ten greens backward, plus a solitary green by the clubhouse. Thus, a "round" of golf at St. Andrews consisted of twenty-two holes. This is, the golfers played "out" until they reached the End Hole. There they turned around and played "in" to the same holes. If two groups approached a green simultaneously, preference was given to those playing "out". The outgoing holes were marked with a small iron pin with white flags, while the incoming holes were marked with a red flag.

In 1764, however, the Royal and Ancient resolved that the first four holes should be converted into two. Since this change automatically converted the same four holes into two on the way back, the "round" was reduced from twenty-two holes to eighteen. And since St. Andrews was soon to become the arbiter of all that was correct about golf, eighteen holes soon came to be accepted as standard throughout Scotland and England and eventually throughout the world.

Credit: On the Green 9/86

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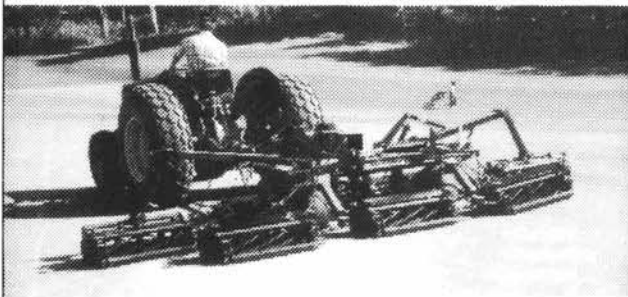
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All attendees at the G.C.S.A.A. Golf Course Superintendents Conference in Phoenix are invited to participate in the 8th Annual Golf Course Supts. Christian Prayer Breakfast. Family groups are encouraged and if you were with us last year, come again and bring a friend.

The Prayer Breakfast will be held Sat., January 31, 1987 in the Phoenix Civic Plaza near the Trade Show. We will serve coffee and rolls at 6:30 A.M. and the program will begin at 7:00 A.M. A light buffet will be available in the Civic Plaza at your own cost if you wish more than coffee and rolls.

"Preeminence", a group of young people from the Arizona College of the Bible will fill your ears and hearts with good music and help you wake up, if necessary.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Owen C. Carr, conference speaker, pastor, author and past president of Valley Forge Christian College, Pennsylvania. Prior to all these accomplishments, Mr. Carr founded Channel 38, WCFC-TV in Chicago. He served for more than 40 years in full-time Christian service in Kansas, Illinois, California and in 30 foreign countries.



Owen C. Carr

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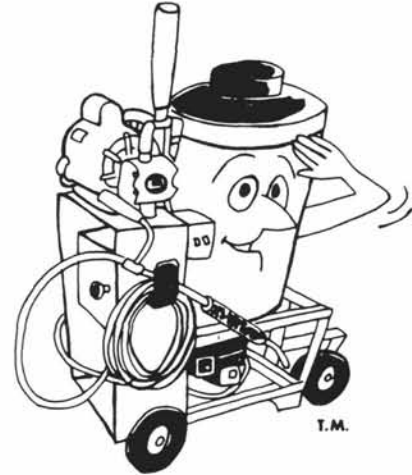
"Twas the night before a tournament, when all through the shed,
Not a creature was stirring, except the hungry seed mouse, Fred.
The mowers aligned by the door with care,
In hopes that St. Do Work, soon would be there.
The players were home all snug in a bed,
While visions of one-putts danced in their heads.
And out on the course the water a whirl,
Grass blades began to happily unfurl.
When out in the pump house there arose such a clatter,
The night watchman drove over to see what was the matter.
Away to the course I flew like a flash,
For the watchman had called and said, "Sir, your pumps are
trash."

As I wondered and pondered the calamity in store,
I was about to open the malevolent door.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature cushman and eight tiny crew deer.
With the driver in coveralls, a hat on his head,
I knew in a minute it must be Big Red.
More rapid than phythium takes course they came,
And he whistled, spit seeds, and called them by name:
"Now Musser! Now Grau! Now, Noer and Sherman!
On Butler! On, King! On Vargas and Nixon!
To the top of the lab! To the front of the class!
Now, dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!
As dry grass leaves before a storm do fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So up to the pump house the researchers they flew,
With the cushman full of ideas, and St. Do Work, too.
And then, in a sprinkling, I heard on the roof,
The wrenching and groaning of ideas gone poof.
But as I stuck my head and was looking around,
Down the air vent, St. Do Work came with a bound.
He was dressed all in denim, from his hat to his foot
And his clothes were mud covered with a dangling grass rot.
A bundle of parts he had flung in his pack
And he looked like a griddler enjoying a sack.
His eyes — how they glistened! His demeanor intense!
His cheeks full of chew, with spitting, a sixth sense.
Yellowish-white beard did hang from his chin,
Up northward the red hear did gradually thin.
A stump of a pencil behind his right ear,
With a battered old notebook stored in the rear.
He had an amative face, with a specimen beer belly,
That was properly conditioned watching sports on the Telly.
He was a paradoxical sort, with his disheveled appearance,
But a magical mind borne true by experience.
A wink of an eye and a nod of his head,
Soon gave me to know I would be returning to bed.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And righted the pumps; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the air vent he rose.
He sprang to his cushman, to his team gave a cheer,
And away they all flew like the foam of a beer.
But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight
"Good tournament to all, and to all a Good Night."

**Credit: Doug Jones, Western Slope Correspondent
Rocky Mountain Reporter 10/85**

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