

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

I am sure everyone is aware by now that our Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the audit committee has proposed a dues increase. The proposed increase will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in November.

Now that you have had a few weeks to think about it, many members are asking the question, "Why do we need a dues increase?" In order to fully understand the need for a dues increase it is first necessary to understand the goals of MAGCS as an organization. Why do we exist?

1. To provide an organized forum for meetings, that allows interaction with fellow professionals as well as others interested in our profession.
2. To provide educational opportunities for our members above and beyond university and national turf conferences.
3. To provide a quality monthly publication that provides information; as well as a vehicle for our members to express themselves.
4. To promote scholarship and research in Illinois as well as on a national level.
5. To act as an intermediary between GCSAA and other national level golf related organizations.
6. To continue to organize ourselves as professionals and promote this perception on a local and national level.

As we all know the Board of Directors has been providing us with all the services mentioned in my brief outline, along with others. In order to maintain this level of service and progress as an organization we do require a dues increase to cover the increased expense of operating.

To better understand this, let us look at the association's financial situation over the past three years.

	1984 Actual	1985 Actual	1986 Budgeted
Income	\$64,399.58	\$76,132.06	\$85,430.80
Expenses	\$50,174.19	\$67,853.26	\$80,940.00
Cash on Hand			
Year End	\$14,225.39	\$ 8,278.80	\$ 4,490.80

As one can see, it is evident that we are depleting our cash reserves at an alarming rate. Why?

1. In order to comply with state and federal laws MAGCS has now become MAGCS Inc. In doing so we have assumed tax liabilities, attorneys fees, and auditing fees.
2. Due to this restructuring, salaried positions within the

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organization were adjusted accordingly.

3. Postage and handling fees have more than doubled in the last two years.

4. Over all operating expenses; which cover office supplies, host superintendent gifts, flowers, hospitality suites, printing of the directory, and operation of the **Bull Sheet**, have all risen dramatically over the past six years.

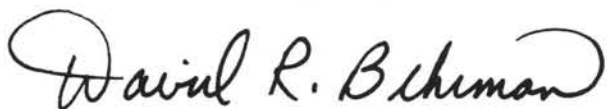
Note: Donations to scholarship and research have not been increased in the past three years nor has there been any expenses incurred due to Public Relations activities.

In short, in order to maintain the association at the level we have all grown accustomed to, we must restructure our dues payment to meet the growing financial requirements.

As our association continues to grow both in size and scope, it is the job of your elected officials to offer suggestions and direction as to where we as an association want to be. Our recommendation of a dues increase after six years is warranted. The combination of increased operating expenses and the desire to progress in order to keep pace with other professional organizations in the golfing community are the primary reasons for a dues increase.

As in any case, the more we as individuals are recognized as professionals the greater our responsibilities become. In retrospect the more professional our organization becomes, the greater the responsibility of its' President and Board of Directors.

We as the leaders of this association see the proposal of a dues increase as a responsibility. A responsibility that we as elected officials have to maintain the professional level of our organization both now and in the future. I am confident that the membership will accept and support the Board on this matter. I also would like to make it clear to every member that the members of the Board of Directors are available to discuss questions concerning the dues increase and that, as always, the financial report concerning the associations activities will be presented at the Annual Meeting. I hope to see you all there.



David R. Behrman, CGCS

Disease Highlights (?) from Summer '86

by R. T. Kane
U of I/CDGA Turf Advisor

Of the many different types of turf diseases I observed this year, several were recurring and potentially destructive problems that should be of general interest to area superintendents. Three major diseases that occurred during the summer of 1986 were: nematode damage on sand topdressed greens, bacterial wilt, and **Poa annua** "decline" in fairways.

Plant parasitic nematodes are present in all soils; however, the damage observed depends on nematode populations and species present, as well as on the severity of stresses imposed on parasitized plants. Severe nematode damage has most often been observed on soil (or soil mix) base greens with a layer of sand topdressing (incl. 80:20) of an inch or more. No

nematode problems on tees or fairways were encountered, although sand topdressed tees may be at risk. Layered sand topdressing apparently favors nematode feeding and population increases because of optimal moisture, aeration, and porosity. Also, severe symptoms may be more likely to occur on sand topdressed greens because of higher surface temperatures, restricted root depth, and rapid water and nutrient fluctuations — all of which can occur in the sand layer and add additional stress to plants.

Nematode infested putting greens may appear yellowed or off color, and have shallow, poorly developed root systems. Infested greens show little or no response to fertilization or other treatments. In some cases, patchy areas of greens are affected since nematodes often feed preferentially on different types of grasses. Also, nematode populations may spread slowly from an initial point, which also can lead to patchy symptoms. Patches may appear yellow or silver grey, and show signs of wilting during the day with recovery overnight. When populations are high (300-1000/100cc of soil) and heat or other stress occurs, plants will rapidly wilt and die, even when soil moisture is high. Severe problems usually occur on one or a few greens per course — those greens that are subject to the greatest stress due to poor location, construction, design, etc. generally go first, although other greens may have developed equally high populations.

Nematode problems are not easily diagnosed. Shallow, swollen roots and patchy wilted areas are clues. The best evidence for nematode problems can only be gained by obtaining a lab analysis of population density. Indirect evidence can also be gained by conducting a nematicide strip test. Recommended nematicides include NemaCur, MocaP, and Dasanit. These products are highly toxic (LD₅₀ 4-60 ppm), must be applied as labelled, and must be drenched into the rootzone to avoid phyto- and mammalian toxicity.

Bacterial wilt was very severe this year on susceptible C-15 bentgrasses. The disease was first observed at the end of May, but became more severe with the high heat and excessive rainfall in early to mid July. The heat and rain provided ideal conditions for disease development since moisture and stress are important contributing factors.

Bacterial wilt was also found (much to my surprise) on old "south German" or "Washington" type bent greens. In these cases, the disease was confined to particular clones or segregants — the entire green did not appear to be in jeopardy. In this form, bacterial wilt can be mistaken for anthracnose, dollar spot, red leaf spot, or other maladies. Greens with a high percentage of **Poa** will quickly fill in, and the problem may go unnoticed. If the disease becomes serious enough, symptom suppression can be obtained with the tetracycline antibiotic Mycoshield.

Hopefully, bacterial wilt has run its course in the Chicago area. However, there are still some clubs with C-15 bentgrass on one or few greens, tees, aprons, or fairways. I have encountered several occurrences of bacterial wilt on courses where reconstruction of 1-3 greens was carried out in the 1960's or 70's and the greens were stolonized or sodded with C-15. The relative isolation of these greens may have delayed the onset of bacterial wilt or slowed the development of severe symptoms until this summer.

Also this summer, I observed several cases where **Poa annua** decline occurred in distinct, small, circular patches. Plants on the edges of the patches were often stunted and yellowed.

(cont'd. page 4)

(Disease Highlights con't.d)

Many times the patch was believed to be due to Pythium blight or Rhyzoctonia brown patch, although no aerial mycelium was seen. At U of I, Dr. Henry Wilkinson was observed similar symptoms in the past, and has found that fungi of the genus **Phialophora** are associated with diseased **Poa**. I also have found several strains of **Phialophora** associated with crown and root rot of **Poa**, with **Poa** decline. **Phialophora** is a fungal genus related to **Gaeumannomyces graminis**, which causes take-all of cereals and grasses, including of course bentgrass (take-all patch). Also, **Phialophora graminicola** is known to cause summer patch of Kentucky bluegrass — formerly part of the "Fusarium blight syndrome".

What may be happening with this type of patchy **Poa** decline is that **Phialophora** — type fungi are disrupting the older, deeper portions of the **Poa** root system, which puts all of the impetus for plant growth on the young, shallow roots. Once temperatures and/or water becomes limiting, affected **Poa** plants "check out". This problem is more severe where soil compaction or wear puts extra stress on **Poa** (e.g. gang mower turnarounds, wet depressions). Further research by Dr. Wilkinson and myself hopefully will elucidate disease mechanisms and possible controls.

Other problems encountered this summer included fairy rings, take-all patch of Penncross bentgrass, anthracnose of bent and **Poa**, and "stimpmeter disease" (not my term). It was a fairly tough summer for growing turf (remember '83?). I am looking forward to a quiet and peaceful autumn ...



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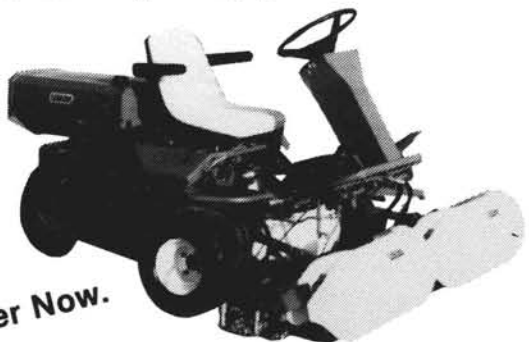
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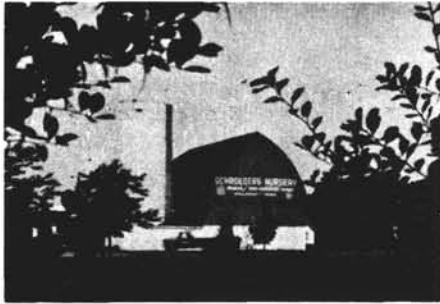
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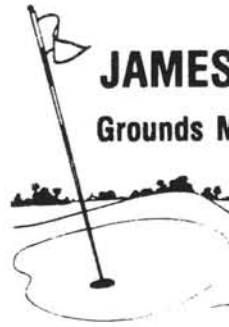
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Bulb Time

by Kathy Gass, Ass't. Horticulturist
U. of I.

Fall is rapidly approaching as we turn the calendar from August to September. Some of the popular activities that take place in the fall include football games, raking leaves and planting our spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs may be planted when the soil temperatures are below 60 degrees Fahrenheit, which generally occurs in September and early October. If by chance the bulb order comes in late, planting can still be successful up until the ground freezes solid.

Bulbs provide an attractive addition to a home landscape, with the best shows being 12 or more bulbs planted in a cluster. These may be along walk ways, under trees or shrubs, or amongst ground cover. Whatever area you choose, make sure the soil has good drainage.

Depth is important when planting. Larger bulbs such as tulips or daffodils need to be planted 6 to 8 inches and spaced 6 inches apart. Smaller bulbs such as crocus, muscari or squill need to be 3 to 5 inches deep from the soil surface and spaced 3 inches apart. A general rule of thumb is to plant 2 to 3 times as deep as the diameter of the bulb. When putting the bulbs in the soil, plant with the pointed side up. Add some bone meal and 10-10-10 fertilizer to encourage strong plants and good rooting. A handful of bone meal to each square foot of rooting area, and 1 rounded teaspoon of fertilizer per square foot will do.

Fill the holes halfway with soil once the bulbs are placed in them. Then water well. After the water has drained away, finish filling the holes with more soil and soak again. Add mulch to the top surface for insulation throughout the winter.

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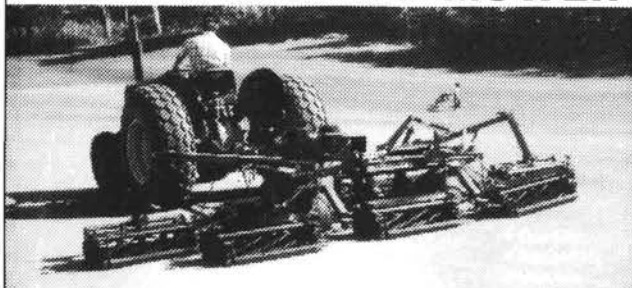
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Trade Secrets

by Paul Voykin, Briarwood C.C.
Deerfield, IL

A few years ago I installed a "Phone-Mate" recorder in my office for those members who live in Chicago (30 miles south of Deerfield) and who wish to know, very early in the morning during an inclement weather situation, the golf course condition, and cart status. It's been a huge success!

I have now become a bit more creative in my weather report to them in the wee hours of the morning. For instance, instead of the usual ... "Hi, this is Paul (or P.V.). The course is closed because of three inches of rain", or whatever, I now say something like this. "Good morning, this is P.V. You have a fragile environment here with billions of living plants called grass, and I am charged by you with their protection and well-being. The ugliness of cart damage does not go well with our wildflowers, trees, and beautiful turf mowed at different heights. So, for today, the course is open but **no carts all day**. Please give me your support." Sometimes my message goes like this. "Good morning, this is P.V., your Conrad from 'The Heart of Darkness'. Every day it's the same ... rain, more rain, and monsoons, and the jungle drums keep beating ... 'Close the course, close the course', but not today. Everything goes; carts all over. Have a nice time." (Sad to say that afternoon I had to close the course again because it rained like everything.) Anyway, most of the members have been delighted by my P.R., but a small percentage, of course, are ready to shoot me.



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Our Experience with Nematodes on Sand Topdressed Greens

by Joel Purpur, Supt.

Bartlett Hills Golf Club, Bartlett, IL

With more and more superintendents switching to sandier soil mixes and topdressings, a variety of uncusomary problems are occurring with greater frequency, with Nematode damage on sandy or sand topdressed greens becoming more common.

During the summer of 1985 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course, we experienced Nematode damage. Symptoms started in mid July when the greens looked weak, chlorotic, and didn't respond well to fertilizer applications @ $\frac{1}{2}$ #/m. Small yellow to yellow orange spots $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter were observed throughout several greens. A closer look at the affected grass plants showed a yellowing starting at the tips of the grass blades progressing inward towards the crown, affecting older leaves first. Larger areas a couple feet in diameter looked more like wilt, but the soil and the turf had plenty of moisture. Other areas resembled patch disease symptoms. Various fungicides were applied and seemed to suppress the "disease", but only for a few days in some cases.

Damage severity also seemed to vary as to the turf species. *Poa annua* was most affected, while the coarser bents seemed least affected. Samples were taken to the University of Illinois Plant Clinic where *Fusarium* spores were found in some of the infected areas, as well as Anthracnose on dead leaves.

The problems persisted so a microscope was purchased to try and find more clues. After viewing a few samples at 105 power, one sample had several Nematodes around the plant ligule. Additional samples were taken at areas which seemed to be in the same stage of decline and Nematodes were again found.

Soil samples to a 6" depth were sent to U of I for a Nematode count and to find out if the Nematodes were parasitic or just fungi feeders working on *Fusarium* spores.

Theoretically, Nematode damage made sense as far as yellowing turf not responding well to fertilizer or fungicides. Spots that looked like patch diseases could have been disease moving in on weak turf or diseases brought on from plant fluids in the soil by turf injured from feeding. Damage to the turfgrass circulatory system by enzyme secretions during feeding causes galls, lesions, lateral roots, and kills meristematic tissue would possibly account for some areas looking like wilt. *Poa annua* being most seriously affected may simply be the weakest variety showing damage first.

Results from the plant clinic indicated parasitic Nematodes were present. Stunt (*Tylenchorhynchus*) and Ring (*Criconemoides*) Nematodes had the highest counts. Recommendations stated: "The number of Nematodes present are believed inadequate to affect production of the crop to be grown."

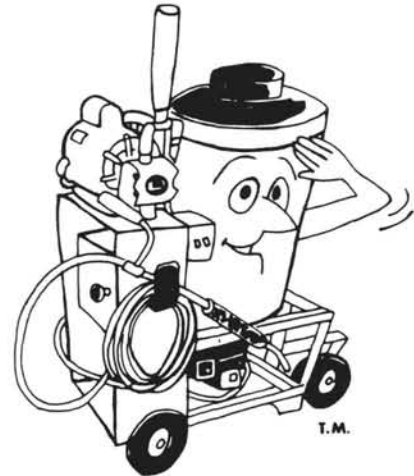
C.D.G.A.'s Dr. Randy Kane has seen an increase in incidents of Nematodes on greens, mainly on old greens with a clay base on a sand topdressing program. Dr. Kane pointed out that since Nematodes prefer sandy soil, sending a sample with 1" of sand and 5" of soil may dilute the sample if the concentration of Nematodes is only in the sand layer.

Not having a great deal of experience with Nematodes, a number of questions came to mind: Were the Nematodes brought in with the topdressing since lateral movement of the

(cont'd. page 11)

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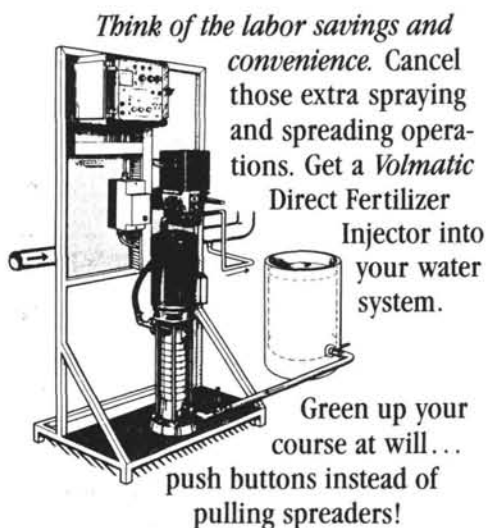
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