

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

Continuing education is important to us throughout the year, particularly during the winter months when we have more available time to participate. Whether it is simply in the form of perusing magazine articles, or attending an International Turfgrass Conference, both contribute to the learning process. In the profession of golf course management, the necessity for continuing education is increasing at a rapid rate. One needs not to look far to see all the educational opportunities that are available to us. The M.A.G.C.S./G.C.S.A.A. regional seminars held recently at Pheasant Run Resort are a good example. A total of 80 people attended, with 58 in "Basic Turfgrass Botany and Physiology", and 22 in "Irrigation II: Systems Design and Management". The botany and physiology seminar presented by Dr. James Beard and Dr. Jeffrey Krans continued a good review of basic botany principles, and covered current data that is on the leading edge of turfgrass research technology. I felt the quality of information presented during those two days could not be attained anywhere else. To actually be present, one on one, with the most reknown turfgrass researchers in the world, was truly a learning experience that I will remember for sometime. I'm sure many superintendents, including myself, will be modifying their programs in some fashion, according to the new research data and recommendations.

We must take advantage of the various educational opportunities that surround us, first by attending, and then by getting involved in the program. A general discussion, or question and answer session, is vital to the learning process, and stimulates thought that would not occur by simply reading a book. Taking notes during the seminar is helpful. Upon returning to work, write a brief summary report highlighting the most important points of interest and keep them in a file for later use. Not all of the learning is accomplished in the classroom either. The social gathering and conversation that occurs during break or over lunch can lead to a variety of interesting topics that can be quite beneficial.

Reviewing the educational programs in the area, one starts to realize the potential. The N.C.T.E. provides a wide variety of programs and topics which become bigger and better each year. Purdue University and M.R.T.F. have presented a comprehensive two day turf conference for many years. In fact, many universities with turf programs, such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio State, Michigan State, Penn State, etc., have annual turf conferences. The Chicago District Golf Association presents a half-day seminar on timely turf topics each spring.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd from page 2)

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents presented an excellent one day forum entitled "Computers in Golf Course Management" during November of 1986. The M.A.G.C.S., Inc. monthly meetings also provide good educational speakers and timely topics. The list goes on.

The number of conferences, seminars, and meetings held during recent years, in my opinion, have steadily increased both in quantity and quality. This trend indicates that our industry is rapidly changing, and has resulted in an increased demand for pertinent information. There is valid concern that we may be unable to keep step with the pace. The deeper we delve into the subject of turfgrass science utilizing basic research as the spearhead, the less it seems we actually know for fact. Many of the basic principles of turfgrass science that we accepted as fact twenty years ago, do not stand true today. For example, look at how our management practices have changed regarding fairway maintenance just in the last three years. We are on the threshold of major research break throughs and subsequent modification of our management practices and theories. We have made many advances in recent years, but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

Make an effort to get involved with all that is happening in this industry. Demonstrate to your club officials and members that you are exerting an effort to try and keep up with the ever-changing world of golf course management. It will not only benefit you personally, but it is going to benefit the entire club and the turfgrass industry. The next time someone asks you, "What do you do in the winter?", you'll be better prepared to answer them.

James E. Evans

Ray Schmitz Biography

Ray Schmitz has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Flossmoor Country Club since 1978 and has worked on golf courses since 1964. His experience goes back to Hickory Hills Country Club where he worked for 6 years as the Golf Course Superintendent after graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. Degree in Agronomy and Soils. During the time he was at Hickory Hills he oversaw the construction of Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort. When Green Garden was finished the owners of Hickory Hills Country Club sold that operation and devoted their energies to running Green Garden Country Club.

Part of that deal was that Ray Schmitz would go to Green Garden as the new Golf Course Superintendent. He stayed there for another 6 years until 1978 when he moved to Flossmoor Country Club. Ray is currently in the second year of a two-year term as an MAGCS Director and is the official **Bull Sheet** photographer.

Ray is married and has 3 sons, all of which have either worked for Ray at Flossmoor or are currently working there for him now. His hobbies include computer science and he is currently involved in a bowling league and a golf league.

MAGCS Directors Column Golf Handicaps

In recent years the MAGCS has required a current golf handicap in order to participate in our monthly golf outings. Handicaps are designed to be a great equalizer among golfers allowing the less skilled to play on equal terms with the very skilled. A players golf handicap can be obtained in two ways. One way is through the service offered at ones home club or through the MAGCS golf chairman. The Golf Chairman enters all scores turned into him and sends them to a computer service called GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network) located in New Jersey. They in turn compute the handicaps and provide a weekly printout for subscribing MAGCS members.

To determine a handicap a golfer must play a minimum of 5 rounds. Ideally the best 10 scores of the 20 most recent scores are averaged and compared with the USGA course rating. Course rating — how is it figured? Simply by the number of strokes a 0 handicap player registers during a round of golf on a given course. This figure is the course rating in simple terms.

Let's put the facts to work to determine a handicap. Course rating is 72. A players average for 10 rounds is 90. In 10 rounds the player averages 18 strokes over the course rating ($90 - 72 = 18$). The USGA Handicap rules now tell us to take the 18 (crude handicap) and multiply by 10, $= 180$. Now the rules say to take 96% of this figure, $180 \times 96\% = 172.8$ or 17.2 for each round. Handicaps do not deal in fractions so we round off this figure to 17. The players handicap is 17. The handicaps strokes are deducted from the gross score at the end of the round to provide the net score. The national handicap average for a serious amateur is 17 for men and 31 for women.

Sound confusing? It is much easier just to tell the MAGCS golf chairman that you want a golf handicap. He will enter your score into the GHIN Handicap System and let a computer do all the work. Your only responsibility is to provide all scores so the handicap is kept current or one is defeating the purpose for which it is intended. This is just one of the services provided by YOUR MAGCS.

**Ray Schmitz, CGCS
Flossmoor C.C.**



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Acer saccharinum.....Maple-Silver.....	3
Acer saccharum.....Maple-Sugar-hard.....	5½
Aesculus hippocastanum.....Horse-Chestnut.....	8
Aesculus octandra.....	5
Betula nigra.....Birch-river.....	3½
Betula pendula.....Birch-silver.....	5
Carya ovata.....Hickory-shagbark.....	7½
Fagus grandifolia.....Beech-American.....	6
Fagus sylvatica.....Beech-common.....	4
Fraxinus americana.....Ash-white.....	5
Fraxinus pennsylvanica.....Ash-green.....	4
Gymnocladus dioica.....Coffee.....	3
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Liquidambar styraciflua.....Sweet Gum.....	4
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Picea abies.....Spruce-Norway.....	5
Picea pungens Glauca.....Spruce-Canadian-White.....	4½
Pinus nigra.....Pine-river.....	4½
Pinus resinosa.....Pine-Norway.....	5½
Pinus strobus.....Pine-White.....	5
Pinus sylvestris.....Pine-Scotch.....	3½
Platanus occidentalis.....Sycamore.....	4
Prunus serotina.....Cherry.....	5
Pseudotsuga menziesii.....Douglas Fir.....	5
Pyrus calleryana.....Bradford-Pear.....	3
Quercus alba.....Oak-White.....	5
Quercus coccinea.....Oak-Scarlet.....	4
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The Indiana Golf Course Superintendents Association and GCSAA are pleased to announce the presentation of "Basic Horticultural Methods" on Monday, February 23, 1987, at the Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Nick Christians, Association Professor of Horticulture at Iowa State University, will instruct this introductory program covering the basic principles of horticulture with examples specific to turfgrass management. Plant identification, establishment and propagation will be covered to include the principles of fertilization, irrigation, seeding methods and mineral nutrition. This course is an excellent review for turf managers who need a refresher course as well as for superintendents needing to tie together practical knowledge and scientific principles.

Attendance at this seminar will earn participants one Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and a Certificate of Achievement from GCSAA. Space is limited and registrations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Refunds will be allowed only for WRITTEN cancellations received at GCSAA Headquarters two weeks in advance of the seminar.

For more information and registration form, write to: GCSAA Regional Seminars, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66046.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Seminar registrants are responsible for their own overnight accommodations. A special rate has been negotiated with the Holiday Inn North: \$65 for a double; \$55 for a single. A reservation form identifying you as a seminar participant will be forwarded with your letter of confirmation.

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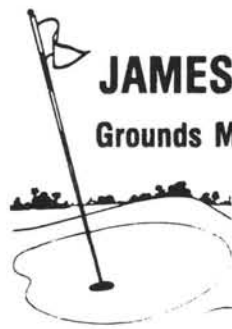
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Dr. James Watson Receives Man of the Year Award

Dr. James Watson, vice president of customer relations and agronomist for The Toro Company, Minneapolis, MN, has been named 1986 Man of the Year by both **Landscape and Irrigation** and **Weeds, Trees, and Turf** magazine.

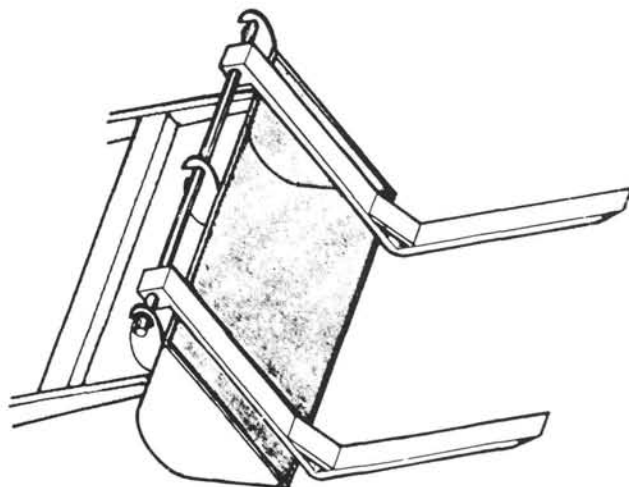
Watson, 66 is one of the nation's leading figures in the development of the turfgrass industry. He was the first person in the country to receive a Ph.D. in turfgrass science, which he earned in 1950 at Penn State University. Since then, Watson has been one of the industry's leading proponents of the need to research water conservation and turf management.

Since joining Toro in 1952, Watson has been part of the company's product development team. "He has been a real source of innovation," said Ken Melrose, president of the Toro Company. "Having an agronomist advising us on trends has given us a great advantage. He is very much involved in product development, distributor relations and customer service."

Watson is a "fellow" in the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society, and is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture for the University of Minnesota.

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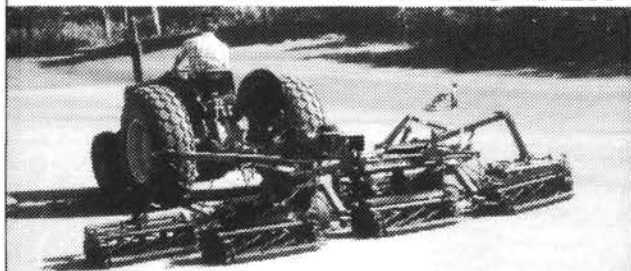
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Ken Zanzig (right) receives "The Charles Bartlett Award" from Dudley Smith

Charles Bartlett Award to Ken Zanzig

The M.A.G.C.S. Charles Bartlett Award came out of retirement and was presented to Kenneth R. Zanzig at the January meeting. The award is in memory of our friend, the former golf editor of the Chicago Tribune. Charles Bartlett's column, the "Locker Room" appeared weekly in the Sunday Tribune. Bartlett, like Herb Graffis, promoted the efforts of the golf course superintendent, but maintained we must do our own public relations. The greenkeeper must shed his overalls, mingle, be seen and listened to. The tribute recognizes an outstanding feat in oratory or journalism by a Midwest member. Past winners include Paul Voykin, Oscar Miles, Norman Kramer, Ray Gerber, Robert Williams, and Julius Albaugh.

Ken Zanzig started his golf career with Leonard "Brownie" DeBruyn at the Ridge Country Club in 1950. He was superintendent for John Curtis at Walnut Hills G.C. until the course was sub-divided. In 1986 Ken Zanzig retired as superintendent of Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort, Illinois. In 1978 Ray Gerber published an original poem by Zanzig in the **Bull Sheet**. Since that time each issue has contained a Zanzig inspiration. In recognition of his wit, integrity, and artistic ability the Midwest Association honors our "poet laureate" with the Charles Bartlett Award.

"February Magic"

February! The shortest month of the Year,

Where mid-winter magic doth appear.

From Ground-Hog predictions thru Valentine Day,

The Month has a habit of slipping away.

While in the midst of Winter's cold sting,

Thoughts leap ahead, anticipating Spring.

Happiness is knowing, before very long,

All of Nature will be singing Spring's song.

Kenneth R. Zanzig



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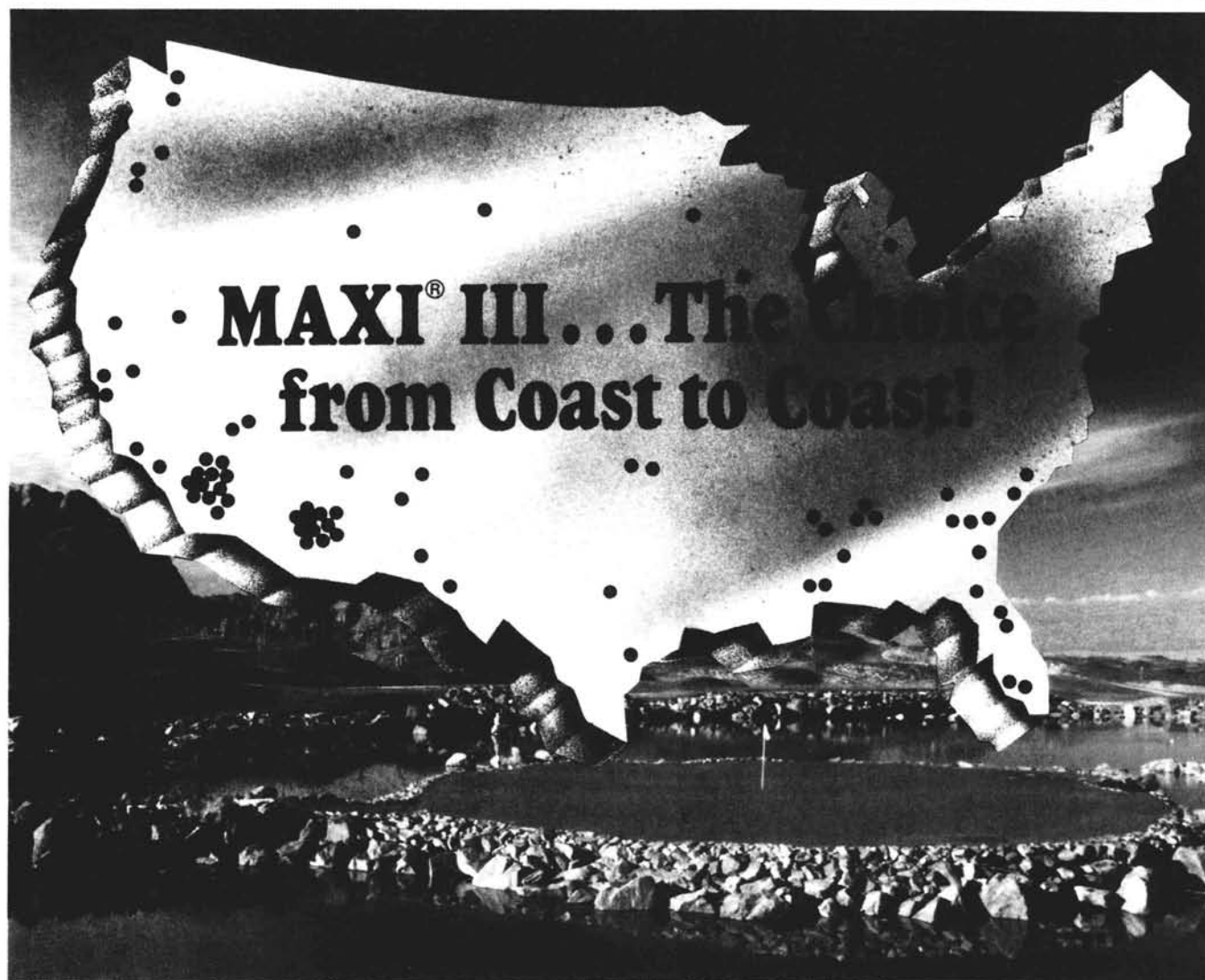
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