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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, through its Arrangements Committee, is in the process of establishing a tentative monthly meeting schedule for the next year, 1988. It is, once again, our goal to arrange a geographically balanced schedule with a variety of golf courses for all MAGCS members to enjoy. If you are interested in offering your time and your club or facility for such an event; complete, clip and return the form below to:

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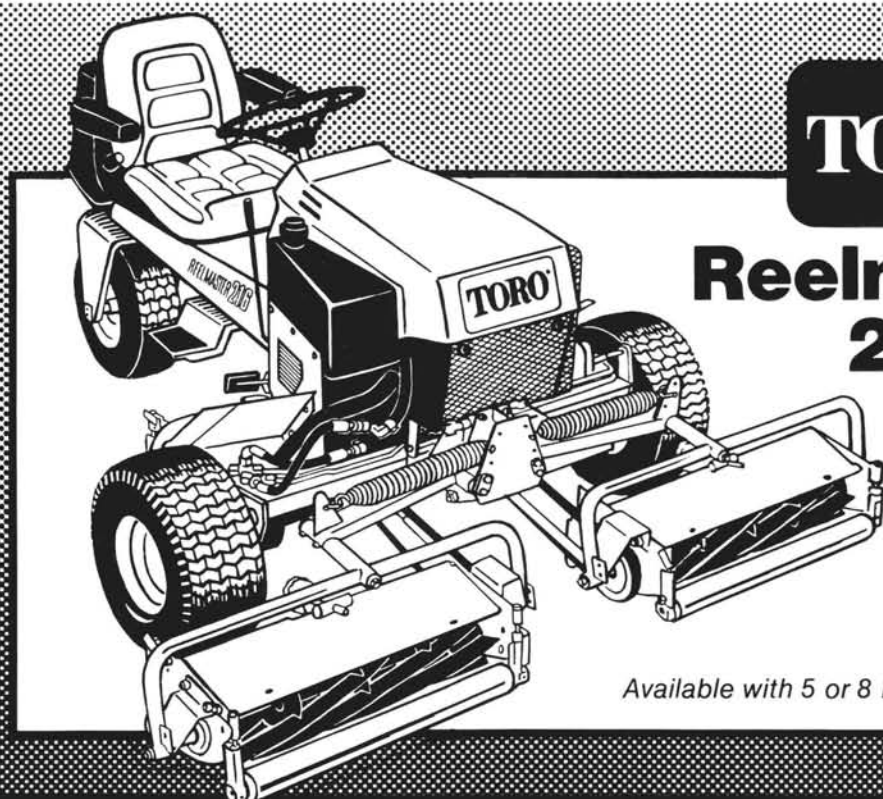
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

November 4 — MAGCS Annual Meeting at Cyprus Inn

November 9-11 — Penn State Turf Conference

December 8-10 — NCTE at Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL

January 5-6 — GCSAA & MAGCS Seminars at Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL

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Congratulations to Ed & Sue Braunsky on the birth of Benjamin Stadler on September 29, 1987. Benjamin weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces and stretched out to his full length of 19½ inches.

We would like to thank some of our commercial friends for providing a more pleasant golf outing by sponsoring the following this past year:

Thank You **Illinois Lawn** for the hors d'oeuvres at Turnberry.

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Thank You **BoJo** and **Christensen Power Equipment** for the hors d'oeuvres and beverages on the course.

Thank You **Nadler Golf Car Sales** for the lunch at Woodstock C.C.

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Reflects those Beautiful Leaves, gone Tomorrow.

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Their Falling draws no Song of Cheer.

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Thanksgiving seems to say it all,

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Kenneth R. Zanzig

Alumni Golf Event

On a cool, crisp autumn day in the rolling hills of extreme northern Illinois, the MAGCS held the annual Alumni Golf Event. Woodstock Country Club provided the perfect venue with its country charm and lightning fast greens. Former two time champion, Purdue University, along with defending champion Penn State, were there in force.

After two hours around the demanding layout, scores were posted, and as people milled around the scoreboard, a new champion was crowned. The Spartans of Michigan State, led by Paul Mayes, Craig Marfia, Pat Mertz and Paul Wagner posted a five shot victory over defending champ, Penn State. Congratulations to the Spartans on a well deserved triumph, but do not become complacent in victory. After dinner that night, I heard disgruntled team captains: Ed Fischer, Pete Leuzinger, Jim Evans and Phil Taylor remark they were bringing out all their “Big Guns” next year.

David C. Louttit
1987 Golf Chairman

10 Years Ago — 1977

The **Bull Sheet's** fiscal year ended October 31st, 1977. It has been a good year financially. The publication has grown to twenty pages. This was made possible by our advertisers and the great job and interest the printer, **Ever-Redi**, has been doing for the past thirty-one years. Have **you** done your part? If you are one of the 3% from a membership of approximately 350, then the answer is yes. What about the other 97%? The editor's answer is no. This publication comes to **you** twelve times a year and is costing you nothing. The cost to have it delivered in your mail box is \$1.54 per issue. You are getting a gift of \$18.48 each year from the **Bull Sheet**. The editor feels it is not asking too much of you to send in news items that would be of educational value to others or interesting happenings at your club or wherever the place may be.

If you do not appreciate receiving the **Bull Sheet**, please let me know and I will remove your name from the mailing list. While I am on the mailing subject — when any of you have a change of address please let me know and not expect the post office to do it for you. The post office charges the **Bull Sheet** twenty-five cents for their service. This is getting to be a real costly item. If you cannot afford a thirteen cent stamp, let me know and I will reimburse you.

Remember, the **Bull Sheet** is not a Gerber publication. It belongs to the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts. So let me hear from you 97% who have been silent.

The annual M.A.G.C.S. golf tournament held at Calumet C.C. on Oct. 13 was well attended. 46 played golf on a beautiful conditioned golf course made possible by Supt. James Mitter. All 46 players won a prize. The big championship was won by Douglas Spaulding, from Woodmar C.C. with a score of 75 gross. Bob Kronn, from Rolling Green C.C. was 2nd with a 78. Bob Williams, supt. at Bob O'Link G.C. took home the Senior's Trophy due to a score of 81 gross.

62 enjoyed a wonderful dinner along with several hours of true friendship. Being a senior myself, I could not leave out another senior, Ben Kronn, supt. at Twin Orchard C.C. who posted a score of 86 and carried home the number 2 prize.

Water: Strategy, Function and Beauty

by Bob Lohmann and Jim Rodgers

A golf course consists of many elements that create settings of great beauty. Features such as rolling terrain, sand, trees, and mounds can provide breathtaking scenes and challenging golf holes. However, there is no view as scenic or intimidating to a golfer as a pond tucked up close to a green, or a lake that must be cleared on the drive.

Water has always been the most powerful feature in the design of golf courses. One of the best known examples of a water hazard is the infamous No. 17 at the Tournament Players Club in Sawgrass. Despite measuring only 132 yards from the back tees, the isolated green in the middle of large lake intimidates even the pros. No doubt, this hole would look spectacular on any calendar, but it is just too demanding for a large number of golfers. The only conservative way to play this hole is to putt the ball across the earthen bridge leading to the green.

Another famous water hole is the 16th at Cypress Point. It offers a spectacular view of the ocean and demands a great tee shot to reach the green. However, the difference between these two holes is that No. 16 offers a safer route of play to the left of the green. The golfer may not make par, but he can play the hole with some dignity.

During the initial stages of laying out a golf course, it is important to determine where water would be best located on the site. When a coastline is available, it is desirable to route as many golf holes along it as possible. Because the most dramatic holes will be located here, it is preferable to use the coast on both the front and back nines. An excellent example of this is the Pebble Beach Golf Links on the Monterey Peninsula. Here, the golfer is led to the ocean on two separate occasions. Holes No. 7 — 10 run along the rocky coast; then the golfer heads inland before returning to the ocean on No. 17 and 18. This kind of routing creates balance throughout his round. Where no coastline is available, water should be located in lowlands and flat areas where drainage might become a problem.

When using water as a design feature, it is important to consider the average golfer's perception of water. To him, a pond will appear three times the size it really is. He can try to put it out of his mind and play his normal shot, but more often than not, he will send his ball to a watery grave. The fact that it will cost him strokes is bad enough, but it also represents money out of his pocket in terms of lost balls.

Often water serves only to terrify the average golfer and to offer no deterrent to the low handicapper. It is best not to position water right in front of a tee. This leads the duffer to top his drive into the water and cause him even more frustration than he already has. Whenever possible, ponds should be placed laterally to the golf hole, near the ideal position to approach the green. The pro then has the option to flirt with disaster in order to set up an easier second shot. More importantly, it gives the average golfer the option to play safely away from the hazard. He may require an extra shot to get to the green, but he can keep his ball dry.

A good example of lateral placement is the cut-off hole. With good distance and great accuracy, the golfer can shave distance off the hole and require a shorter iron to the green. However, he may elect the more conservative route leading to an easy bogie. This strategic positioning of water makes not only a challenging golf hole, but also a fair one.

Another situation where strategic water placement makes a good golf hole is on a double dogleg Par 5. Here, the golfer has the option to approach the hole in three different ways.

1. He can go for broke and maybe reach the green in two.
 2. He can play conservatively, trying to position his ball for a Par 5.
 3. He can play well away from the water and take bogie.
- Once again, playing the hole requires thought and proves challenging to all levels of golfers.

The most intriguing use of strategic water placement is an alternate route golf hole. Here, the golfer must make a definite decision as to how he wants to play the hole. If he successfully drives his ball into the landing area surrounded by water, he has a much easier second shot and a good chance to make birdie. Yet, the option to play safe always remains.

A Par 3 makes an excellent hole to use water. The contoured green can follow the water's edge on one side and allow for a variety of pin placements, ranging from relatively easy to very difficult. If an extra degree of beauty is desired, the water's edge can be defined by a retaining wall or rocks.

Sharp doglegs that offer no deterrent to going for the green often slow down play as golfers must wait for the group ahead to reach the green, and then perhaps spend more time looking for their balls somewhere in the rough. To prevent this, one might be tempted to plant a large number of trees. But, it will take 20 years for them to develop into a suitable deterrent, and golfers will still spend time looking for their balls. One solution is the construction of a pond at the corner of the dogleg which can provide an immediate hazard. If balls are hit into the water, golfers know it right away and can continue to play, which will alleviate slow play.

In addition to the aesthetic benefit, ponds must sometimes be excavated to solve drainage problems. Because land values are steadily increasing, golf courses are often constructed in low flat areas not suitable for any other purpose. As a result, greens become flooded and fairways never dry out properly. This problem can be solved by digging a pond and using some of the excavated soil to build up the fairways. This method, coupled with the installation of drain tile in key locations, can alleviate the problem.

A water hazard placed near an access road also becomes an excellent calling card to the passer-by. The picturesque setting can first capture his eye, then make him realize that a golf course with water can pose a formidable challenge.

In summary, when introducing water to a golf course, it is necessary to locate it where the site dictates. Always make sure the water becomes a strategic element in the design of the course and not a monster ready to devour the intimidated golfer. In addition, a pond should be properly constructed so there are no detractions from its potential beauty. These principles will lead to water that provides a challenge to the golfer as well as a splendid view that he will remember long after playing the course.

Editor's Note: A native of Illinois, Jim Rodgers received a Bachelor of Environmental Design from Miami University of Ohio in 1985. For the past 1½ years, he has worked on the staff of Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc., actively involved in designing, building, and remodeling golf courses.

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Groundcovers for Special Situations

by Gary Knosher

Production Manager, Midwest Groundcovers

A well maintained turf is a compliment to any landscape. Turf's ability to withstand foot traffic and take mowing at low heights, yet look like a dense green carpet, certainly is desirable.

But there are situations where turf is not the answer. Perhaps soil conditions, or a dense shade hinder turf's performance. May be a steep slope makes mowing difficult or dangerous. These situations would lead to a cultural decision for using groundcovers over turf. In this brief article some of the problem areas will be identified and suggestions made as to what groundcover would do best in that situation.

When working with wet areas, consideration should be given to the degree of moisture present. If the area is submerged in water in the spring of the year, but bone dry in July and August, not many plants can survive these extremes. However, if the area stays consistently moist throughout the year (as it would on the edge of a pond), the Creeping Buttercup, *Ranunculus repens*, would be a good choice. This is a vigorously growing, herbaceous groundcover that takes full sun to partial shade. It grows to a height of 10 inches, with bright yellow flowers sticking above the foliage in May. Redosier Dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera*, would also do well on a stream bank or the edge of a pond. Cultivar variances give a choice of heights from 24 inches to six feet. Dogwood will tolerate sun or shade and have brightly colored twigs in winter. If the area is consistently moist throughout the year, but not wet, Plaintain Lily, *Hosta*, or Daylilies, *Hemerocallis*, would do well. *Hostas*, with their showy foliage, could be used in shady areas, while in full sun

or partial shade, *Hemerocallis* varieties offer a wide range of flower colors, heights and times.

Just the opposite of wet areas are sunny, dry locations. Once again, there are areas that are so dry nothing can survive. If the soil drains freely, the landscape contractor should do what he can to improve it by incorporating peat moss or other organic matter. Also, mulching with bark or compost will aid in soil moisture retention. The succulent nature of *Sedum* and *Sempervivum*, or Hens & Chicks, allows them to thrive in areas that are too dry for other plants. Both of these species have showy flowers ranging in color from yellow to white to deep red. Some varieties of *Sedum* such as *album*, *acre* and *sarmentosum* can become invasive, so they may need to be restrained. *Sedum* and *Sempervivum* are both good groundcovers for sunny, dry locations. Another plant, which has potential for this type of area is Pussytoes, *Antennaria roseum*. This plant forms a dense, even blue mat two to four inches tall, and has creamy white flower clusters in May. The plant is native to the Rocky Mountains and thrives in gravelly, poor soils. At the nursery, we are evaluating this plant for introduction in the near future. If the area being considered is well drained, but has no particular drought constrictions, Junipers will do very well. Groundcover-type Junipers come in all kinds of colors, textures and sizes. They offer evergreen foliage and are very winter hardy.

Problem areas with poor soils usually have heavy clay, compacted soils, rocky or gravelly soils low in organic matter. Before planting the landscape contractor should do what he can to improve soil tilth. Plants that can survive these conditions usually need to be vigorous growers. Crownvetch (*Coronilla varia*)

(cont'd. on page 19)

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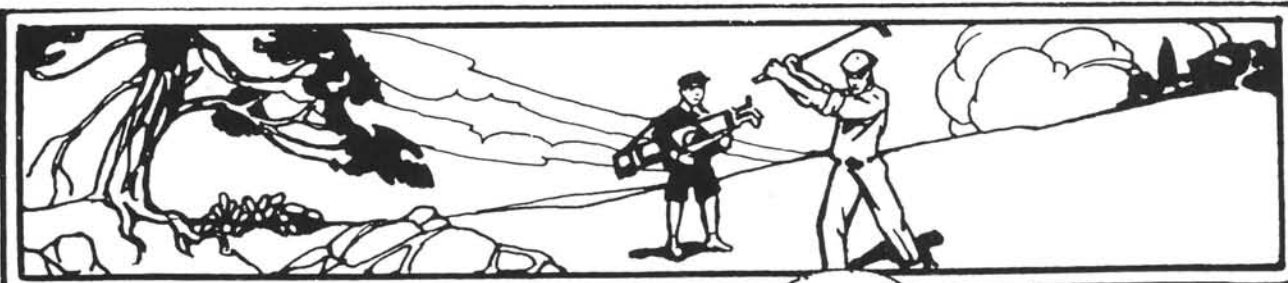
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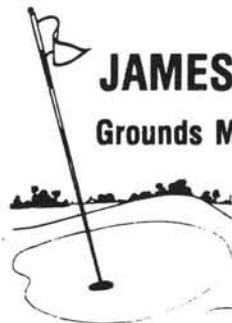
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(Groundcovers cont'd.)

and Birdfoot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) have been used by the highway departments for roadside plantings for many years. The plants' ability to grow in compacted soils, choke out weeds and provide good erosion control make them ideal for overpass plantings. However, because of their growth habit, they may not be attractive if used in the home landscape. Halls Honeysuckle vine, *Lonicera japonica halliana*, is a vigorously growing vine that overcomes poor soils. It has creamy white, fragrant flowers and a semi-evergreen habit if protected. The nodes of the vines will root wherever they touch the soil, making it good for bank plantings also. Variegated Goutweed, *Aegopodium podagraria variegata*, is a deeply rooted herbaceous groundcover that tolerates poor soils. Because of its vigorous nature, it may need to be restrained.

If the situation calls for erosion control on a bank, *Lonicera japonica halliana* or *Coronilla varia*, as mentioned before, could be used. Also *Juniperus horizontalis* varieties with their evergreen foliage and ability to root along stem make them a good choice. Purpleleaf Wintercreeper, *Euonymus fort. Col-oratus*, is an especially excellent groundcover for banks because of its persistent foliage (which turns purple in the winter), vigorous growth habit, and ability to root along the stem where it touches the soil. Low-spreading deciduous shrubs such as *Cotoneaster apiculata*, *Diervilla trifida* and *Rhus aromatica* would also be good choices. There are many plants that could be used for this purpose, it would just depend on the other cultural conditions and aesthetic requirements.

When the landscape situation calls for a barrier, there are plants that are good groundcovers, and also act as barriers because of their thorny nature. The Ornamental Raspberry, *Rubus illeceebrosus*, has a mature height of 18 to 24 inches. It is quite dense and thorny, making it difficult to walk through. Because of its vigorous growth rate and ability to spread by underground stolons, it also works well on bank plantings. The foliage is bright green and the plant has an herbaceous habit. However, the dried foliage and stems persist all winter, making it partially effective throughout the year. The flowers are white followed by a red raspberry-like fruit which is taken by the birds. Another plant which fits the bill is Memorial Rose *Rose Wichuriana*. It is a groundcover-type rose having a height of 6 to 12 inches and bright green glossy foliage. The flowers are white, single and about one inch in diameter. It is a vigorous grower with many thorns along the stem.

If the area is too shady for turf, there are many groundcovers which thrive in shade, even deep shade. Japanese Spurge, *Pachysandra terminalis*, is probably the most widely used groundcover in shade for many good reasons. It tolerates deep shade and forms a dense evergreen mat six inches in height. *Hosta* also prefers shade to partial shade. There is a wide variation of leaf colors and sizes, and also in the mature height of this plant. Barren Strawberry, *Waldsteinia ternata*, is a very good groundcover for the shade. It has dark green, glossy foliage with bright yellow flowers in May. The mature height is about six inches and is evergreen in nature. Primrose, *Primula veris*, also has yellow flowers in May, and has attractive leathery, green leaves. This list is almost endless when it comes to shade-tolerant groundcovers.

Credit: OGA Notes, Fall 1986

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Balmoral Woods Photos



Golf Tournament Winners left to right: Dave Davis from E-Z Go/Textron Class E; Ed Smith, Lake Forest, Senior; Jeff Nack, Springbrook G.C., Class B; Bob Kronn, LaGrange C.C., Championship Flight; Steve Van Acker, Rolling Greens C.C., Class C; Gerald Arden, Old Orchard C.C., Class A.



Good to see Roscoe Randell at our meeting!



Who's the guy wearing a hat during dinner?



Dave Behrman presenting the host plaque to Bob Morrell.

National Golf Foundation Expands Efforts in Golf Course Development

JUPITER, Fla. — The National Golf Foundation today announced the details of a highly intensified program to stimulate the development of new golf courses where needed, in the United States. The program will be implemented by the newly created golf course development department within the Foundation, and headed by Dr. Joseph Beditz, who has been promoted to executive vice president of the NGF. The announcement was made by NGF President and CEO David B. Hueber.

"This expanded commitment to golf course development is in direct response to the findings and recommendations of the NGF Commission for the Development of Public Golf Courses," said Hueber. "The Commission cited the need for a central source of information and assistance for communities and developers interested in creating new golf facilities and they felt the NGF, with an expanded role in their golf development services, would be the logical source."

The efforts of the new golf course development department will be focused in four areas: market research, to identify communities in need of additional public golf courses; marketing and promotion, to identify and contact key decision makers in these communities; golf course development services, covering all aspects of development from feasibility studies and financing, to operational planning and implementation; and finally, the provision of technical assistance to existing facilities experiencing operational problems.

Working with the NGF in these efforts will be Mr. Joe Noll, the outgoing president of the National Golf Association and a private consultant. Working out of offices at NGF headquarters, Noll will assist the NGF in the area of private club development. Other staff changes announced today include the transfer of Anthony Crocco, NGF research associate, to the position of golf course development study director. NGF's Vice President of Golf Course Development, Joe Much, will continue in his capacity as senior consultant for public course development.

"In addition to this fine staff of experts we have also established a strong, active network of related businesses interested in new golf course development," said Hueber. "We will be able to offer all of these resources to communities interested in building new courses."

The NGF Commission for the Development of Public Golf Courses issued a report to GOLF SUMMIT '86 this past October, stating that between 200 and 400 new courses need to be created annually over the next 13 years to meet anticipated demand from new golfers. The current rate of course development is only netting the U.S. about 100 new courses each year.

The Commission also cited the need for emphasis on the development of low-cost, low-maintenance courses that will translate into affordable green fees for public golfers. They called on the NGF to act as facilitator for the industry, to develop new ideas for funding and developing these needed golf facilities.

The National Golf Foundation, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1986, includes in its membership more than 500 golf product companies; national, state and local golf associations; golf course architects and builders; golf publications; and more than 3,000 golf courses across the United States.

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