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## President's Message

August 3 - .65 inches of rain; August 5 - 1.6"; August 10 - 3.55"; August 17 - 1.15"; August 22 - 1.6". The list goes on for a total of 11.85 inches of rain for the month of August, a new record for one month. I'm sure I don't have to remind anyone of this year's awful weather, but these numbers were from August 1979. Previous records were from September 1970 - 11.65" and from August 1972 - 11.10". I also don't think the Marriott Lincolnshire or Chevy Chase will soon forget the floods they had in September 1986. Of course this year's August rain totals were in the neighborhood of 20". After a foot or so though does anyone really count.

Are we to consider all these rains 100 year rains? They certainly were all publicized as such. If so and assuming the current statistics are accurate then we are most assuredly due for a very long dry spell.

At this point I'm sure everyone reading this is saying "OK, so what's your point?" I'm not sure I had a point when I began, I was just going to rely on my rights of literary license. If there is a point to be made it's that we as Golf Course Superintendents are constantly challenged by mother nature whether its floods, drought, ice, snow, lightning or some other phenomenon.

At the onset of each "crisis" most Superintendents probably react similarly. Their first inclination is to complain and moan about how unfair mother nature is and after this brief period they begin to start to figure out how best to put the pieces back together. I would like to remind everyone that one of the benefits of being a member in an association such as MAGCS is being able to attend a monthly meeting or call a fellow member and share your misery and solutions.

On a lighter note, I hope all our members were able to enjoy the festive Holiday season without over indulging too much. I also would like to thank Al Fierst and the education committee for the fine job they did in putting together this year's Midwest Clinic at the NCTE and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our National Conference in Houston.

**Mike Nass, CGCS**

## Director's Column



### Presenting a Positive Image for Golf Course Superintendents

by Bruce Williams, Bob O'Link G.C.

We are all proud of our chosen profession. Each and every golf course superintendent puts forth their best effort to meet the demands of today's golfers. There are times however, when we feel we don't get enough respect. The MAGCS Finance and Publicity Committee will work on programs this year to present a positive and professional image of its members to the golfing public.

We will strive to develop a high profile for our members and the complexity of golf course management. We will continue the efforts of previous committees and develop new ideas and public relations programs. We have come a long way over the last several decades in improving our image. Now is the time to keep moving in the right direction and let the golf world know the importance of the golf course superintendent.

Oscar Miles will be hosting the Western Open in 1988 and has been instrumental in presenting a positive image for the golf course superintendent. He is very enthusiastic about hosting the MAGCS Hospitality Tent at this year's tournament. Jim Evans developed some literature that explains the role of the golf course superintendent and we will again make these available to the public.

The Illinois PGA is making an effort to improve the relationship between the professionals and superintendents. In 1987 the MAGCS was represented by Roger Stewart, Al Fierst, and Bruce Williams at an Illinois PGA Seminar. Through mutual respect we will continue to work with allied associations and present a positive image of the golf course superintendent. We hope that the Illinois PGA will continue to seek our input in an effort to educate their members about the complex nature of golf course management.

The Chicago District Golf Association kicks off each spring with their meeting at Butterfield Country Club. I hope all of our members continue to attend this event. This is our chance to address current problems in the area and keep green chairmen and club officials informed. The CDGA has been quite helpful in recognizing the efforts of golf course superintendents over the years.

We encourage our members to speak up and be heard. There are endless opportunities for public speaking, writing, teaching, and consultation. We must keep a high profile in our industry. Begin by writing an article for the **Bull Sheet**. It takes work but it is a very rewarding experience. Several of our members wrote articles for the Illinois Golfer last year. Several members wrote articles for Golf Course Management. Teach a class at a local community college. Give a talk to your local garden club. We have the knowledge but we must let others know.

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## Biological Control for Annual Bluegrass

East Lansing, MI — A new method of weed control, using biotechnology instead of chemical-based herbicides, may soon allow farmers, homeowners, and lawn care specialists to control annual bluegrass with a bacterium that is harmless to humans, animals and other plants.

“The bacterium is specific only for its host plant — it will infect only annual bluegrass plants,” says David L. Roberts, the Michigan State University plant pathologist who discovered the bacterium. “The bacterium enters through small natural openings in the leaf blade and grows through the plant’s vascular system.”

Roberts discovered the bacterium when examining annual bluegrass samples to determine what caused the plants to die. This was the first time this strain of the *Xanthomonas* bacterium had been identified in North America. It could be new to the continent, or researchers may simply not have identified it in the past.

“At first I didn’t even realize the potential of the bacterium,” Roberts says. But after diagnosing the problem, he began to wonder if the bacterium could be of some benefit. Laboratory testing proved Roberts’ suspicion that the bacterium could be used to control annual bluegrass.

After application, the bacterium begins growing within the plant, destroying its ability to transport water. After three or four days, the plant begins to wilt. After a week, the plant usually turns brown and dies, or it is suppressed to the point where it is no longer a problem.

When applied to lawns or other areas of mixed grasses, the bacterium does not affect other plants, regardless of the concentration, Roberts says.

“I suspect the bacterium is absolutely safe for use around humans,” Roberts says. “Similar bacteria in the genus *Xanthomonas* have been found on vegetable and field crops that people have eaten for years without any problems.”

Research shows that the bacterium is very effective in controlling annual bluegrass. Because it grows inside the plant, it does not have to compete with other microorganisms in the soil or on the plant’s surface. This increases its ability to destroy the host plant.

Tests show it make take two or three applications per season to control a large population of annual bluegrass. Increased dosages and repeat applications of the bacterium are safe, however, because it infects only the host plant. With chemical herbicides, precise application methods and rates are critical to prevent damage to valuable plants.

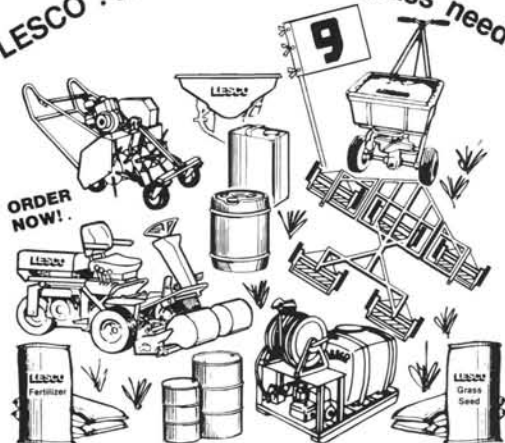
Roberts believes the greatest potential of the bacterium will be its use as a biotechnology model for a carrier in the development of a series of bioherbicides for specific weeds. Different strains could be developed for dandelions, crabgrass and fox-tail control, giving farmers and homeowners alternatives or substitutes for chemical-based herbicides.

Roberts, through Michigan State University, has applied for a patent on the biological control bacterium and will soon be contacting companies to develop it for commercial use. He anticipates it could take four or five years to conduct additional research and to get Environmental Protection Agency approval.

“One advantage this bacterium has is that it is essentially a naturally occurring organism — it’s not something that has been genetically engineered,” Roberts says. “It’s something we have taken from nature. All we’ve done is increase the population

(cont’d. on page 6)

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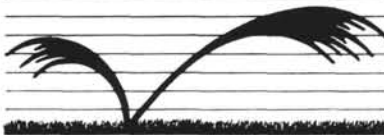
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(Biological Control cont'd.)

of the bacterium so it can more easily occupy its niche when applied."

Roberts says several companies have shown "intense interest" in developing the bacterium because of increased EPA registration demands on traditional herbicide chemicals.

"I think any of the really progressive chemical producing companies will show an interest," Roberts says. "Companies that get involved in the biotechnology arena are going to benefit in the long run."

Credit: Patch of Green, Nov./Dec. '87

## 1988 Committee Appointments

Education:	Chairman:	Joel Purpur Al Fierst Dennis Wilson
Arrangements:	Chairman:	Dennis Wilson Bruce Williams Dave Meyer
Golf:	Chairman:	Dave Louttit Ray Schmitz Joel Purpur
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Employment:	Chairman:	Mike Nass Jim Evans Roger Stewart Len Berg Bruce Williams
Finance & Publicity:	Chairman:	Bruce Williams Dave Meyer Roger Stewart Jim Evans
Long Range Financial:	Chairman:	Al Fierst Bruce Williams Roger Stewart

## Draw Podner

by Edwin Wollenberg, Retired Supt.

Whenever you want to find a new trend in this great country we live in, all you need to do is look to some part of the country where people spend a lot of time out in the sun — the hot sun.

A few months ago, for instance, Florida replaced Missouri as the real Show Me State.

According to Florida's new gun law, everyone from Jacksonville to Key West and the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, now can strap on a sidearm in plain view without any kind of permit.

Ever since I was a youngster out of knee-pants, I dreamed of being a cowboy — or like Wyatt Earpe and Matt Dillon. Some of the dream faded very rapidly when, while visiting a friend at his ranch in San Fernando Valley during the Big One, and the most "docile" horse in his remuda, took off with me through a grove of olive trees. I haven't been on a horse since, but the thought of being a gun-slinger ala cowboy never escaped me.

So, when I get down to Florida this winter, I know what I can do with my old .45. That's right — stick it where the sun shines. And as a respected and decent citizen, I won't have to slink around like low-lives in the Midwest, with their guns tucked into glove compartments or waistbands.

At long last, I can come out of the closet with my Colt, smoking, and to prove an old adage; "Everything comes to those who wait", I'm glad I didn't discourage.

Thanks to the foresight of the Florida State Legislature, everyone from Yuppies in Fort Lauderdale to seniors in St. Petersburg and Tampa can walk tall and maybe with a little practice, even shoot straight.

Even if they don't, no big deal.

When you give it some thought, and don't dwell on it too long — you realize there's something honest, and straightforward, about wearing a gun in public.

It's as if you're sending a message; "Hey, you big wacky and difficult world. Check me out. I'm alive and real. This is real flesh and blood. And if you want to keep yours, don't ever look cross-eyed at me again, and try to disturb my good nature. Now, you have a real nice day".

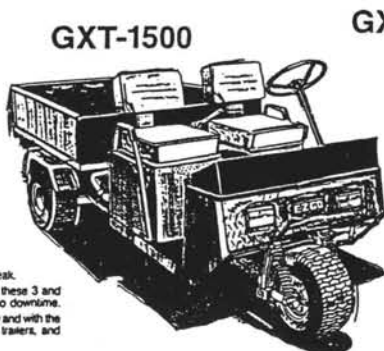
When you walk into a fast-food joint, isn't it reassuring to know right off the bat that the friendly, freckled-faced girl at the counter is packing a piece? — a gun, that is.

(cont'd. on page 8)

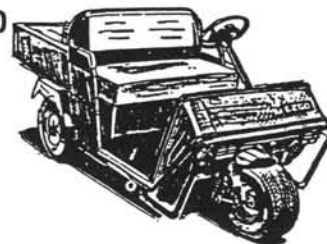
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(Draw Podner cont'd.)

"Good afternoon, Miss. I'll take two enchiladas and a medium Coke. No, don't be silly, of course I didn't mind waiting 20 minutes for service. I'm sure that telephone call was very important. By the way, that shoulder holster with the .38 really becomes you, hanging alongside the other 38's in D-cups. You look real spiffy".

I think Florida could end up setting an example for the rest of the nation. It has everything going for it. Even the outline of the state, geographically, is shaped like a holster. The state is a natural for this new law.

My friends, I have seen the future of human relations in America, and it's the Sunshine State — the land of retired vagrants, orange blossoms and Donald Duck.

Of course, it's just a theory and we know what they say about a theory. Invariably, someone comes along and shoots holes in it.

But someone once said, "You can get more with a kind word and a gun, than you can with a kind word alone." So I say, let's go for it, Florida.

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1. The president of the largest steel company, Charles Schwab, died a pauper.
2. The president of the largest gas company, Howard Hopson, is now insane.
3. The president of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Whitney, was released from prison to die at home.
4. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cookron, died abroad, insolvent.
5. The president of the Bank of International Settlement shot himself.
6. The greatest Bear of Wall Street, Gossbee Rivermore, died of suicide.

In the same year, 1923, the winner of the most important golf championship, Gene Sarazen, won the U.S. Open and the PGA Tournaments. Today he is still playing an excellent game of golf and is solvent.

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## Photo's at NCTE



Newly elected Illinois Turfgrass Foundation President, Peter Leuzinger, addressing the annual meeting. Photo: R. Schmitz



Michael Nass, President, MAGCS, presenting Conrad Stynchula, ITF President a check for \$2,000.00 for turfgrass research.



Conrad Stynchula introducing Doug Collins, coach of the Chicago Bulls — our keynote speaker. Photo: R. Schmitz



What retired Supts. do — work booths and become consultants. Warren Bidwell & Tony Meyer. Photo: R. Schmitz



NCTE equipment floor scenes. Left photo - M. Vogt; right photo - R. Schmitz



Jim Latham, Jr., USGA director explaining "Problem Solving Begins Below the Soil Surface". Photo: M. Vogt



Audience in one of many meeting rooms. Photo: M. Vogt.



# The I 9 Law and You

by Robert K. Breen, Golf Course Supt.  
Arrowhead Golf Club, Wheaton, IL

If you think about it, humanity received a couple of breaks when Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments.

1. He went alone without a committee to complicate the issues.
2. The commandments were etched into stone tablets, so as to keep the wordage at a minimum, or else make a couple of trips.

The legislative branch of our federal government has neither restrictions as they daily endeavor to enrich the lives of the American taxpayer.

The new "Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" is a prime example of what legislators can do when they perceive a problem that in reality does not exist. It is hard to believe that any of them have ever had the pleasure of dining amid the ornate elegance of a Burger King, Wendy's or McDonald's restaurant or they could not have missed the "Help Wanted" signs that are so prominently displayed in all of them as well as every K-Mart, Zayres and Venture stores in just about every mall in the Chicago area.

Be that as it may, this law applies to everyone who has employees. That you are just "a little nine Holer" does not exempt you from having all employees hired after November 6, 1986 subjected to filing out the I 9 form.

If you have ever ordered dinner for two at a chinese restaurant, the I9 form will seem familiar to you as you must have one item from column A or one item each from column B and C.

Column A is comprized of

1. A Valid U.S. passport
2. A certificate of U.S. Citizenship
3. A certificate of naturalization
4. An unexpired foreign passport with employment authorization attached.
5. An alien registration card

If the employee cannot fulfill the above obligations he must have at least one of the items in column B that consist of:

1. A state issued drivers license or I.D. card with photograph and information that includes Sex, date of birth, height, weight and color of hair.
2. A U.S. Military card
3. A voters registration card.
4. A school identification card

The item from column B requires that one document from column C be included with it. Column C is composed of

1. An original social security card
2. A birth certificate issued by a state county or municipal authority bearing a seal.

All documents must bear the expiration date if applicable.

It is the supervisors responsibility to affirm that these are indeed legitimate documents. The fact that the employee possesses these papers in no way prevents the bearer from being deported if he is an illegal alien.

The penalties for an employer's failure to comply with the verification requirements starts with a fine of \$250 to \$2000 per alien. The ante is raised to \$2000 - \$5000 per violation.

The employer can hit big time if the violation occurs a third time. The fines can start at \$3000 and peak out at \$10,000 and six months in the slammer for each alien.

Once an employee has completed an I9 form he may leave and return to the job at any time within 3 years without having

to refile the form. Employers must retain the completed forms for at least three yars or at least one year after the employee leaves if the employment period is over three years.

Obviously, there is much more to the law than this, but this is the area that most concerns a superintendent. What the effect of the law will have should be determined this season when most of us will be hiring replacement help. I feel that it will be much the same as it was in past seasons. When hispanic help was not too hard to find, but you had better budget a buck or so an hour more if you hope to compete with other courses and landscapers for our brown-eyed amigos.

## Putting Your Christmas Tree to Good Use

It is always a melancholy time when the excitement of the holidays is over and the tree is taken down. Most of us hate to just throw out the tree that has provided so much enjoyment.

James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County says there are several ways the old trees can be used by gardeners.

The one thing you should not do with the old tree, he warns, is to burn it in the fireplace. A dry tree will burn with intense heat and may buckle a steel fireplace, crack a flue in a brick chimney, or could start a chimney fire. If anything, use the small twigs for kindling, he suggests.

An old tradition dating to the middle ages is to move the tree outside and set it up for the animals, decorated with various kinds of foods.

Birds will appreciate suet cakes with seeds, strings of popcorn or cranberries and fresh pine cones with seeds still inside. Squirrels will appreciate strings of peanuts or apple slices.

During inclement weather the tree can provide protection to animals who will roost in it or huddle under it as long as the storm persists.

Birds such as cardinals and jays, which stay here all year, are much more likely to take up permanent residence in your yard if invited there for the winter.

If you are already providing for the animals, there are other ways the old tree can be put to good use.

For areas such as ours where there is always the danger of alternate freezing and thawing, perennials should be covered, not to keep them warm, but to keep them cold. For this reason you always need to wait to mulch the garden until after the ground has frozen. The ideal mulch is light enough to permit air to penetrate, but substantial enough to shade the soil and keep it from thawing every time the sun shines on it.

A good mulch to use for this purpose, easily available after Christmas, is your leftover Christmas tree. Branches from your tree can be cut up and laid over your perennial bed. Two layers of boughs, crisscrossed, should suffice. They admit air to the ground, but keep out the sun.

In the spring, remove the boughs in two stages, three or four days apart just as the first new spouts appear. This permits the tender new growth to become gradually acclimated to the still chilly spring air.

If you have extensive perennial beds or strawberries, you might run out of branches from your own tree. But you can be sure there will be a ready supply as neighbors discard their trees.

After removing the branches, save the trunks. They make good bean poles or tomato stakes.