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President's Message

by Dave Meyer

March has not been much like the Spring we are all waiting for. After a mild January and a tough February, March should have brought us Spring. Apparently, normal is non-existent anymore. I guess we must take some of the blame by creating a ozone layer that does not allow mother nature to do her thing.

The monthly meeting held at Nordic Hills was well attended. Our Board met early the day of the meeting to work at business matters concerning the Association. The By-Laws committee is working to update for the betterment of the organization. If you have ideas for changes contact Mike Nass. John Cleland from Exmoor Country Club and President of the Illinois P.G.A. updated us on the Superintendent-Pro event to be held at The Golf Club of Illinois in April. It is an event sponsored by the P.G.A. to give the Professionals an opportunity to invite their Superintendent for a day away. John also stressed the importance of communicating with each other.

Tom Fermanian, University of Illinois, gave a slide presentation on the way research dollars from the ITF are distributed to the different departments for their projects. He then explained the project he worked on while on sabbatical last year. Tom showed us what a computer whiz he is. His work was to set up programs that we all will be using in the next 5 - 10 years in our everyday tasks as Golf Superintendents. It all seems confusing to most of us, but will be common place soon.

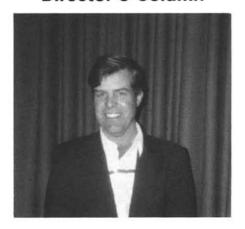
I am looking forward to the meeting with Managers and Pro's this month as a good opportunity to open the lines of communication between our professions. This can be a step in the right direction as far as understanding and working relationships.

I hope to see you at the CDGA meeting at Butterfield Country Club and the next M.A.G.C.S., Inc. meeting April 24th at Kankakee.



Dr. Randy T. Kane, Turfgrass Advisor (312) 954-2753 University of Illinois & CDGA

Director's Column



What is Going On

by Dennis Wilson, Sunset Ridge C.C.

While sitting at the head table and enjoying a fine meal at Arrowhead Golf Club, I looked up at all these young faces. Whoa, what is happening here, where are all the legendary Golf Course Superintendents we were so lucky to be Assistants for. Now our Assistants have jobs as Golf Course Superintendents.

Oh my God, I'm over 40 and have a 15 year old daughter. I remember being a 15 year old boy, maybe they have changed since then.

What is going on with this new generation of golfers. What happened to the golfers who understood when it's 98°, the green speed will be a little slower and the greens might not e as firm as a week ago or if you have been spending most of the crews' time hand watering, the traps won't be raked everyday.

I want, we want, the Club wants, guess what — it's what Mother Nature wants that predicts what we as Golf Course Superintendents can do and what the Club will get.

Beam me up Lord, I need a rest. After a summer in the 90's, golfers complaining the greens are faster downhill than uphill, a crewmember sticks his hand in a running mower and nearly loses two fingers and Club members saying I'm too cautious with the golf course. Thanks God, I needed this winter.

Oh well, it's April, the trees are budding, grass has to be mowed, the crew is back and it's back to being a Greenskeeper, Golf Course Superintendent or Golf Course Manager. Anyway, it's back to the work I love.

April

Welcome! Inspirational Lady of Spring,
Anxiously We await Your showery fling.
With all of Nature, We'll dance to Your tune,
In open invitation and plenty of room.
You give to Spring that needed dimension,
For all to break loose without apprehension.
How great to sit back and admire Your wonder,
As You burst forth, with Your usual thunder.

Kenneth R. Zanzig



Illinois Lawn Wins Jacobsen Distinguished Service Award

Racine, WI — The Jacobsen Division of Textron announced recently that **Illinois Lawn Equipment**, Co., Orland Park, IL, was a recipient of the Company's Distinguished Service Award. The honor, given for outstanding performance and service support of Jacobsen professional turf equipment, was presented at the annual Jacobsen Distributor Awards Breakfast held during the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, California.

Pictured at the award ceremony, from left, are John Oldenburg, Manager, Customer Relations, Jacobsen; Mark Johnson, Vice President, Parts/service, Robert Johnson, President, Illinois Lawn; and Robert Reid, President, Jacobsen.

Illinois Lawn Equipment Co. distributes and services Jacobsen turf care equipment used to maintain golf courses, athletic fields, parks, school grounds, cemeteries and other large turf areas.



Philip Taylor/Illinois Lawn Wins Jacobsen Pacesetter Award

Racine, WI — The Jacobsen Division of Textron announced recently that **Philip Taylor of Illinois Lawn Equipment Co.**, Orland Park, IL, was a recipient of the Company's Pacesetter AWard. Taylor was presented with an engraved watch and a gift certificate at the annual Jacobsen Distributor Awards Breakfast held during the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, California.

The Pacesetter Award is presented for outstanding new account sales, sale of new products and selling the complete line of Jacobsen professional turf products. One winner is selected from each of the Company's seven sales regions.

Pictured at the awards breakfast, from left, are Ralph Nicotera, Jacobsen National Accounts Manager and Pacesetter winners Mike Hannigan, Jerry Penner, Charles Acker, Ken Sicina, Wayne Berry, Taylor, Warren Hardy and Jacobsen President Robert Reid.

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Soil Temperature and Crabgrass

by Jeff Lefton, Ext. Turfgrass Specialist

Crabgrass germination is very dependent on soil temperature, **NOT** air temperature. As a rule of thumb, crabgrass will germinate if you have three (3) consecutive days with soil temperatures taken between 7 and 8 a.m. at a three-inch depth for the soil textures indicated below.

	Soil Temperature		
Soil Texture	°F between 7 & 8 a.m.		
Loam	50 - 52° F		
Heavy wet clay soil	53 - 57° F		
Sandy soil	49 - 51° F		

The time (7 to 8 a.m.) represents the daily low point of soil temperatures. Soil temperatures can be expected to increase 10 to 15 degrees by midafternoon on a sunny, moderately dry day in late April and May. A person could take a soil temperature reading at 3 p.m. and get a high reading, i.e. 59° F. This does not mean that crabgrass will germinate.

Variations in soil temperatures depend on several factors:

- The soil in a wet lawn area will warm up much slower than a dry soil.
- Lawns on south-facing slopes warm up faster than those on north-facing slopes.
- A thick lawn grown on muck sod (dark color) will warm up sooner than a thin lawn on light colored soil.

Wet clay soils may require up to 3 to 4 times more heat to warm them than when they are dry. Future weather conditions play an important role in determining if soils will remain at adequate soil temperature for good crabgrass germination. Generally a forecast for below normal temperatures, but dry and sunny conditions will result in little or no change in the seasonal warming trend of the soil. Future cloudy, cold, wet weather will produce a rapid decrease in soil temperatures. Warm, dry sunny weather provides a moderate rate of soil temperature increase.

Crabgrass germination is also dependent on abundant sunlight near the soil surface. A tall dense lawn or a heavily shaded area will delay and/or eliminate the potential for crabgrass germination. Moisture is also needed for the germination process and for survival after germination.

Crabgrass will germinate much later than you think. And, as you can see, many factors contribute to its germination. Consider these factors when applying pre-emergents. For instance, a somewhat dry sandy area should not be applied in the late spring, while a poorly drained lawn could be delayed until mid to late spring.

Several environmental factors can be used as guidelines in predicting crabgrass germination. You can not use one factor only in making this decision.

- 1. Night temperatures consistently greater than 65° F.
- 2. Daytime temperature consistently between 55-75° F.
- 3. Soil temperature 7 to 10 consecutive days at or greater than $55-60^{\circ}$ F.
- 4. Moist seedbed.

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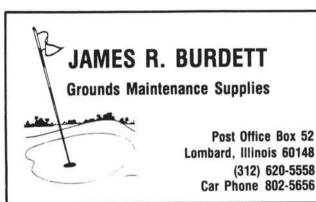
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An Architect's Opinion Initial Ideas on Golf Course Circulation

by Bob Lohman

One of golf's great attractions is that it is played on natural terrain, or terrain that has been modified carefully so that it seems natural. As an architect, I am always asked about the playability and strategy of a golf course. Most people never ask about circulation patterns or how they fit into the design of each golf hole.

With the increased amount of play and the heavy use of carts, as well as service vehicles, circulation patterns have become important elements of the total design. Safety for the players, natural flow of traffic, and maintenance of turf areas are items affected by the circulation patterns developed during the design or redesign of a golf course.

When designing a new golf course or remodeling an existing one, safety should always be considered. Even though it is practically impossible to stop people and carts from traveling all over the golf course, the proper use of design features can aid in circulation direction. One of the worst situations is where the layout of the golf hole forces players to walk back into the flow of play (Fig. 1). The best way to improve this situation is to remodel the golf holes so the tee is either behind the green or beyond and to the side of the green. With the addition of a bunker at the right front of the green, the natural circulation pattern is to the left and safely out of the play area (Fig. 2).

If the golf hole modifications cannot be made, then perhaps a series of mounds with heavy plantings can be placed along the right side of the golf hole to protect the players circulating from the green to the tee (Fig. 3). Safety is an important consideration and has precedence over the length of walk or ride from the green to the succeeding tee.

The easiest solution to any circulation problem is the one that allows for the natural movement of traffic. When remodeling an out-of-date golf course, it is critical to include circulation as part of the criteria that affects the final design of the golf hole.

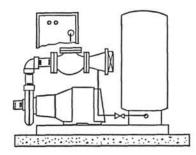
In the case of new golf courses, and remodeling jobs alike, circulation is studied from the preliminary design studies and is included in the final plans in either actual cart paths or as traffic patterns that develop naturally due to the placement of the other design features.

By properly placing the design features, traffic patterns will never seem forced. This also eliminates worn-out areas between greens and tees and areas adjacent to bunkers that are placed in the natural traffic pattern. Because of the concentration of traffic, the soil becomes compacted and worn-out, leaving bare spots that detract from the beauty of the golf course.

Cart paths should never dictate the design of the golf course, but circulation patterns should be part of the initial studies. In the intense-use areas adjacent to tees and greens, cart paths should be installed at the same time the feature work is being completed. This will minimize the cost and make the cart path seem an integral part of the total project and not an afterthought. Careful planning will ensure that the path is positioned properly to be functional and not detract from the aesthetic appeal of the golf hole or be a launching pad for a slightly errant golf shot.

Another practical application of cart paths is their use as service roads. When weather limits service vehicles from traveling on paths of the golf course, a good cart path system can provide access to all parts of the course at all times.

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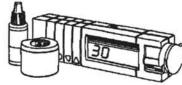
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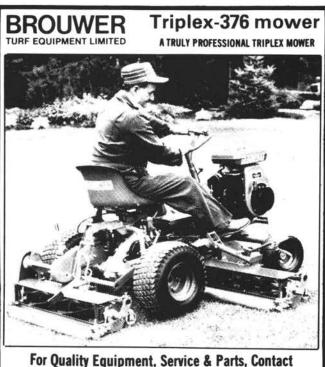
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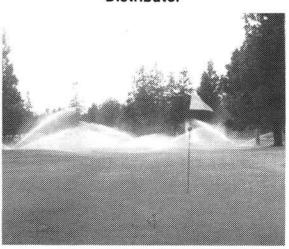
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Wildgame Lunch

On Wednesday, March 8th a gathering of 45 Midwest members enjoyed the gourmet lunch prepared by chef Craig Marfia. This fifth wild-game party featured venison, pheasant, and a variety of Lake Michigan fish. Friends from Kishwaukee to Kankakee to Kalamazoo feasted on Marfia's bounty at Silver Lake. Congeniality, conversation, and cardgames followed the luncheon. Thank you, Craig. Good hunting and fishing in 1989.









The Illinois PGA is proposing an Illinois Golf Hall of Fame and Dave Meyer has been asked to sit on that committee. A couple of names that instantly pop into my mind are: Ray Gerber and Joe Jemsek. Anyone else have any suggestions, send them on to Dave Meyer to be considered.





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The grass won't do it your way

by J.M. Vargas, Jr. Turfgrass Pathologist Michigan State University

Reprinted from proceedings of the 1988 Canadian Turfgrass Conference.

Too often we try to make the turf grow to our specification instead of adapting our practices to those of the turf. We often hear "I don't believe in using a lot of nitrogen," "I don't believe in aerification," or "I never use phosphorous." It doesn't really matter what we believe or what we think. What is important are the needs of the grass plant to survive, especially during the stress periods.

First of all, it is imporant that we realize turfgrass lives in a dynamic plant community where it is in constant battle with many other plant species for the space it occupies. We have been able to maintain a turf system as a mono-culture, mainly because of the modern-day herbicides available to us. We have many broadleaf herbicides to manage the broadleaf weeds and pre-emergence to manage the annual broadleaf weeds and grasses. However, we do not have a selective means to manage the annual bluegrass with the possible exception of "Prograss," which is currently unavailable in Canada. Therefore, the main competition for creeping bentgrass under golf course conditions is annual bluegrass, and depending on how we manage the system, we will favor one species over the other.

But before we discuss the cultural requirements of each species, I think there is one fallacy that needs to be corrected. The idea that annual bluegrass is a weak turfgrass species is not true. If it were truly "weak" grass, it would not have persisted as the dominant species on all our older golf courses. It is a very diverse species, with each golf course probably having over 50 different biotypes or cultivars, if you prefer. Some can adapt to high ground while others adapt to low ground. Some can tolerate dry conditions, others wet conditions, some tolerate good soil, and others compacted soil. So, whatever situation presents itself on your golf course, annual bluegrass has a biotype that is adapted to it. All it needs to germinate and to become established is for a void to occur in the turf through mis-management.

In addition to its tremendous genetic diversity, it also has a greater photosynthetic rate than creeping bentgrass. This means it is more efficient at making energy and compounds it needs for survival.

Creeping Bentgrass Management Coring

This should be done at the beginning of prolific seed head production by annual bluegrass in the spring. The roots of the annual bluegrass plants stop growing and begin to deteriorate as all the plants' energy and carbohydrates are put into seed production. If coring is done at this time, the actively growing creeping bentgrass roots will fill the coring holes. Adequate oxygen will be present in these coring holes for good root growth and the proper uptake of water and nutrients. This should give the creeping bentgrass plants a competitive edge over the annual bluegrass plant, which will have to try and develop roots in the more denser or compacted surrounding soil where there will not be as much oxygen present for good root growth or adequate uptake of water and nutrients. (cont'd. page 14)



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