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## President's Message

by **Bruce R. Williams, CGCS**  
**President, MAGCS**

During the course of the past year it was indeed an honor to preside over the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The year went by quickly and can be summarized as very busy, highly productive, and extremely rewarding. My goals for the association last year had 3 points: (1) define the needs of the membership, (2) develop new programs and expand existing services, and (3) get greater involvement from the membership. The survey has turned out to be an excellent resource for judging the needs of the membership. The committees were very active with a number of new committeemen helping to develop new programs and improve the existing operations. By no means have we accomplished all of our goals but we have accomplished a lot during the past year.

My thanks to the membership for their support over the last year. You have seen fit to re-elect the current officers for 1991. This will certainly help the continuity in leadership. We, as a Board, will work as diligently as in the past to bring you the best possible programs and services. We are all looking forward to another outstanding year for the MAGCS.

While we are welcoming a new Board member in Kerry Blatteau, we will sorely miss the friendly face and dependable efforts of Dennis Wilson. Dennis served the MAGCS Board for the past six years. He has chaired the Arrangements & Golf Committees. He has always done his work, and more, without a complaint. Dennis did most of his work quietly behind the scenes. As he retired from the Board he merely wanted to fade into the sunset. Most of us will always remember what Dennis gave most, his time and talents. A great example for all of us.

## "Tomorrow's New Song"

As Winter's Deep Sleep reappears,  
Precautionary measures allay Our fears.  
While We reflect in the shadows of Yester-year's,  
Fond memories rebloom in Holiday cheer.  
What a wonderful revelation Winter brings,  
Changing the perspective of so many things,  
The Past, the Future, Tomorrow's New Song,  
What a Wonderous World, in which We belong.

**Kenneth R. Zanzig**

## Where to Cut Your Christmas Tree

The long Thanksgiving weekend has become the official start of the Holiday Season. According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, that is when Christmas Tree Farms throughout our area throw open their gates welcoming folks to find and cut their family trees.

More and more young families are starting their own traditions for the holidays, and cutting the tree is one that the kids will long remember.

In times past, Christmas trees were selected in the forests of the Northland, and only those lucky enough to live there could cut their own trees. Today, nearly all Christmas trees are plantation grown, often on marginal farmland close to urban centers. Christmas tree farms are located in nearly all states.

In Chicagoland, we are fortunate to have tree farms close by. The list this year includes many of these. But, since some of these farms run out of trees early, more farms have been added for folks who like to cut the trees closer to Christmas. Because of the need to travel farther, these farms tend to have trees later in the season.

The farms are open during daylight hours. Call ahead to make sure of hours, weather and availability of the kind of tree you want.

It helps to bring your own saw, rope to tie the tree to your car, and something like an old bedsheet or blanket to wrap the tree so it doesn't dry out if you have a long ride home.

Pack up the kids and a picnic lunch, and plan to make a day of it. Be sure to wear warm clothing, boots, a hat, gloves and a slicker or parka if it rains or snows. Properly dressed, you will enjoy yourselves and get lots of fresh air and exercise at the same time.

When you get your tree home, set the base in a bucket of warm water. If you don't intend to set it up right away, put the tree in a protected place where it won't freeze up and out of the wind and sun.

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Bring your own saw

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(708) 897-3011 for directions — recorded message

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#### **DOWNERS GROVE — Ide Tree Farm**

1500 83rd Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516

(708) 985-9299

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Open first or second weekend after Thanksgiving

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday **only** until sold out

Closed during heavy snows or rains

#### **KANKAKEE — Tammen Tree-Berry Farm**

RR 2, Wilmington, IL 60481

(815) 939-4060 or (815) 458-6264

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White and Scotch Pine, Spruce, and Fir

Good supply available — Some already cut trees on lot

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#### **OSWEGO — Oswego Christmas Tree Farm**

Box 6624, Rt. 34, Oswego, IL 60543 (708) 554-8105

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(cont'd. page 4)

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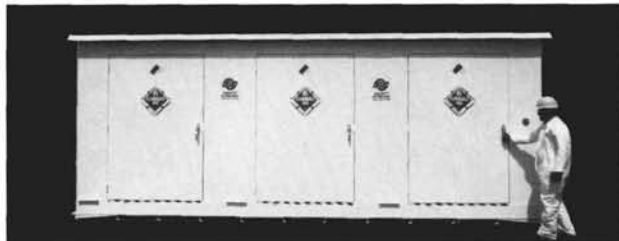
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## Bruce Williams, Candidate for GCSAA Director



**Bruce R. Williams, CGCS**

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents proudly supports Bruce R. Williams for GCSAA Director. Bruce has, through his many years of service to various turfgrass associations, exemplified the dedication and expertise necessary to assume such a position. His long term appointments to GCSAA committees dealing with Education, Certification, Public Relations, and most recently, Scholarship and Research, has afforded him the in depth comprehension so critical to the management of the GCSAA organization. As an interested and actively involved participant at the committee level, Bruce has become acutely aware of what makes the golf course superintendents international organization work. It is not uncommon for the staff members of GCSAA to immediately recognize Bruce whenever a personal contact is made, nor is he a stranger to the GCSAA offices in Lawrence, Kansas.

While Bruce has participated in many GCSAA committees, his area of greatest interest is Education. During his tenure on the Education Committee, an increased emphasis on quality and pertinent educational topics for the membership of GCSAA was developed. In addition to his service on the committee, he has addressed the GCSAA International Conference and served as session moderator several times. He is a well known author of numerous articles in the trade magazines and his speaking engagements have ranged from coast to coast as well as to the British Isles.

While Education is at the forefront of his professional focus, Bruce will also bring the discipline, organization, and image to the GCSAA that is so typical of his management influence at Bob O'Link Golf Club. These attitudes were defined and developed as the guidance and influence of past turfgrass industry leaders was assimilated. Bruce has the unique distinction and pleasure of learning much of this from his father, past GCSAA President Robert M. Williams. As he has listened to the past, Bruce has been, is, and shall continue to be instrumental in shaping the future of GCSAA.

Bruce's name has been placed in nomination with the knowledge and blessing of his family and the membership at Bob O'Link. They are aware of the time, the effort, and the commitment necessary at this level of Association service. Roxane and the children feel the opportunity and the timing is right for this accelerated level of professional commitment. At home, Bruce has been involved with youth soccer and has served as Assistant District Commissioner of the Fox Trail District of the Boy Scouts of America for the last five years. A former Eagle Scout himself, this has afforded the opportunity for Bruce and his oldest son, Blake, to enjoy many times and experiences

(cont'd. page 9)



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(Bruce Williams cont'd.)

together. When not at Bob O'Link or helping with civic activities, the diversions of choice are golf, reading, travel, and skiing. Bruce has participated in the GCSAA Golf Championship as well as local association golf tournaments and events.

Educationally, he is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College (Cleveland, Ohio) with a B.A. in English and graduated from Michigan State University with the Distinguished Student Award in Turfgrass Management. Locally he has served on the Chicago District Golf Association Turfgrass Advisory Committee and is active in the Illinois Turf Foundation. In addition to serving a second term as President of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, he was President of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents in 1986. Bruce has been retained as a consulting agronomist for the PGA and continues to teach Golf Course Management seminars as a member of the PGA Professional Education staff.

It is the feeling of the Midwest Association that Bruce Williams will provide responsible leadership and administrative management as the GCSAA progresses into the last decade of this century. We believe the unique opportunity to manage, shape, and serve an organization so complex as GCSAA befits an individual of this caliber. The Midwest Association seeks your support as well; for the election of Bruce R. Williams C.G.C.S. to the office of GCSAA Director.

**The Campaign Committee**  
**Mike Bavier, Len Berg, Al Fierst**  
**Roger Stewart & Paul Voykin**



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## PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES

The basic concepts of surface and groundwater hydrology, soils, geology and chemistry will lay the foundation for an interdisciplinary approach to water resource protection in this new two-day seminar, an initial offering in GCSAA's innovative Environmental Management Program (EMP). Interactions between water, petroleum and agricultural chemicals and the environment will be explained and used to illustrate various contamination and degradation pathways.

Co-instructors are Scott Harrison, coordinator of the pesticide education program, and Dr. Richard Parizek, professor of geology and geophysics, both of Pennsylvania State University. They will apply the basic concepts presented to site assessments and the development of safe management practices. Exploration, monitoring and remediation techniques applicable to water resources will also be discussed.

The site of this important seminar is Pheasant Run Resort. Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. GCSAA will award 1.4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and a certificate of achievement to participants passing the examination at the conclusion of the seminar. Course materials and luncheons on both days are included in the registration fee.

Seminar registrants are responsible for their own lodging. Pheasant Run is offering \$67 single or double rates to attendees making their reservations in advance. Forms for making reservations will be sent upon receipt of your registration in **Protection of Water Resources**.

**Refund Policy:** Two weeks' written notice is required for a refund of registration fees.

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## A New Green Construction Technique

by Nick Hongisto  
Schaumburg Golf Club

This year, and for the next three, we will be undergoing major improvements here at Schaumburg Golf Club, formerly Golden Acres. The improvements include new tees, greens, and bent fairways. An 18 stall driving range. A double row Toro irrigation system with the Network 8000 as the controller, with a Watertronic pumping station. A new maintenance facility and a new clubhouse. We have a master plan which was done by Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. The general contractor is G. A. Blocker.

In constructing a USGA putting green, there is a lot of equipment and manual labor in placing the pea gravel base and the coarse sand layer. I think that Gary Blocker has hit upon a great idea to prevent any mixing of the two layers during the installation. He has brought out a cement conveyor belt machine. This machine is intended to convey cement out to say a large floor or any very large area that needs cement.

The machine is set up on the side of the green, one operator controls the belt, in and out, left and right, with a controller panel that he carries. Another person holds the spout which can be placed as close to the ground as you want. A skid steer loader buckets the pea gravel into the hopper. It goes up the conveyor belt, out over the green and down the spout. The loader operator really has to work to keep up with the machine.

Installing the pea gravel and coarse sand in this way solves two problems. 1. The nice clean edge around the green stays just that way. No loader or angle dozer has to drive into the green. 2. As the gravel is poured on the green, it still has to be hand raked out to the 4" level. Then when the coarse sand is poured in it keeps the pea gravel at the 4" level. There is no mixing of the two layers.

After the two layers have been installed, the topmix can be brought in, which we had Greensmix do in our parking lot. We did this in the usual way of dumping on the edge of the green and pushing it out onto the green with a small dozer.

From a superintendent's point of view it did a great job. It was quick, Gary did all 10 of our new greens in two days less the topmix, and very neat. I am not sure how economical it was. The machine had to be rented along with the operator. But it should save some money just with the time savings it brings.

So if you're rebuilding a green or greens, which it seems that almost everyone is, this is something you might think about.



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