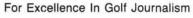
THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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#### President's Message by Bruce R. Williams, CGCS President, MAGCS

I am pleased to report that the future is extremely bright for our profession. It appears as though the basic principles of supply and demand apply. There are more opportunities in turfgrass management than ever before. Golf course construction contines at a quick pace in the Chicago area. The suburban core is blanketed with numerous golf courses and the construction zones are evident in the extremities of the collar counties. New golf courses will need qualified individuals to manage them. They will need qualified staffs. A number of new job opportunities will be provided.

The June 1990 issue of Money Magazine analyzed work in the 90's. One article discussed 15 fast-track careers. The article stated "the hottest jobs in the next decade will fatten your bank balance and enrich your life." While golf course superintendent did not make the top fifteen list it was mentioned as one of the ten careers on the verge. It will become increasing difficult to find qualified individuals that have the education, training, skills, and experience to manage golf courses in the 90's.

An article in Golf Course News (June 1990) was titled Jobs Galore For Grads. The author, Peter Blais, interviewed Professors from four of the major turf programs associated with golf course management. The programs now have 2 to 3 job openings for every graduate they are producing. Have you ever wondered why good assistants were hard to find? Once again it is a case of supply and demand. There is a shortage of people in the industry to fill specific positions with the proper qualifications.

During the next few years, Golf Course Superintendents will be taking on added responsibilities. We are already faced with a massive list of environmental and regulatory issues. The amount of time we devote to administration will increase rapidly. Those who learn to delegate some of the responsibility will survive and excel. The rest are destined to incompetency and/or job burn out. The future is bright for our profession and remember there is always room at the top for those who excel.

Please note the new address and phone number for the "Bull Sheet" in the column to the left.

#### **Director's Column**

#### The Musser Foundation

The Musser Foundation is looking forward to the future. The need to plan for the future is now. Let me pitch the Musser group, but this time with a little background information.

The Foundation is into raising money to help students in the final year of their doctorate degree in turfgrass management or Agronomy. So what is the big deal? To my knowledge this is the only group helping these people. But more important is the need to get these people into the field. In the near future, we are going to need people to replace the Dr. Daniels, the Dr. Butlers and Ken Paynes. These people have already retired. The Musser group is doing something to replace these people.

Over the last fifteen years the group has built a nice little cash reserve. This has been accomplished by the help of many people. Frank Dobie, the President now of the Musser group has held a tournament at his club for fourteen years to raise money. Superintendent groups from Oregon, Maryland, Michigan and Minnesota have helped over the years.

Just this year the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association made a nice donation. The Nor Am Company has given the last couple of years. We are hoping to get more associations and companies to contribute. I must also mention the Tee to Green Company has been most generous over the years. Thanks, of course, to Bill Rose.

So what is the point to all this? If we are to continue to give scholarships like we have the last two years to the tune of two for \$6,000 and three for \$4,000, we are going to need help.



Remember those blue tags I keep asking you to send me from the Tee to Green group. Well, now is the time to go in your seed room and take those blue tags off the seed bags. You can send them or give them to Dudley Smith or me. You can find our addresses in the roster books.

Your help is needed and it is for the future of turfgrass. Our future.

#### Mike Bavier

P.S. Checks made to the Musser Foundation are acceptable, too.

#### "Summer Parade"

Welcome Summer's great parade, Soak up Sunshine — hide in Shade.
Yes! Good Ole Summertime is here, Thoughts go out to cold Beer,
Beautiful Morning's, Breeze and Shade, A little Mint in Your Lemonade.
Vacation time fever fills the air, State Fair spirit everywhere.
How fortunate to be involved, With Golfer's and the Summer Crowd.
Kenneth R. Zanzig United States Golf Association® Green Section Great Lakes Region



#### Information, Please

#### by James M. Latham, Director Great Lakes Region, USGA Green Section

American golf courses are better than ever and I can prove it. If not, why does our office get more inquiries about sand bunkers and bunker sands than anything other than new construction. It seems paradoxical that course conditions can remain high when maintenance programs continue to be hampered by pressure to reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Evidently, golf course superintendents have responded to the pressures by working smarter than ever with the high quality products which are available.

The pressures are not going to let up, though. Pesticide posting laws are in force in some states now and some versions will follow in others. There are other potential legalities regarding pesticides which could hamper our means of communication with golfers. A recent GAO publication evaluating EPA performance listed the things that lawn service operators CAN-NOT say about the products they apply to lawns:

• Any statement implying that a pesticide is recommended or endorsed by any Federal Agency

• A true statement used in such a way that is false or may mislead a customer.

 Claims about the safety of a pesticide or its ingredients such as 'safe', 'nonpoisonous', 'harmless' or 'nontoxic' to humans or pets, with or without phrase "when used as directed."

• Non-numerical or comparative statements on product safety, such as 'contains all natural ingredients', 'among the least toxic chemicals known' and 'pollution approved.'

• "Approved by" any federal agency

• 'Low in Toxicity', 'will not harm beneficial insects', 'no health hazard' or 'ecologically compatible'.

Just remember that EPA considers no pesticide safe since all of them are supposed to kill or adversely affect the growth of something.

To follow these guidelines, how would you answer Mr. and Mrs. Golfer when they ask if the stuff being sprayed by the Man From Mars is safe? What will they do when you hand them a label or MSDS and stand mute? Will this satisfy their Right to Know?

We have some information on this through the publications by Watschke, Petrovic and Cohen, but we still do not have the whole story. For example, we don't know what becomes of pesticides after they are applied to turf and run their course of action. What are the products of their decomposition in soils? In sands? Under aerobic or anaerobic conditions and at what pH? Several years ago when Milwaukee began applying a



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#### (Information Please cont'd.)

digested sludge to farmland a consulting engineer subjected some of the treated soil to delicate testing for nonmetallic compounds. He found none of the toxic organics he anticipated, but did see the presence of some "unidentified compounds" which **Might Be Harmful**. The bottom line was a recommendation that application be suspended until further tests were conducted to identify the material and determine its toxicity. Of course, **he** would do the testing (at a tidy fee) for a few years.

Charlatans abound whenever an emotional issue arises which deals with unknown, potentially hazardous materials. These folks are usually better speakers and writers than knowledgeable scientists and do not have to prove anything. When faced with data from University research, they simply say that it is tainted by the influence of the antienvironmental agrichemical combined. Period.

To cope with this kind of reaction and to provide factual information for those truly interested in environmental issues, the USGA Executive Committee has charged the Research Committee, now headed by Dr. Mike Kenna, with another national level research program. The 3-year project will develop information to help us:

• Understand the effect of turfgrass pest management and fertilization on water quality and the environment,

• Evaluate alternative pest control measures in Integrated Turf Management Systems, and

• Determine the human, biological and environmental factors that golf courses influence.

The proposed budget for 1991 is almost a million dollars, with similar amounts planned for 1992 and 1993.

The intriguing thing about this project is that it seeks the unvarnished truth. If our present practices are faulty, golf will have to clean up its act and if not we will have full confidence in any statement we make to Mr. and Mrs. Golfer or anyone else. In addition to information gathering, a manual will be developed by USGA and GCSAA staffs to provide consistent information on integrated turfgrass management practices that ensure environmental quality, to be updated as field tested research results become available. The program is not meant to cast doubt on recent research efforts, but rather to expand the scope of research and involve all areas of the country.

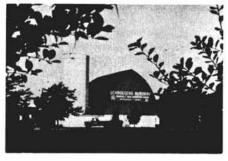
In the meantime, how are we to cope with accumulated grass clippings, tree trimmings and the like? Will manure spreaders (for clipping dispersal in roughs) become standard equipment on golf courses?

Now that mudholes and swamps have been upgraded to protected wetlands, what shall we call the mosquitos?

We will need more and more information to stay current with questions already asked and those which are to come. It comes from research programs on state, regional **and** national levels which must be supported by **all** individuals in golf as well as organizations.

Local-level research is necessary to help us cope with problems unique to specific areas as well as those which can be useful to a general audience. These programs need and deserve the support of golf and golf course superintendents associations within their sphere of influence. National level funding is more difficult since we expect some sugar daddy to kick in enough

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(Information Please cont'd.)

for all of us. Perhaps this is the time for everyone to become involved on a more personal basis.

The USGA Associates Program is a way to support this research as well as other programs benefitting golf. Membership is affordable to anyone, beginning at only \$25. The Associates are for everyone in golf, superintendents, agronomists, sales people and researchers as well as golfers. After all, our livelihood depends on the viability of golf as an industry. The alternative is akin to those good ole days of weed pickers in bib overalls or something equally depressing.

#### Micronutrients A Critical Component in Plant Development

Why micronutrients? Because they are the key to triggering most growth activity in plants. Without micronutrients as a "sparkplug," the enzyme system in plants would simply be an inert mass of protein.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Once soil begins to support plant life, the top foot begins to accumulate micronutrients in a slow, steady manner. How does this occur? Accumulation is a result of a certain process:

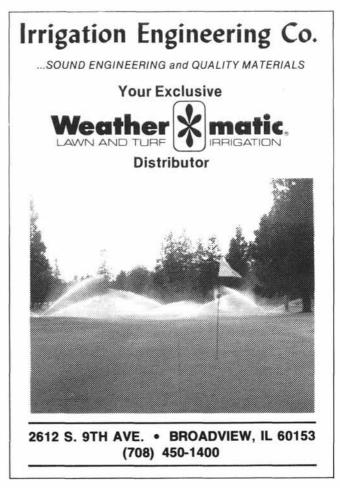
First, plants grow and produce extensive root systems that extract both micro- and macronutrients from a depth of several feet, depending upon the kind of plant.

Second, extracted nutrients are routed to shoots and some are retained in the roots as storage.

Third, the growth cycle is completed and plant residues are returned to the soil (minus harvested portions).

RELATIVE CONCENTRATION IN PLANTS	
Nutrient	Compared to Mo
Molybdenum	1
Copper	100
Zinc	300
Manganese	1,000
Iron	2,000
Boron	2,000
Chlorine	3,000
Sulfur	30,000
Phosphorus	60,000
Magnesium	80,000
Calcium	125,000
Potassium	250,000
Nitrogen	1,000,000
Oxygen	30,000,000
Carbon	40,000,000
Hydrogen	60,000,000

Fourth, crop residues are converted to inorganic salts from organic matter and ionization makes micronutrient cations subject to adsorption on the soil exchange complex where they are immobile. This is the reason that recently leveled fields may have micronutrient deficiencies.





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#### A Note from Settlers Hill G.C.

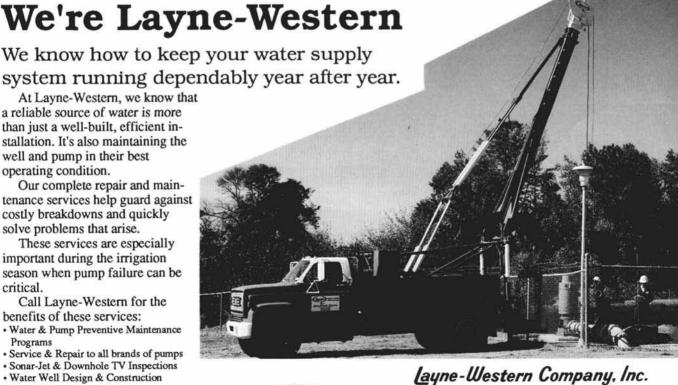
#### by Dan Murray, CGCS

The warm and wet Winter made the clearing of the trees for our next nine a tough job. Finally late this Spring after it had dried up they were able to finish. After all the trees were hauled off the site, the brush was chipped up. Then all stumps larger than 12'' were stumped out. The smaller stumps will be pushed out with the dozers during the dirt work. While the clearing crew were finishing up we had the tree trimmers start. They are in the process of pruning 200 trees 14'' or larger. All the small branches will be chipped up with the larger ones cut to fireplace length. I think I'll have enough firewood for quite a few cold winters.

It was finally time to start moving dirt. We started with the usual rounds of preconstruction meetings to meet the crews and distribute keys. Laying out the course and staking the grading work took two men about two weeks. In the process about forty bundles of stakes were used. There was eight different colors of ribbons used. I'm glad I wasn't one of the operators who had to dodge and decipher the stakes and ribbons. From up on top of the hill looking down it looked like a colorful Porcupine. Then came the fun part, making changes in the field. Tees were moved, raised, or lowered as to save specimen trees. Bunkers were twisted or shortened to make them fit in the available space. It seemed like every time I went out in the field we had some problem. Eventually all the stakes were put in place to everyone's satisfaction so the dirt could be placed.

The next day the "iron" started to arrive. There was between four and five scrapers and three dozers moving dirt from the mass grading. Most of the time it looked like a traffic cop was needed on site. The first order of business was to strip all topsoil in all cuts and fill areas. This was to ensure there was adequate topsoil for respread. In some areas a 5' cut was made in others a 8' fill was made. They were cutting one fairway while filling on another tee, while respreading topsoil on mounds in a different location. There was between 50,000 and 56,000 yards of dirt moved on the six holes where the mass graders were working. The other three holes had the fill and topsoil brought in by crews from the landfill.

The landfill crews had started moving dirt last fall so these holes were finished first. These holes were where the three smaller angle dozers worked shaping the greens, tees, bunkers and mounds. The rain slowed down the moving of dirt but never stopped it. It seemed whenever we needed the scrapers to move fill or topsoil they were able to run. After the subgrade was finished and the topsoil spread around the putting surface the drain tile was put in. We used 4'' perforated tile in a bed of pea rock. There is also some 8'' and 12'' tile crossing the fairways. If the Monsoon rains ever stop the mix will be spread on the greens. Then we can get on with installing the irrigation and preparing for seeding. More at a later date.



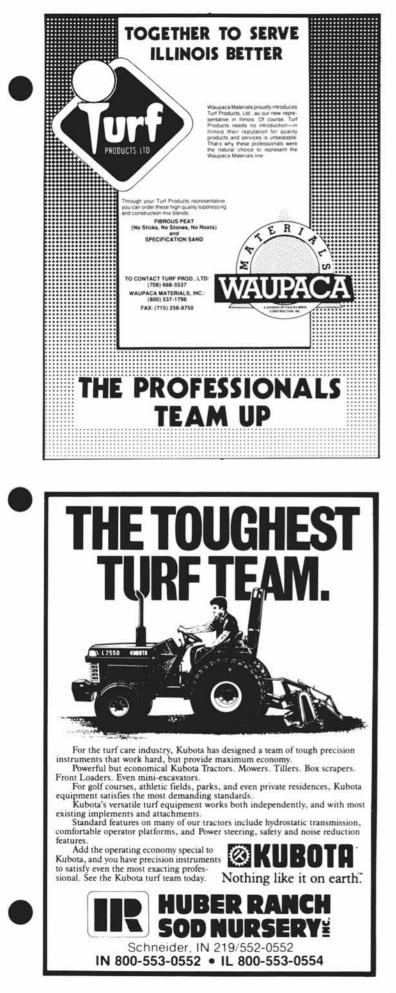
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#### Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents 1990 Membership Survey Results — Coments

• I think there should be more to promote local superintendents for new jobs instead of as many out of state superintendents getting local jobs.

• Please **print the price** of the meeting before the meeting happens.

• Overall, I think the Midwest is an excellent Association. I have met many fine people and learned a great deal. Unfortunately, at my stage in my career, I don't get to as many meetings as I would like. I did however find time to speak at a Midwest clinic in the past year, and was thankful for the opportunity. One small problem I see is that people who have not been involved (i.e., as a director, etc.) have a difficult time becoming involved. In the past couple years, I have seen people from the floor nominated and elected instead of new people seeking their first office being elected. The people from "the floor" are some of the same people who have held office before. That is discouraging for someone who has been encouraged to seek office and "become involved."

· Just a short note in reference to letting it all hang out as stated in survey question #44. I feel the MAGCS is a great organization and that there is a lot of great people in our organization. However, what really frustrated me the past couple of year is to go through job interviews and feel I did well only to find that another fellow with no superintendent experience has once again beaten me out. I've been a superintendent over 10 years, have a good track record and take a lot of pride in my work. What drives me nuts is that 100% of the time the other guy got the job because of who he knew or because he was from a C.C. and somebody knew somebody else. I look forward to the day when a superintendent is hired for what he knows and how well he does his job instead of being part of a cliche or how many people he knows. In the meantime, I'll continue to bust my rear wherever I'm at because I know my best advertisement is the condition of my own course, and because I love what I do. I appreciate the chance to blow off some steam.

• Let's not get too fancy. Remember we are only a GCSAA chapter. Problems with sites for golfing season meetings:

Too many peddlers or free loaders.

Too large a group.

Many clubs do not want to open on Mondays or require up to \$7,500 up front to open the door. On other days, the memberships do not want to give up their golf course.

• More questions:

What other benefits do superintendents receive? More specific salary levels.

How many rounds does your club get?

How many days a week do you work? Hours?

Keep golf meetings fun, simple, cheap (reasonable).

• Change the name of the **Bull Sheet** so we can be recognized at the National Convention!

• Question #9 should ask whether the club provides a pension plan. Also include benefits such as:

What type of vehicle? Clothing? Housing? Pd. family health & dental?

(cont'd. page 15)

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