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### Editor —

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The **Bull Sheet** is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page, and by the full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white. Circulation is over 600 issues per month.

## President's Message

The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year. Spending time with friends and family is important and it seems we don't have enough time to do that during the growing season. In the off season some of us even find that occasionally 8 hour workdays **do** exist. I urge all of our members to relax over the holidays so that we may all face the New Year with a happy and healthy attitude. January and February will come and go very quickly and by March all of our planning will move into the implementation stages. I certainly hope that you all will make your New Years' resolutions soon. What will it be? Is 1991 the year to improve your organizational skills? Is regulatory compliance a priority in the upcoming year? Is employee safety and training an area you can focus on? Whatever resolution you make I am sure it will have a positive impact on your operation and ultimately make your job easier.

The MAGCS membership has honored me by nominating me for the position of Director on the Board of GCSAA. I pledge to you my continued dedication for the advancement of the golf course superintendent. It is important that we continue promoting the importance of the golf course superintendent and the role he plays in the great game of golf. GCSAA is a fine association, I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

In an effort to gain election to the Board of GCSAA there is a lot of work that must be done and most of it is behind the scenes. My thanks to Mike Bavier, Paul Voykin, Fred Opperman, Len Berg, Roger Stewart, Al Fierst, and Bob Maibusch. Collectively, these men have helped in the organization and direction of my campaign. Brochures have been developed, contacts have been made, and numerous mailings and phone calls have gone out. MAGCS voting strength is at its peak thanks to efforts of Len Berg and Tim Kelly. My most sincere thanks to all of you who have helped in the campaign. It is not too late for anyone to spread the word amongst former classmates and friends around the country. A few personal notes can make the difference in a close race.

The NCTE was held in early December in Springfield, Illinois. The quality of speakers and topics was excellent. The trade show & conference facilities were superb. Don Cross and Joel Purpur worked hard to provide a great educational program for the MAGCS portion of the NCTE. The Chicagoland Golf Course Mechanics Association had a full day workshop which drew a number of mechanics and superintendents alike. The only drawback to the NCTE was a weak attendance from the heavily populated Chicago metro golf courses. I can assure you that those who did not attend missed a super educational opportunity. Springfield was a pleasant drive as it only took 3½ hours from the north side. The Central Illinois GCSA were great hosts and were well represented. We only go downstate one year in every five. Let's show our support for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation in the future. You won't regret it. Proceeds from the NCTE enable us to continue the high quality of research being conducted at the University of Illinois in a variety of disciplines affecting golf course turfgrass. Plan to be a part of the 1991 NCTE as it returns to Pheasant Run in St. Charles.

Have a Happy Near Year in 1991.

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

## Director's Column



### Golf Course Mounding

by Ray Schmitz, CGCS  
Supt., Flossmoor Country Club

I would like to pursue the subject of mounds on the golf course and some of the problems involved in their construction. Mounds are very popular with golf course architects at this time and we as golf course superintendents must be informed as they will be included in most golf course remodeling designs.

Mounds can be described as raised areas of grassed over earth and used to define and direct the playability of the golf hole and provide safety from errant golf shots. Their size can be small to very large and the height can be low to very high. Placement can be virtually anywhere on the golf course.

To build a mound the contractor takes a dozer to the area marked off for the mound and begins to remove all the top soil that can be salvaged for the topping of the mound once the clay base is in place to the desired height. This is where the problems come in for the golf course superintendent. In the process of moving the top soil, any irrigation pipes and wires that are in the way are ripped out along with any drainage tile that you never knew was there. If the pipes and tiles are not ripped out they will probably be broken by the constant pounding of the dozer tracks and the tires of the scrapers that haul in the clay base and topsoil. Once the topsoil is pushed aside and saved for later it causes the grass underneath the pile to be destroyed. In order to calculate the costs for restoration (seeding or sodding) one should figure twice the area of the size of the mound that is to be built.

Mounds also drive up the costs of any remodeling project. At Flossmoor Country Club one new green is being built and new tees on six different holes along with two lakes. Mounds are to be put into their designated places on four different holes and placed along the sides of the practice range for definition. Cost for building the mounds is roughly 66% of the costs for the entire project. Golf course superintendents are aware that architects usually get paid on a percentage of the total construction costs.

I assume that a golf course architect when drawing up plans for a new golf course or remodeling an existing one will take into consideration some of the problems mounds can cause for the people who have to maintain them once the contractor has left and all of the final payouts have been made. Considering the large amount of money that is being spent on the mounds I hope I will begin to accept mounds and become a proponent of the concept.

## MAGCS Committees 1990-1991

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November 14, 1990

Mr. Fred D. Opperman, CGCS  
Editor, The Bull Sheet  
1022 Shady Lane  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Mr. Opperman:

We are in receipt of your packet of 13 magazines from the files of the late Raymond Gerber. Please be advised that these are a most welcome addition to the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection, based here at MSU. We are quite delighted to receive them and can assure you that they will have a good "home" as a part of the finest publicly accessible turfgrass literature collection in the world.

Two of the items, in particular, are of special significance:

- 1) The February, 1928 issue of The National Greenkeeper, and
- 2) The 1957 Conference Issue of The Golf Course Reporter

Both of these items were not held previously by the collection. One indirect implication of this is that the articles in these issues are not indexed in Dr. James Beard's Turfgrass Bibliography: From 1672 to 1972, and are thus "invisible" to anyone seeking to identify citations on any topics concerned. We will, in time, index these items in the USGA Turfgrass Information File so that they can be identified. In general, we only add older citations to USGA TGIF when they are not in the Beard bibliography, as our higher priority is to index and abstract those items published since 1972.

Enclosed please find, with our compliments, two sample reports, which may be of interest or use to you, from USGA TGIF. The first is an author index for The Bull Sheet for 1986-1987 and the second is a subject index of the same time frame. We can produce such spin-off indexes with relatively little effort, once the bibliographic records exist within USGA TGIF.

Enclosed please also find descriptive information regarding the online file (USGA TGIF), holdings (Noer Collection) and activities of the Turfgrass Information Center. Please call if you have any questions about them.

Again, thank you for your interest and follow through on that interest. It is a good contribution toward making the turf literature universally accessible and will act as a fine memorial to Mr. Gerber. We will so tag the materials.

Sincerely, For better turf,

Peter O. Cookingham  
Project Manager

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Testing, certification, and licensing questions should be sent to Bill Anderson, Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, State Fairgrounds, P. O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281, telephone (217) 785-2427. In northeastern Illinois, Stan Smith can be contacted at (708) 990-8256.

For testing sessions, please bring your most current license or all past test results. A calculator will be useful for part of the test. You must pass the General Standards Certification examination before you will be allowed to take a category examination. Tests will be graded and results made available immediately after testing.

Testing sessions immediately following General Standards training will include General Standards testing only except on March 12, 20, April 18, 24, 30, May 7, and June 4. On those dates, as well as during testing sessions following category training, all tests, including general standards, will be available.

## 1991 Northeastern Illinois Pesticide Clinics

\$13.00 per day PREPAID registration fee required at all locations except Crystal Lake. No refunds and no transfers between clinics. Registration is through the Northern Illinois Horticulture Association, P. O. Box 204, Gurnee, IL 60031 except for the March 5 clinic. Due to limited seating at most locations, registration must be received by the Friday before the desired clinic date. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation of registration; your check will be returned if the clinic is full.

For 2-day clinics, General Standards training and testing will be on the 1st day, Turf and Ornamentals training and testing in all categories will be on the 2nd day. Each clinic begins at 8:00 a.m., with testing from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The following are the dates, cities, training and locations:

Jan. 3-4 — Rockford — G.S., Turf, Orn. — Clock Tower Hotel, I-90 & Bus. 20

Feb. 26 — Mundelein — G.S. — Holiday Inn, Rt. 45

Feb. 27 — Joliet — G.S. — Holiday Inn, Larken Ave. & I-80

March 5 — Crystal Lake — G.S. — Hob Nob II Restaurant, Rt. 14 & 31. \$10.00 fee. Call (815) 338-3737 to Pre-register.

March 13-14 — Willowbrook — G.S., Turf, Orn. — Holiday Inn, Rt. 83 & I-55.

March 20-21 — Glencoe — G.S., Turf, Orn. — Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake-Cook Rd. E of I-94

March 27-28 — Alsip — G.S., Turf, Orn. — Condesa del Mar, 12220 S. Cicero, ½ mi. N of Holiday Inn

April 10-11 — Wheaton — G.S., Turf, Orn. — DuPage County Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd.

April 16-17 — Glencoe — G.S., Turf, Orn. — Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake-Cook Rd. E of I-94

April 23-24 — Alsip — G.S., Turf, Orn. — Condesa del Mar, 12220 S. Cicero, ½ mi. N of Holiday Inn

May 7-8 — Wheaton — G.S., Turf, Orn. — DuPage County Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd.

June 4 — Wheaton — G.S., Turf, Orn. — DuPage County Fairgrounds, Manchester Rd.

G.S. = General Standards, Orn = Ornamentals



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## GCSAA Prayer Breakfast

The members of the GCSAA Prayer Breakfast Committee are happy and proud to announce that Dr. Houston Couch will be this year's speaker at the PB in Las Vegas. This will be the first time that we have had a member from our own profession to be our guest speaker.

Mr. Ben J. Staff of Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton Maryland will serve as chairman of the PB this year and hopefully for many more years to come. After having served as chairman for 11 years with the support of many fine people it's time now for some fresh faces. I hope that Ben will receive all the help and encouragement that has been given me over the years.

Because we were a little late in getting things lined up this year there has not been much advance notice in the GCSAA communications however there will be a PB in Las Vegas!

The Bull Sheet has many readers and we would like to remind them again that the date is February 10, 1991, Sunday, at 7:30 A.M., Riviera Hotel. Check for exact location.

Thank you for all your help in the past, now and in the future.

**John C. Ebel, Retiring chairman**

## Houston B. Couch

**Professor of Plant Pathology, Virginia Tech**

B.S. (Agronomy) — Tennessee Technological University, Ph.D. (Plant Pathology) — University of California.

1954 to 1965 — Assistant to Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, The Pennsylvania State University. Taught introductory plant pathology and a course on diseases of turfgrasses. Conducted research on the nature and control of turfgrass diseases — with particular emphasis on chemical control and the influence of nutrition, soil moisture and air temperature on the development of turfgrass diseases.

1965 to July 1974 — Professor of Plant Pathology and Head, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In addition to administrative duties, taught introductory plant pathology and conducted research on the nature and control of turfgrass diseases.

July 1974 to present — Resumed full time duties in July 1974 in research and instruction as Professor of Plant Pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Teach a course in graduate plant pathology. Conduct research on the chemical control of turfgrass diseases and the effect of various environmental factors on turfgrass disease development.

Author of the book "Diseases of Turfgrasses." First published in 1962. Second edition issued in December 1974. Third edition is scheduled for release in the Spring of 1991. Publisher: Robert Krieger Co., P. O. Box 9542, Melbourne, Florida 32091.

Has been married for 45 years. Father of five (four sons and a daughter), and grandfather of nine (6 boys and 3 girls — all of whom live no more than 15 minutes away!).



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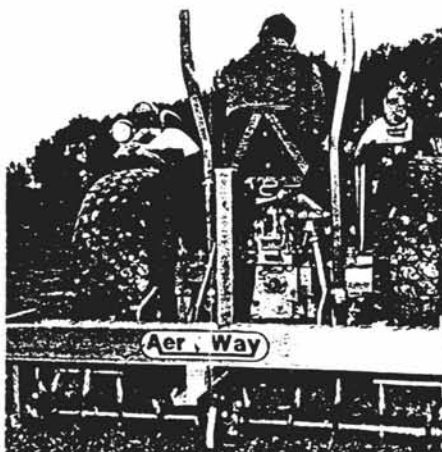
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## Turfgrass Education at the University of Illinois

by David Wehner

Many of the readers of the Bull Sheet have heard me mention the continuing need for students to enroll in the turfgrass management program at the University of Illinois. We have attacked recruiting of students in an indirect way by developing a brochure and, more recently, a video tape that describes what is involved in being a turfgrass manager and the benefits of the profession. The brochure was funded by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and as such lists all of the schools in Illinois that have programs in turfgrass management. The video tape, which was sponsored by the CIBA-GEIGY, Deere & Co., Spraying Systems Co. and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, is a generic video that could be used by any educator or other individual in the U.S. to promote turfgrass management. The purpose of this article is to describe the turfgrass management program at the University of Illinois and present some aspects of our program. There are many fine schools offering turfgrass education, however, our program offers some distinct advantages that you should be aware of.

The turfgrass management program at Illinois is based in the Department of Horticulture. Students interested in turfgrass management pursue a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture. There are two courses in turfgrass management, an introductory course that covers basic species utilization and management, and an advanced course that deals with intensive turfgrass culture. Students interested in the turfgrass option take both courses while students interested in other aspects of horticulture may take the beginning course as an elective. All of our students are required to take a core of horticulture courses covering woody ornamentals, plant propagation, horticultural science, and bedding plants. Electives are available in arboriculture, nursery management, home grounds design, floricultural crop production, vegetable crops, small fruits, and tree fruit science. With careful course selection, the student can become qualified to work in virtually any aspect of the horticultural or turfgrass industry. The broad training that our students receive allows them to easily make career changes if they discover new opportunities.

In addition to horticulture courses, students take required courses in soil science, botany, plant pathology, entomology, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and chemistry with electives available in business, agriculture engineering and several other departments. Our students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for the challenges of the future.

The University of Illinois offers tremendous resources that can be used by a student to excel in their chosen field of study. Computer facilities are readily available (including computers in the dormitories) with training on how to use them offered through various courses. The university has the fourth largest library in the United States (top three are Library of Congress, Harvard, Yale) with well over 7 million volumes. Students can gain experience working with the faculty on special projects or on the research plots. Students receive help with placement for summer jobs and after graduation.

Numerous MAGCS members have studied at the University of Illinois. These individuals have been successful in obtaining excellent positions and are among the leading superintendents in the Chicago area.

(cont'd. page 10)

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(Education University of Illinois cont'd.)

The courses offered at the University of Illinois are for the most part, taught by faculty members who are doing active research in the area that they teach. Thus, the students are kept up to date on the latest techniques, procedures, and plant material.

Recently, the University of Illinois was rated 16th on the list of top schools for your educational dollar (Money College Guide 1990). The rating was based on the amount of tuition versus what the school has to offer. No other school in the midwest was rated higher than Illinois.

In addition to the undergraduate program, we offer advanced degrees in turfgrass science. Our graduate students have taken important positions in industry or have become turfgrass educators in several states such as Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio, Virginia, and Oklahoma.

In summary, the University of Illinois is an excellent place to study turfgrass management. If either you or someone you know is interested in the University of Illinois, please give us a call. I can be reached at 217/333-7848. My address is Horticulture Department, 1201 S. Dornier Drive, Urbana, IL 61801.

## Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection is a tree that you see a lot of further south in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, etc. But it can and is growing quite well in many locations around the Chicago area. One just has to plant this tree to see its beauty and you will be adding it to your yearly plant list.

Liquidambar styraciflua (lik-wid-am'bar sti-ra-se-floo'a) American Sweetgum.

Leaves: Alternate simple, 4 to 7½" wide and about as long, 5 to 7 lobed with oblong-triangular, acuminate star-shaped, finely serrate lobes. Leaf color is a very beautiful deep glossy green above in summer, changing to rich yellow-purple-red tones in the fall; there is a great variability in fall colors.



Bud: Terminal imbricate, 6 to 8 scaled ovate to conical ¼ to ½" long, laterals smaller, reddish green brown, sometimes fragrant when crushed.



Size: 60 to 75' in height with a spread of 2/3's to equal the height; can reach 80 to 120' in the wild.

Fruit: Syncarp of dehiscent capsules, (in plain language they are little balls with spines and holes), 1 to 1½" diameter, persists into winter.

Culture: Transplant in the spring into deep, moist, slightly acid soil and full sun.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael A. Dirr.

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