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## President's Message



**Ray Schmitz**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Convention held in New Orleans was a tremendous success. Over 17,000 people were in attendance and the weather couldn't have been more perfect for the middle of February.

Bruce Williams was elected to a new two year term to the board of directors of GCSAA. He received more votes than all of the other candidates running for director, congratulations Bruce! A strong showing indeed.

At the convention, there were many GCSAA sponsored seminars available to the attendees. The seminar I was able to participate in was entitled "Maximizing Disease Control Efforts" taught by Dr. Houston Couch and Dr. Phil Larson. The main theme of the seminar was instruction on use of the proper chemical for the target pest, selection of proper equipment, and guidelines on how to make the application properly. These are things we have all heard before but a little refresher on this important subject never hurts. There was a brief discussion regarding new chemicals on the horizon and the Sandoz Company is testing a broad spectrum fungicide called Sentinal that has shown outstanding disease control in turf plots.

Good news on the golf scene at the GCSAA Championship held in Florida. There were both team and individual winners from the MAGCS. The exact details can be found in a separate article in this issue of the **Bull Sheet**.

The MAGCS Hospitality Room, thanks to the effort of Dave and Penny Meyer was a star attraction. The room was well attended all three nights and the facilities were outstanding. The purpose of the room is to provide a central place during the convention where friends can meet, make plans, and share convention experiences. The room was sponsored by a host of commercial members and the MAGCS. Without the generous donations by the commercial sector this hospitality room would not be possible.

April is again an important month for meetings. Two that I would like to mention are the MAGCS monthly meeting April 13th at Village Links and a USGA Seminar April 16th at Medinal C.C. Hope to see you there.

**Ray Schmitz**  
President, MAGCS

# Director's Column

by Mike Bavier



Surveys are probably a necessary tool for organizations. Do you wonder sometimes if they put down just the answers they want to hear? The thing that drives me nuts is when they say mark only one. Here is a sample question: Why did you attend the last conference — New Orleans or St. Charles? 1. Education, 2. Equipment show, 3. Visit the city, 4. See old friends, 5. Other. Now give me a break ... Most of us attend for a combination of reasons. Plus, there are those superintendents that go so they can attend the spouse program. Maybe next year that will be a choice on the survey. We should give the Association credit for including the spouse program. The program gives attendees an alternative from sitting through lectures where the mike is malfunctioning.

Some of the questions on the survey are easy to answer. Did you like Terry Bradshaw's opening address? How could anyone complain about someone who talks about football and tells you to call your mother? He was good, and if you missed him, oh well!!!!

Now, when you were asked, "how did you like the banquet?", that is a different question. Most of us would agree that the banquet was fine but if we are unable to get the recipient of the Tom Morris award to attend, why even give the award? Just maybe we need to be big enough to say the award is going to be suspended for a year or two. Many of you have suggested just that to me — but my survey left this question off this year.

**HOTELS** — How was yours? If you had a \$100.00/day to spend you were probably quite happy. However, a number of our friends spend their own money or are limited to the amount they can spend. So, maybe we need a question about — do we need low cost hotels? This might also make it easier for more assistants to attend. Also these low cost hotels will help those superintendents that are applying for the \$19,000/year job for the nine hole course the Association is advertising for in Indiana.

The last question asked many times is — are you going to attend next year? Do you really think it will make a difference? Sites have been selected years in advance and we are committed to having a meeting at these cities. It is nearly impossible to get out of the contract. The survey might ask, "What city might be a good choice for the conference in the future?"

You want my opinion? Who Cares! They should consider Washington D.C. What better place to be than where government is making all the laws against us. Plus we might just get some of the high ranking officials to our conference, and what a spouse program they could put together.

Do we really get a chance to make any suggestions? The comment sheet is there for your opinions — give the Association at least that credit. Now does anyone really care? Keep filling out those surveys. For What? Who Knows!!!

# About Tomorrow Today

The first in a series of environmental awareness articles,  
by Scott A. Witte, Asst. Supt. Barrington Hills C.C.

It is a general fact that too many people are not completely environmentally aware. For this reason many of the current environmental problems are not efficiently being solved. We are living in a "Throw Away Society," where plastics, metals, cardboard, paper, landscape wastes, and countless other resources are simply ... thrown away! In addition to this, an extremely low percentage of people actually know where this waste is going. I feel that we need to be aware of the real facts behind the consequences of our "wasteful" way of living.

Awareness starts with seeing that our current landfill situation is on the brink of a crisis. We are producing more trash than ever before and are rapidly running out of places to put it. The average American discards just over 4 pounds of waste per day. Combining everyone in the United States, that equates to 83,000 garbage trucks each day or a total of 140 million tons per year!

Studies show that the refuse generated by a city is composed of roughly:

Paper 41%	Wood 5%
Food Wastes 21%	Rubber/Leather 3%
Glass 12%	Textiles 2%
Ferrous Metals 10%	Aluminum 2%
Plastics 5%	Other Materials .3%

These proportions may vary greatly depending on residential or commercial communities, but for all practical purposes, they provide a sound average. One material not mentioned on the above list is landscape waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and branches etc. During certain seasons, these wastes may often equal all the other categories combined. It is for this reason that yard waste is no longer accepted by regular municipal waste management.

This landfill crisis is not simply an issue of "where will we put it?", but also, "where have we put it?" Municipal waste managers of the past had no understanding or interest in ecology, the water cycle, or what products would be generated by these decomposing wastes. Furthermore, they had no regulations to guide them. Therefore, any cheap, low lying depression, wetland or hole became a landfill. Dumping then commenced with no precautions taken. "A hole is to fill (period)", was the mentality.

The consequences of landfilling in this manner were many. The most serious problem by far is groundwater contamination. Recall that as water passes through any material, various chemicals may be dissolved and carried along which is known as leaching. The water containing the pollutants is then referred to as leachate. This leachate ultimately consists of residues of decomposing organic matter, combined with iron, mercury, lead, zinc, and other metals from rusting cans, discarded batteries and appliances. It is also generously spiced with discarded paints, pesticides, cleaning fluids, and other not-so-friendly chemicals. Further, the siting of landfills and the absence of precautionary measures noted above, funnel this "Motion Potion" directly into the groundwater aquifers.

(cont'd. page 4)

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(About Tomorrow Today cont'd.)

All states have some municipal landfills that are or will be contaminating groundwater. The expected cost for cleanup at each of these sites will be between 10 and 100 million dollars! So much for cheap waste removal.

A second problem is methane production in old fills. Since most waste is buried, its decomposition is anaerobic and the waste resulting is biogas, which is about two-thirds methane. Methane gas tends to seep horizontally through the earth. This horizontal movement of methane has resulted in the destruction of over 20 homes at distances of over 300 meters from landfills. Methane entered the basements of these homes causing explosions as it accumulated and further ignited. It is also possible for this gas to seep to the surface, which then kills vegetation by poisoning the roots. Without vegetation, erosion occurs and the unsightly waste is exposed. A few cities have resolved these problems by installing "gas wells" in older fills. The wells trap methane that may be used as fuel. In most cases though, this methane is burnt-off at vents, which completely wastes its energy potential!

With the increasing problems of toxic leachates and methane production, landfills must now be built in accordance with these current regulations:

★ New landfills are sited on high ground, well above the water table.

★ The floor is contoured for drain tiles which collect leachates that drain along an impervious clay or plastic liner. On top of this is a layer of coarse gravel which serves as an avenue for the leachate collection system. Collected leachate may then be processed accordingly.

★ The gravel layer that eventually surrounds the entire fill, also serves to vent methane to be used for fuel.

★ In the process of filling, layer upon layer of refuse is built up to a pyramid. The finished landfill thus sheds water and minimizes infiltration, percolation, and formation of leachates.

★ Finally the entire site is surrounded by a series of groundwater monitoring wells that are checked periodically for leachate contamination.

These new regulations sound great, although, while new landfill design seems to address the problems observed, its costs are becoming prohibitive. Any new site selections for landfills are being met with an "Anywhere but here attitude!" Delays and legal costs incurred in overcoming these objections, if they are overcome, are often as expensive as all other costs combined. In cases such as these, the cost of waste disposal may exceed well over 100 dollars per ton!

With new landfills being held back by costs, and or legal objections, the sad fact is that most municipal solid waste is still going into old landfills with inadequate safeguards. Of the 6000 municipal landfills in the U.S. which receive 75%, or over 100 million tons of waste per year, 75% of these are unlined, 95% do not have leachate collection systems, and 75% do not even monitor groundwater.

Currently, 1,200 old fills are scheduled to close in the next five years because of reaching their capacity or environmental problems. New landfills are being constructed at less than half this rate, and the crisis is worsening! Contrary to what early environmentalists thought, we will not run out of garbage because of shortages in resource materials. We will however

(cont'd. page 6)





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(About Tomorrow Today cont'd.)

run out of space to dump the garbage which we produce at an undiminishing rate!

Coming back to common sense, you can see that even if sites for new landfills could be obtained, the system is not sustainable. For this reason, we as superintendents, assistant superintendents or possible influential people of the community, must stop to think about tomorrow today. As with anything, the first step to solving a problem is being aware of the problem. Therefore I strongly urge you to stay with me in this series of articles about tomorrow today, as we explore solutions to the landfill crisis and other environmental issues in the subsequent **Bull Sheets**.

**Source: "Environmental Science: The Way the World Works"**

**Third Edition, by Bernard J. Nebel, Dept. of Biology, Catonsville Community College.**

## Necessity Can Be a "Mutha"

I don't believe there is a Superintendent out here who at some time has not had to innovate, modify, create or invent a tool to achieve a certain goal. The term "Jack of all Trades, Master of None" has never been better suited than to our profession.

Carl Hopphan, Paul Voykin and too many others to mention have led the way in providing tools we could all use on our courses or at home. But when I decided to oversee Bentgrass into a Public Municipal course I forgot to consider the average 24 handicapper that plays it!

Granted he probably doesn't spend as much time in the Fairways as his Country Club counterpart, but at the same time has never seen the Pro on TV replace his divot. For that matter he must feel that Ballmark and Sandtrap maintenance are done by magic!

As rounds have increased from 28,000 to 45,000 our time to service the course is actually decreasing as mowing times keep increasing due to play. Something needed to be done! (We can't do it alone).

After shooting **Introduction to Golf Course Maintenance** 2 summers ago, my goal for last year was to get our membership involved in course care. After all it is really their course, so why shouldn't they all help? Junior Golf, High School teams and new members should be introduced to the care of the course first but unfortunately they are not ... Hence, the birth of another video.

**Unwritten Rules of Golf** is a video designed for just that purpose. It covers cart usage, divot repair, ballmark repair, sand-trap raking and is designed to speed up play. The actual tape is only 12 minutes but we have prepared a 2 hour continuous loop version for Pro Shop, grill or lockerroom use. Maybe, just maybe with repetition some of our golfers might get the point. Some **never** will!

The 12 minute sampler is \$19.95 and the loop version is \$49.95 (\$4.00 S&H). Most people at our club feel it should run all the time to be that "constant reminder".

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# Our 18th Hole, Norman Rockwell

by Joel V. Purpur

Projects on the golf course keep life interesting, and at River Forest Country Club, I haven't been bored yet. Our latest project consisted of excavating two small ponds connected by a creek with water falls, using the soil to rebuild our short practice tee, adding a fairway bunker and green bank mounding on our 18th hole. Most of the construction was routine, but the outcropping stone ledges received a lot of interest.

It all started from the need for a retention pond in a low area to handle runoff from our larger, newly remodeled clubhouse.



Our membership also felt that our 310 yard 18th hole needed to be more dramatic and challenging so we had several different architects analyze the situation and submit concept sketches. The board chose the sketch of Greg Martin of Martin Design Partnership which met all of our objectives.

Since money was tight because of the recent four million dollar clubhouse renovation, we would only contract out the excavation and rough shaping. Bill Boyd of Timberline Construction was chosen for the dirt work and did an excellent job. With the movement of soil being short runs, we moved all 10,000 yards of soil in-house using a caterpillar 3 yard articulated loader donated by a member. This was kind of fun for the first 100 trips. Construction was started in mid August (as soon as we finished landscaping the clubhouse in-house) and rough dirt work was completed in about 3 weeks.

Before we were able to start setting rocks, we had to install our 7 head electric valve in head irrigation on the short range, re-route the irrigation on the 18th hole, re-route power lines, an irrigation main, drainage, hydroseed, sod, and so on. The 18th hole was also one of five we renovated last fall, so #18 was pretty torn up. We were not popular on Ladies Day. The more we completed, the more excited the membership got. When we started installing the rock outcroppings, the gazing and finger pointing really started.



(cont'd. page 10)

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(Our 18th Hole cont'd.)



Before we began installing rock, we consulted Ed Sagen, grounds superintendent at the McDonald's campus in Oak Brook. They have over a million dollars of this rock on their grounds, so I knew Ed was the one to talk to about the do's and don'ts. The rock is called "outcropping stone", which was purchased from the Halquist Stone Company of Sussex, Wisconsin, which comes either in bulk or on pallets. We purchased the stone on pallets for ease in handling. The stone weighed about 600 to 800 pounds each and are about 4 feet long and 6 - 8 inches thick.



Surface preparation consisted of excavating flat ledges in good undisturbed clay about a foot under the lake level grade. Geotextile fabric was then laid on the clay. Next a 2" layer of gravel was placed on the fabric to fine-tune the grade, and then we were ready for the first layer of outcropping stone. We first used pallet forks on a skid loader from inside the dry pond to place and adjust the rocks, and did the fine tuning by grunting with pry bars. Fitting the angles, thicknesses, and shapes was like putting together a puzzle, picking each stone to match up with the next. More 2" gravel was then added behind and even with the first ledge of rock and we were ready for the second layer. Each layer was set back about 1-3 feet for stability and looks, aiming to be somewhat natural.



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