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## President's Message



**Ray Schmitz**

The results of April temperatures are in and it is noted that average temperatures for the month were 77° below normal. This is the first time in a year that we had a month with below normal average monthly temperatures. Perhaps there is such a thing as global warming after all and we will pay for this cool spell later this summer.

An important bill is being heard in the Illinois Senate titled Senate Bill 1734. This bill is concerned with preemption of home rule regarding the application of pesticides. If the bill passes the Senate and the House of Representatives it will go to Governor Edgar for his signature. The passing of this bill is very important to our industry for many reasons. If anyone would like more details on this preemption bill please contact me. We should keep an eye on our legislatures to see how they vote on this issue.

The last two educational offerings I attended, the USGA GREENS SECTION SEMINAR and the Superintendents, Manager joint meeting which featured renowned speaker Wendy Stebbins, were poorly attended by local superintendents. If our Association does not support these excellent educational sessions they will be offered less frequently. Our Association has no trouble getting 75 to 100 members at a golf meeting. We are lucky to get 50 members to attend an educational seminar.

The next MAGCS meeting is planned for June 22nd at Flossmoor Country Club where I will be the host. Presently the club house is still closed for remodeling. With any luck it should be open for our meeting. Possibly our meeting will be the first event to be held in the newly remodeled club house. Stay tuned.

Finally the office of the MAGCS has gone high-tech with the purchase of a state of the art combination fax, message recorder, copier machine. This machine will make Penny Meyer, our executive secretary, job much more efficient. Feel free to use this feature in any correspondence with our Association office.

## Director's Column



*Don Cross, CGCS*

## Matching the Old to the New

While I pondered an article for this Directors Column I thought it would be appropriate to mention how much we all must have enjoyed the beautiful month of April. You know, the month when you can feel the gradual warming trend, see the daffodils and early flowering woody ornamentals in bloom, against a clear blue sky. Yeah right! I think we may have had seven days of sunshine and, if anything, a cooling trend. The meteorologists certainly had the "cooler near the lake" right. Thankfully it is all past us now and we can anticipate the challenges to come in the next few months.

We all have our own particular circumstances and challenges that we effectively address daily. One such challenge that I now have here at Skokie Country Club, (since reconstructing three greens and the practice green last year), is matching the consistency of the old greens to that of the new greens. The program we embarked upon began in late October 1990, ten months before the four greens were to be reconstructed.

We knew at that time the new greens would be USGA spec with an 80:20 rootzone mix and that this differed significantly from the soil and highly organic rootzones of the remaining greens. We also knew that the shot holding ability and the "feel" of the greens, when playing on them, would be different. So short of rebuilding all the greens we decided an aggressive coring and sand topdressing program, which will continue for several years, would be an appropriate solution. In time, enough sand would be incorporated to various depths within the existing rootzones, as well as immediately below the turf surface, to achieve the desired consistencies.

Our procedure started with contracting an aeration service company to verti-drain with 3/4" solid tines (hollow tines were tried but they quickly plugged up and caused unacceptable surface lifting) to depths of 12" and followed with 100% sand topdressing and broom dragging procedures. We then followed with standard hollow tine coring using 5/8" tines and topdressed and dragged again. At this point we had a nice number of holes and many were filled to the surface with sand, but not

all of them. I felt that what we had started was good but I was disappointed that we could not extract soil from deeper in the rootzone, and could not fill all the holes using standard topdressing practices. I decided that the Floyd-McKay drill might be worth a try and as long as we had the greens full of holes, a few more wouldn't hurt. So two weeks after the first two operations we contracted another aeration service company to drill all the greens.

The drilling went well using 3/4" bits on 4" centers to a depth of 10". All of the soil from each drill hole is not extracted, because of the flute design, and I would estimate that about 75% is removed. Complete removal would have been preferred but 75% was better than nothing. We followed with clean-up and sand topdressing again but this time we used a different method.

After observing a similar procedure at two other clubs we purchased kiln-dried sand and literally dumped the sand in a pile, beginning at one side of a green, and pushed it across using the backs of rakes and push brooms. The sand flowed like sand in an hourglass and completely filled all holes. I was convinced at the time that there may be other ways of topdressing but that there is not any more complete way.

We put the greens to bed that winter with a dormant fertilization, a winter disease protectant application, and covered them with evergreen greenscovers. Last Spring, after doing the cover-shuffle (cold nights on, warmer nights off) for a couple of weeks, the destruction had recovered.

In 1991 we followed a similar plan of core aerating in May and Sept., and drilling in late Oct., but did not verti-drain. In all cases we used the dried sand and hand brooming method of topdressing and added several conventional topdressings in between.

It's now a new year and a year and a half later. We now have much improvement in root growth and drainage in addition to a half inch of sand immediately below the turf surface, bringing all the old greens that much closer to being consistent with the new greens. We have a long way to go and we will continue to core and drill and/or verti-drain (with hollow tines if possible), but the process thus far has been very encouraging.

I have intentionally left out the costs of these various tasks and procedures (I've run on long enough) but if anyone is interested give me a call. Let's just say it is a lot less than rebuilding at a cost of 35-40K for a new USGA spec green.

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## Preemption of Local Pesticide Regulation

by Jeff Nack

I recently received a call from Mike Hart at the Danville Country Club regarding the issue of pre-emption of the local pesticide legislation. It seems that there is a movement started that will prevent small governing bodies from imposing more stringent rules than those of the federal government. He asked if there was any way that I could think of that would help bring the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) to support the pending legislation that will be introduced in Springfield. Their support will help to pass this important act for all golf courses interest.

As many of us are well aware, the U.S. Supreme Court declared last summer that local governments have the authority to set regulations that may be more stringent than those mandated by the FIFRA act. Imagine that ... more pesticide legislation, except this legislation could be based on the information from the T.V. talk shows, supermarket tabloids, and paranoid parents of newborn children. This could have tremendous implications on our industry and in our own or neighboring communities as well. If you stop to give this some consideration for a short spell and let your imagination take over, you can very well end up with some frightening visions. It is just such imaginative power that I would like you to stop and exercise ... do it now ... Now that you have imagined not being able to spray plant protectants, fertilize stressed plants or eradicate weeds from your property, try one more time with a little more energy on how this might impact the local taxing body for your home and place of work.

I have given Mike's request some significant thought and come up with the following suggestion. As educated users of chemical controls for plants, you can share that information with others. Give your local park district's executive director a call. Let him know that you are a conscientious user of pesticides just like his organization and that this potential legislation would definitely aid his business as well as yours. Give him your perspective on helping plants grow, so he could envision that without this legislation, he too might not fertilize his athletic fields, or maintain his districts latest beautification project. Ask him to give a call to the IAPD representative and support the pre-emption legislation. Try to get him to convey the idea that this type of costly regulation belongs in the hands of the scientific community, that can be monitored by the state and federal jurisdiction.

As individuals, we often feel that we don't wield as much power as some organized groups. Often this is true. However, this is an opportunity to influence an organization with your individual call.

**Editor's Note: Be sure to read the article on page 6 which goes with Jeff's article above.**



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# Preemption of Local Pesticide Regulation

## A Statement to the House Committee on Agriculture — Subcommittee on Department Operations

by Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association  
Lloyd Burling, Executive Director

P. O. Box 186, St. Anne, IL 60964-0186 — March 4, 1992

The State of Illinois has the unique honor of having more units of local government than any other state in the union. Not only do we have the possibility of our cities, villages, counties, townships regulating pesticides, but we have over 6,000 special districts governing our forests, parks, water districts, libraries, convention centers, water wells, airports, some hospitals, and a myriad of other activities, that offer a potential web of boundaries that would become impossible to manage even if only a fraction of them decided to issue regulations on pesticide use.

The people of the state decided, in their new 1970 constitution, to grant home rule powers to cities and counties that qualify by either the size of their population or by direct voter referendum. There is a legitimate question posed by citizens as to whether home rule entities should be preempted. On the other hand, last summer's Supreme Court decision has the potential of causing havoc in and among non-home rule bodies unless Congress takes action to bring us back to the status understood by governing bodies prior to **Wisconsin Public Intervenor v. Mortler**.

Although the issue of pesticide regulation is an emotional one, the real issue here is the integrity of our federal system of government. If the topic of the Supreme Court ruling was jurisdiction over cosmetics, we doubt that there would be the outcry that we hear now. Congress would simply, and quietly, pass legislation re-authorizing the FDA to regulate lipsticks. And Congress would be right in doing so, simply because our federal system allows for an agreement between our elected bodies to respect certain jurisdictions. The fact that pesticide regulations are involved makes this an issue too easily colored by impassioned but mistaken rhetoric.

A single Illinois farm may be included within 15 to 20 special districts, in addition to the municipality, township and county, all having some sort of jurisdiction over various activities or programs in that region. We don't think that Congress intended to give pesticide regulatory power to all of those districts.

The Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association represents nearly 1200 individuals and companies serving Illinois farmers. In view of the special programs faced by these farmers, our customers, in Illinois, and considering the principles of federalism in this country, our association respectfully requests members of this committee to give favorable consideration to preempting local regulation of pesticides.

AN ACT to amend the Illinois Pesticide Act by changing Section 3.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly:

(cont'd. page 9)



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(Pesticide Regulation cont'd.)

Section 1. The Illinois Pesticide Act is amended by changing Section 3 as follows:

(Ch. 5, par. 803)

Section 3. Delegation of authority. The Illinois Department of Agriculture shall administer "the Illinois Pesticide Act".

1. It shall be the duty of the Department of Agriculture to enforce this Act and such provisions of other Acts intended to control the registration, purchase, use, storage and disposal of pesticides, unless otherwise specified in this Section. Also, the Department of Agriculture shall control the purchase and use of pesticides pertaining to the production, protection, care, storage, or transportation of agricultural commodities and to control the use of pesticides applied by agricultural equipment.

2. It shall be the duty of the Department of Public Health to enforce such provisions of this Act and other Acts intended to control structural pest pesticides, as defined in subparagraph 37 of Section 4, of this Act. It shall be the duty of the Department of Public Health to enforce such provisions of this Act related to vector control, control of pestiferous and disease carrying insects, rodents, and other animals, and control of birds and other mammals that may pose a threat to the health of the public.

3. It shall be the duty of the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce such provisions of this Act and other Acts intended to protect and preserve the quality of air, water, and guard against unreasonable contamination of land resources.

4. **This Act specifically prohibits the regulation of pesticides, by any political subdivision of this State. The regulation of pesticides under this Act is an exclusive function of the State and is a denial and limitation, under Article VII, Section 6, subsection (h) of the Illinois Constitution, of the power of a home rule unit to regulate pesticides.**

(Source) P.A. 83-177).

## New Book About Golf Courses and the Environment Released

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The United States Golf Association offers a new book entitled, *Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues*. This publication will serve as a comprehensive reference book summarizing the environmental effects of golf courses on surface — and ground-water quality, wildlife, and wetlands.

This important publication provides a scientific rather than emotional analysis of the impact of golf courses on the environment. The 900-page book is based on a review of pertinent scientific literature compiled by Spectrum Research, of Duluth, Minn.

*Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues* is divided into chapters, such as wildlife, water use, and pesticide applications, and includes an extensive reference section at the end of each chapter. The book should prove invaluable to anyone interested in these issues, including golf course superintendents, architects, green committees, researchers, developers, and regulators.

*Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues* will be available beginning in May, 1992, for \$72.25 each (including shipping and handling).

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## About Tomorrow Today

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

Thank you for joining me again in this issue of the **Bull Sheet!** Before I begin with Part III, remember that the first two parts of this series are in the April, and May issues respectively.

We have recently discussed the landfill crisis, and the importance of recycling. I would now like to introduce yet another environmental term known as "Precycling", not to be confused with "Recycling". You see, in 1989, the city government of Berkeley, California initiated a campaign to encourage consumers to buy products packaged in recyclable materials. They called it "Precycling".

"We recycle items after we've bought them," they explained. "We can precycle while we shop. What we buy has a direct relationship to what we throw away ... So it's time we take a serious look at what we buy in the first place. Why not reduce waste by not buying something? Perhaps this maybe the easiest way to help save the Earth! Simply by making correct buying choices, by precycling, we can prevent excessive and unsound materials from getting into our waste stream. The consumer buck must stop here, with us."

It was a good idea in 1989 — and it is an even better idea today! This is something we can do wherever we shop, or whatever we shop for. A primary reason for this precycling is that packaging alone makes up one third of what Americans throw away; and it is a luxury we can't afford. As far as "Earth Works" is concerned, precycling is an integral part of any recycling effort.

The following are some precycling tips:

- ★ The key to precycling: **THINK AHEAD**. Figure out how you're going to dispose of a product — **AND ITS PACKAGING** — before you buy it.
- ★ Think of packaging as part of the product. You get what you pay for: If the package is designed to be thrown away immediately, all you're getting for your money is cleverly-designed garbage!
- ★ When purchasing plant protectants and fertilizers, etc., the National Recycling Coalition suggests: "In the marketplace, you may ask, "What is this products function?, what is its formulation? and so on". Now ask, "How is it packaged?"
- ★ Be aware of environmentally conscious companies who package their product in an enviro-friendly manner.
- ★ Look for containers that can be reused or recycled, and buy bulk whenever possible. For example: 1. The "PAR EX" 1000 lb. Bulk-Bags. These bags are durable, reusable, and there is no need to dispose of several paper or poly-bags. 2. The closed system, micro-bulk unit offered by Ciba-Geigy as the "Banner TurfPak". This unit **ELIMINATES** container disposal and rinsate concerns. The Turf Pak offers an electronically controlled flow of material and holds 15 gallons. When emptied, the TurfPak is returned and then refilled. 3. Products such as Riverdale "Dissolve" herbicide, "Duosan WSB" fungicide by Grace Sierra, and "Turf-Mark", by Becker Underwood, all come in water soluble packets. This allows for minimal operator contact during mixing and minimal container

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- \* Speed - Faster cycle times, speeds up loading/unloading operations.
- \* Stability - Longer wheelbase with low center of gravity.

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