

March MAGCS Meeting Photos

by John Meyer



Dr. Tom Fermanian



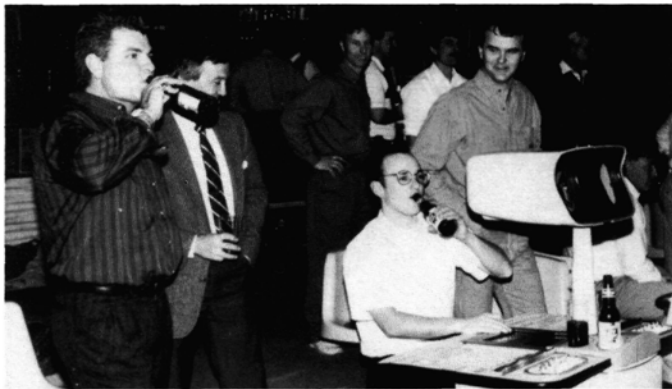
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Environmental Awareness: Get With the Program!

by John Gurke

With the age of environmental awareness upon us, we as golf course superintendents must take whatever measures at our disposal to head off the negative public perception of our industry. This is nothing new to any of us, as our pro-active stance on environmental issues, our utilization of IPM practices, and the media exposure of golf course involvement in programs such as the Cape Cod Study have already shown. What more can we do?

Several keys to a successful environmental public relations program are: 1) citing authorities — backing up what we are doing with expert testimony, 2) receiving positive exposure through far-reaching media sources — not simply in our own industry's publications; and 3) having sponsorship from well-known and trusted organizations which will enhance our credibility.

One very simple method to achieve this is to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Many of you already know that the USGA and the Audubon Society of New York State are working together in this program. Now is the time to take advantage of this opportunity and join. By doing so, we are working to:

- ★ Enhance wildlife habitats on our golf courses,
- ★ Encourage active participation in conservation programs,
- ★ Recognize golf courses as important open spaces, and
- ★ Educate the public on the benefits to wildlife and the environment our courses provide.

With the Audubon Society working with us, we have an internationally-renown organization in our corner — one which stands for environmental awareness. In short, it is another positive public relations tool we can use to further demonstrate our commitment to making the world a better place in which to live.

To "get with the program", just fill out the registration form and mail it in with the \$100 fee. You not only will receive all the necessary information to begin your own Cooperative Sanctuary Program, but you also will be taking another step in the direction we as an organization need to go to improve our public perception, and more importantly, our planet.

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Imagination, Experimentation Are Keys to Creative Thinking, Problem Solving

When you have a problem to solve, you can easily attack it in the same old ways and come up with the same old solutions that sort of work or that once worked, but are you missing some new and unique solutions because you aren't thinking creatively?

The next time you're faced with a problem of any sort, serious or minor, routine or unusual, try one or more of these mental exercises in creativity:

1. Reverse the way you look at the problem. Turn it upside down, take a completely different approach to it. Don't be afraid to be absurd in your thoughts once in a while — the fanciful can lead to some very practical solutions. How would Moon Maid solve it?

2. Tear it apart. Then analyze the relationships among the pieces. How are they the same? How do they differ? What if you could change one link in the chain — what effect would it have on the whole? Try altering the color, shape, timing or size of one or more parts.

3. Change the order of the parts. Sort things, massage them, jiggle them, line them up in different ways. New ways of seeing the problem will begin to emerge.

4. Find an analogy. What is this problem like? Is it like a little kid pushing an apple up a hill and every time he gets halfway up someone rolls an orange down on him? Find an analogy and you'll see the problems more clearly.

5. Challenge your assumptions. This isn't easy, but ask yourself absurd questions like, Who says it has to be like this? Why should I believe that organizational structures need a boss? Challenge every assumption you can identify, it will strengthen your understanding of the problem itself.

6. Let your thoughts run wild. Fantasize. Play a crazy game of "...What if?" What would I do if there were no more water available for a year? What would I do about this if I were three years old? Where would I start to build this system if I were the only survivor after a nuclear holocaust?

7. Cash in on the bonus of your own odd thoughts. Carry a notebook, and keep one by the bed at night. When an idea strikes you — silly or not — write it down. When you have a brilliant idea as you are falling asleep or waking up — write it down. Then periodically go through your book of thoughts and toss out the trash — there will be more wisdom there than you might have thought, and it will all be information and ideas you might otherwise have forgotten or not noticed.

These seven steps are parts of a process called creative thinking. People who come up with good ideas use creative thinking. They aren't afraid of some silly ideas, because they know that even in the silliest, there might be a grain of wisdom to use to their advantage. Try it, you'll like it.

Credit: Forefront

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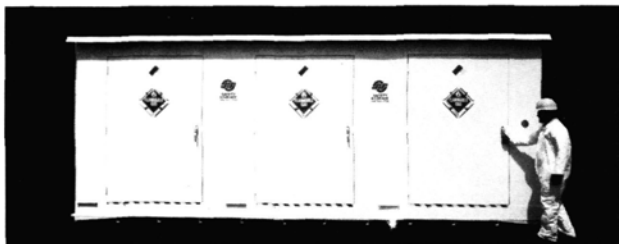
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GCSAA supports coalition barring local ordinances on pesticide restrictions

LAWRENCE, Kan., March 11, 1992 — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has joined the Coalition for Sensible Pesticide Policy (CSPP). GCSAA's board of directors recently voted to join the coalition, which supports proposed federal and state legislation that would prevent local governments from creating and enforcing pesticide ordinances.

The coalition's stated objective is to "secure sensible, uniform federal/state regulation of pesticides by passing preemptive legislation, while allowing local input into the federal/state regulatory process." CSPP membership includes representatives from manufacturers and users of turf and ornamental chemical specialty products.

GCSAA President William R. Roberts, CGCS, said it is important that federal and state legislators recognize the importance of limiting the authority of pesticide regulations to state and federal agencies. "The complexities of pesticide regulations and the education process needed for compliance make it imperative that these regulations be consistent — at least on a state-level basis," Roberts said.

GCSAA's board has also adopted a position paper that favors restricting the control of pesticides to state and federal agencies.

Thank You! MAGCS

by Mark Johnson, CMAC Appointee

You welcome us to your monthly meetings, to your educational seminars, to your social functions, and now to your Executive Board. Thank you Bruce Williams for getting the ball rolling, and to Ray Schmitz & Tim Kelly for their positive support for the continuance of the CMAC. All of us on the CMAC are very excited about the positive response all of you have provided us with in our 2 years of existence.

Phil Taylor, Chairman Emeritus did an outstanding job of directing the CMAC towards goals we had established from our inception. I know David Louttit will continue the same format and direct us to work along closely with the MAGCS.

All of you know Fred Opperman as the editor for the **Bull Sheet**, but he is also a valued addition to our committee. His experience as a Superintendent adds a lot of insight to the direction we feel we should take. He also does a great job on reminding us when our **Bull Sheet** articles are due (Thanks Fred!)

Most of the Class E members will probably agree that the monthly golf meetings are something everyone looks forward to attending. Thank you **all** for offering your courses, staff, and facilities for our enjoyment. Chicago definitely has the best courses and Superintendents in the world.

To conclude, on behalf of **all** the Class E members who belong to the MAGCS, I would like to thank **all** the Superintendents for making this a **great** and **fun** organization to belong to.

Have a great "92" — Mark.

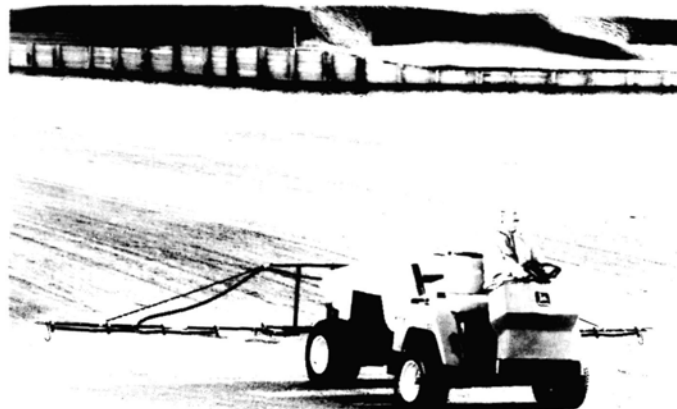
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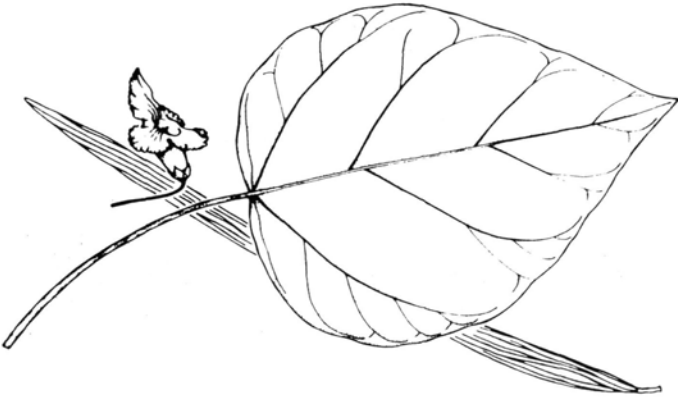
Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection of a tree is one jolt to plant near a green or tee. It has the largest leaf I believe, of any of the northern hardwoods.

Catalpa speciosa — Northern Catalpa, Lady Cigar Tree or Indian Bean Tree are all common names for this month's pick.

Leaves: The size of these leaves will easily cover a dozen golf balls — the reason not be planted near a green. Leaves, are whorled, simple, blades ovate, short-pointed at the tip, heart shaped at the base, up to 8 inches long and about as broad. Smooth along the edges, yellow-green and smooth on the upper surface, paler and finely hairy on the lower surface. Leaves when crushed give off a very unpleasant aroma.



Twigs: Stout, smooth or slightly hairy, orange-brown to grayish, with conspicuous lenticels; leaf scars in whorls of 3, round-elliptic, elevated, with 12 or more bundle traces.

Buds: Round, reddish-brown, slightly hairy, very small.



Fruit: This is where the tree gets some of its common names. These are elongated capsules up to 1½ feet long and ½ inch thick, at first green while hanging on the tree and then turning brown.

Flowers: Large, showy, several in a large cluster, appearing in May and June, the clusters usually more than 6 inches long, each flower up to 2 inches long, petals white and spotted with purple. Another reason not to plant near play for they are a bit messy when the flowers fall.

Wood: Light in weight, soft, coarse-grained, pale brown and brittle. The wood in contact with the ground is extremely resistant to rot, due to this it is used for railroad ties and fence posts.

This tree still has merit to be included in your tree inventory. But thought needs to be given on where to place it. It does seem to be tolerant to many conditions and soil types, thus a tree you can plant where others may not do as well.

Unfortunately it is a hard tree to find in the local nurseries.

Credit: **Manual of Woody Landscape Plants** by Michael A. Dirr and **Forest Trees of Illinois**.

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Tree Forecast for 1992

by Rex A. Bastian, Ph.D.

Humans enjoy forecasting. We try to forecast the weather, the stock market, the economy and the upcoming sports season. Those of us involved with tree care should do a little forecasting of our own. We should take a look at the conditions that existed last season and try to anticipate concerns for the upcoming year.

By thinking ahead, we can be proactive in our approaches toward tree care in 1992. In the past, we have often waited too long before addressing a concern. As a result, we are working with a situation that may be difficult or expensive to correct. If we are proactive, we can head off some concerns and have explanations available to support our actions.

1992 was characterized by a wet spring, a very dry summer, and a wet fall. Because of the extreme drought last summer, many tree root systems suffered injury. It is likely that we will see many trees begin to decline or even die suddenly this year. The number of problem trees we observe will be dependent on our spring and summer weather. A moist spring and summer will be more favorable for the trees. A dry spring combined with another hot, dry summer will put additional moisture stress on trees with damaged root systems. They may survive the dry spring, but may suddenly decline once the soil loses its moisture.

Trees with problems last year will be the most susceptible during 1992. If we are looking for methods to help our stressed trees, PROPER mulching and water management will provide the most benefit. During dry periods, an inch or so of irrigation water per week will provide an adequate moisture supply.

A four inch layer of mulch will hold the moisture in the soil and provide an excellent medium for new root development. We know that mulching on golf courses is often not greeted with enthusiasm. For large trees that are crucial to the line of play, stacking the cards in the tree's favor can go a long way to helping our trees along.

Taking a look at potential pest concerns, the mild winter will undoubtedly lead to an increase in scale problems. We observed a dramatic increase in soft scale numbers. Soft scales include cottony maple scale on silver maples, honeylocust and lindens, and lecanium scale on oaks, maples, lindens, and ashes. The mild winter, one of the warmest on record, kept winter death of the overwintering stages very low. We should anticipate that the number of surviving insects is high and that trees with a few scale insects present last year could have heavy populations this year. Large females can lay over 1,000 eggs, so numbers can increase rapidly from one year to the next.

Trees with heavy soft scale populations can be treated with dormant applications of superior oils before budbreak. Superior oils are very safe and spraying trees during the early season will cause little disruption of playing activity. Treatment now will be much easier than treating the insects at the next vulnerable period which is mid July through mid September. If the trees only have a few scale insects present, let nature take care of them. Scale insects have many natural enemies such as parasitic wasps and predaceous beetles. Let them do the pest management work for you whenever possible.

A good way to catch tree problems early is to anticipate them in advance. Nothing helps more than knowing what to look for and keeping a close eye on your trees. When walking your course, keep one eye on your turf and the other on your trees.

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