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My Top 10 Maintenance Pitfalls

by Dave Blomquist

The Sept./Oct. USGA Green Section Record's cover story was "The Ten Pitfalls of Golf Course Maintenance". Well, I have my own list of "pitfalls". The Green Section defined pitfall as "a hidden or not easily recognized danger or difficulty." My definition is slightly different: **Pitfall:** something that makes my life harder than it should be or just anything pertaining to this business that just tees me off (no pun intended).

MY TOP 10 PITFALLS OF GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE:

10. Driving Ranges — No matter how good it is, golfers will complain about not having perfect fairway lies so they may practice their "approach" shots. In reality, we know the practice tee should be 2½" bluegrass, so the average golfer can re-create what they face on the course.

9. Environmental Protection Agency — They are around to insure that we are responsible for making sure our earth is here for future generations, but must they make us do all that paperwork? And what about all these chemical bans? I'm sure there has been sufficient evidence for some but come on, guys, don't bow to pressure from those uninformed albeit well meaning "citizen groups." Use common sense and review the scientific data not emotional hog wash.

8. Long Range Planning Committees — They tend to overthink, under-fund and generally screw things up.

7. Vacations — Every year I promise myself to restrict vacations to winter for all full timers. NOT! I always wimp out and let my mechanic take off in mid-July, but the best one is when the college kids that only work the summer ask for two weeks vacation, "C'mon, man, I've been working since June."

6. Vandals — Just once I'd like to catch one of these punks. At times I've considered the following: electrifying the fence, rabid pit bulls, a bottle of tequila, a shotgun and the promise of 5 hours overtime pay to the Mexican laborer with the highest body count.

5. Leaves — Just when you think you've survived the summer, BOOM! Here comes the leaves. This is also the time when the Tree Committee decides to plant more! Great timing.

4. Answering Machines — I remember when I woke up late I had to speak directly to the boss and plead my case. Playing hookey is easy today. All they do is call early and leave a message, "I must have a 24 hour bug, I'll see you tomorrow." I'd be willing to bet that employee absenteeism rose at the same rate as answering machine sales.

3. Ladies' Day — The United State Open happens at Naperville Country Club every Tuesday, or so it seems. There is no such thing as a casual round of golf. Every Tuesday is the most important event on the golf calendar. Don't these ladies know that tennis is healthier?

2. Power Carts — I know they are responsible for bringing more players to our game, but we'd be better off without them. They can cause slow play and the damage they create isn't worth the money they bring in.

1. Golfers — Granted without them we would all be doing something else, but do they have to wear those ridiculous spiked shoes or must they take those incredible beaver pelts from the

tees and fairways. Or why must they insist on playing when it's raining or when there's frost? And what about those ball marks? Don't they understand that someone has to repair them, and if they don't do it, the greens will suffer? Don't these people have jobs?

With all due respect to the Green Section and David Letterman, these are my Top 10 Golf Course Maintenance Pitfalls. Yours may be somewhat different, but soon the snow will be flying and it won't matter ... until next year.

Results of the MAGCS Championship Played at Big Foot C.C. on Sept. 21



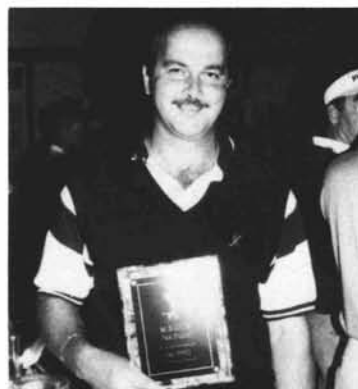
Randy Wahler, the 1992 MAGCS Champion

Championship Flight

1. Randy Wahler — 77
2. Al Pondel — 81
3. Tim Davis — 82
4. Ron Dohman — 83
5. Tom Robinson — 83
6. Tom Oberding — 86
7. Ed Fisher — 85

First Flight

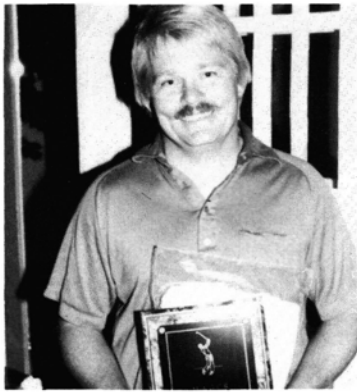
1. Jim Knulty — 79
2. Keith Fuchs — 84
3. Rick Wilson — 85
4. Curt Adams — 85
5. Kerry Blatteau — 85
6. Mark Bobb — 85
7. Phil Zeinert — 87



Steve Van Acker, 2nd Flight Champion

Second Flight

1. Steve VanAcker — 99
2. John Stephenson — 93
3. John Malloy — 94
4. Don Hoffman — 95
5. Gary Hearn — 97
6. Craig Joscelyn — 97
7. Tom Pritchard — 97



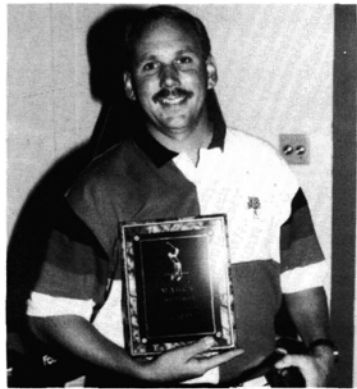
Bruce Schweiger, Commercial Flight Champion

Commercial Flight Gross

1. Bruce Schweiger — 81
2. Chris Threadgill — 84
3. Mark Johnson — 87
4. Dave Nadler — 88

Commercial Flight Net

1. Kerry Anderson — 66
2. Mitch Beiser — 77
3. Joe Wollner — 79
4. Vern Rascher — 80



Donald S. Ferreri, 3rd Flight Champion

Third Flight

1. Don Ferreri — 100
2. Al Fierst — 105
3. Len Berg — 108
4. Lynn Wesson — 108
5. Roger Stewart — 102

Other Event Winners

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Closest to the pin | Chris Threadgill |
| 2. Longest Drive — Championship flight | Tom Robinson |
| 3. Longest Drive — First flight | Mark Bobb |
| 4. Longest Drive — Second flight | Mike Bavier |
| 5. Longest Drive — Third flight | Tim Kelly |
| 6. Longest Drive — Commercial flight | John Meyer |
7. On #8, the betting hole, \$337.00 was bet and \$290.00 in gift certificates were awarded to winners. There were also 3 shirts given away for birdies so the total prizes awarded on the betting hole were \$357.50. There will be the annual close-out sale at the Medinah clinic in November and most merchandise will be sold on that date.

8. MAGCS would like to thank the following individuals for donating prizes: (1) Butch Borgman, (2) Rudy Weber — Foot Joy, (3) Brian Fagan — Wittek golf, (4) Walt Wyncarczyk — Founders Club.

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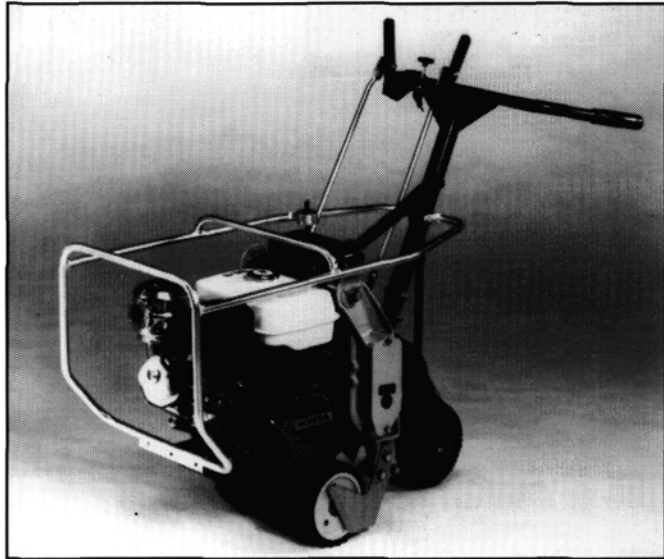
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Midwest Breezes



Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

November 4 — By-Laws meeting at Oak Brook Hills G.C.

November 16-18 — PSU Golf Turf Conference

November 18 — MAGCS Clinic, Medinah C.C.

November 30-Dec. 1 & 2 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort

December 7-11 — Michigan State Short Course

January 11-15 — OSU Short Course

January 23-20 — GCSAA Conference & Show, Anaheim, CA

March 4 — Spray Technician, Stonebridge C.C.

April 26 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Geneva G.C.

June 21 — MAGCS monthly meeting at River Forest G.C.

July — MAGCS monthly meeting at Poplar Creek G.C.

1992 MAGCS Nominating Committee

The MAGCS Nominating Committee consisted of the following Past Presidents: Mike Nass, Dave Meyer, Dave Behrman, Bruce Williams, and Jim Evans. Mike Nass and Jim Evans were unable to attend the September 29th meeting held at Bob O'Link Golf Club. The committee discussed the election process and candidate qualifications. The following slate of candidates was approved for voting by the membership at our annual meeting in November:

President — Tim Kelly

Vice-President — Alan Fierst

Secretary/Treasurer — Joel Purpur

Directors — Mike Bavier, Kerry Blatteau, Don Cross,
Kevin Czerkies

There are 3 vacancies for director and 1 director's position would be open additionally after Joel Purpur's election as Sec./Treas.

Bruce Williams
Nominating Committee Chairman

Nominee for Director for the MAGCS Kevin Czerkies

I am a certified golf course superintendent employed at Sportman's Country Club since November of 1985. Prior to this I worked at Cog Hill Golf Club for seven years, five of those as assistant superintendent.

I have served on the MAGCS Education Committee for three years. The MAGCS is a very strong organization in which every member can benefit. As director I will help to ensure that this association continues to grow and maintain its fine reputation.

November 16-18, 1992

Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University, Park, PA. Contact: Dr. Peter Landschoot, Department of Agronomy, 116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-1017 OR Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, P. O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, (814) 863-3475.

Michigan State University to Offer Turfgrass Management Short Course

The Michigan State University Turfgrass Science program will be offering an intensive, in depth, one week seminar on the basics of turfgrass management. Classes are offered in turfgrass plant physiology, identification and establishment; disease, weed and insect identification and control; soils, fertility and irrigation, and; pesticide safety and IPM principles. Technical information will be presented in both lecture and laboratory settings.

The world renowned turfgrass faculty at MSU, including Dr. Joe Vargas, Dr. Paul Rieke, Dr. Trey Rogers, Dr. Dave Smitley, and Dr. Bruce Branham, will instruct participants in the many aspects of the turfgrass industry, including golf course management, lawn care, athletic fields and sod production. This school was first offered in 1991 and was successfully completed by nearly 70 turfgrass professionals.

The 1992 School of Turfgrass Management will be held from December 7-11, 1992 at the Kellogg Biological Research Station near Kalamazoo, Michigan. The school is open to turfgrass professionals of all skill levels. However, it is of particular use to those entering the turfgrass industry, or professionals wanting to enhance their expertise. For more information and registration details, call the Turfgrass School Coordinator, Tim Doppel at (313) 939-3636.



Ed Braunsky along with President Schmitz, presenting host superintendent James Knulty with a plaque of appreciation — for hosting the September meeting.

Mechanic & Assistant Needed: Apply to Gary Mulvihill at Heritage Bluff Golf Club, 815/467-1664.

For Sale: •“Woods” undermounted 72” rotary mower. Will mount to most any tractor with PTO. 3 blade action can mow to heights of 8”. Also can be used to mulch leaves.

•Two “Bunton” 22” walking greensmowers. Both in excellent condition. Call Mark at Barrington Hills C.C., 381-0140.

Results from October 12 MAGCS Meeting at Settlers Hill

Penn State University unseated Danville Area Community College as the MAGCS Alumni champion for 1992 by a narrow 1 stroke margin 143 to 144. The counting teams of Joel Purpur/Dave Blomquist (71) and Ed Fischer/Dudley Smith (72) led Penn State to the victory. Penn State was awarded the annual Dudley Smith alumni trophy by the DACC team at the awards ceremony. The other results were as follows:

College results by team

1. Penn State University	143
2. Danville Area Community College	144
3. University of Wisconsin	144
4. Purdue University	145
5. University of Illinois	147
6. McHenry Community College	161
7. Kiswaukee Community College	180

Low Gross Teams

1. Kerry Blatteau Ron Dohman - 69
2. Bruce Schweiger Phil Zeinert - 71
3. Steve VanAcker Brad Johnson - 71
4. Joel Purpur Dave Blomquist - 71
5. Dudley Smith Ed Fischer - 72
6. Dan Anderson Rick Wilson - 72
7. Jim Roberts Phil Taylor - 72
8. Matt Pozen, Al Brewer - 72

Low Net Teams

1. Luke Stronjy Adolph Bertucci - 60
2. Jim Burdett Albie Staudt - 61
3. Trent Bradford John Lebedevs - 61.2
4. John Gurke Pete Leuzinger - 61.8
5. Rob Zimmerman Randy Kane - 62
6. Tom Morganson Larry Flament - 62.2
7. Bob Padula Troy Buffington - 62.6

Become a Master Gardener

If you like to garden, meet people, and help others, then the Master Gardener program may be for you. Have you heard about it? The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service provides training in many areas of gardening — including trees and shrubs, lawn care, vegetable and flower gardening, tree fruits, and small fruits. Along with culture and care, insect and disease problems are highlighted throughout training.

In DuPage County, you will receive approximately 60 hours of training by University of Illinois staff. The 1993 training sessions will be scheduled 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Thursdays, in the winter months of January, February, and March.

You can receive this horticulture training at no charge, however, there may be a nominal fee for materials. Join our volunteers who help us in our office answering gardening questions, or participate in our other special projects and programs. We ask for approximately 60 hours of volunteer time in return for the training. Most volunteer time is scheduled during the months of April through October.

If you are interested, call Susan Grupp at (708) 653-4114 for information, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: 1993 Master Gardener Program, University of Illinois, Cooperative Extension Service - DuPage Unit, 310 South County Farm Road - Suite B, Wheaton, IL 60187.

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White Water Rafting Trip 1992



Standing left to right: Dan Anderson (R), Mike Hessenius (4), Don Cross (3), Tom Murphy (2), Joel Purpur (7), Dave Blomquist (5), John Lebedevs (3), Trent Bradford (2), Renny Jacobson (3), Ken Kinka (2), Rick Uthe (2), Todd Opperman (2), Tom Voight (R), John Minoque (R), Dan Albaugh (R). Front row, left to right: Ed Collins (R), Brian ? (R), John Gurke (3), Marty (River Guide), Dave Fisher (4), Pete Leuzinger (5), Dave Ward (2), John Conly (1), Fred Opperman (8), Steve Stewart (5). (R = Rookie, and the #'s = number of trips).

The 1992 rafting trip was great this year. After many years of having rain or cool/cold days on the river, this year was heaven. The temperature was in the low 70's and the water temperature was 66 degrees. Pete Leuzinger managed not to fall off any rocks, no bloody noses and no lost tents! We did manage to have some guys flip out of the rafts going through some rapids. I believe every raft lost 30-40% of the guys. It is really only a matter of time before that old man river reaches up and grabs you. Of course then, too, there are the times that another raft will help you into the currents. And there was the time that the senior member of the group had to drop his wet suit and moon a rowdy raft ... All in all, a great time was had by all. I'm ready to go again.



This is our put-in point at the base of the Summersville Dam, the start of the Gauley River. Three discharge tubes putting out 28,000 cfs create a mighty roar and tremendous turbulence.



Don Cross enjoying the river with Dave Blomquist and Mike Hessenius looking on.



Dave Blomquist, John Gurke and Tom Murphy checking the action at Sweets Falls.



Dan Anderson and Joel Purpur with river guide Robin Moore at Sweets Falls.



John Gurke leading and Dan Anderson as the caboose. Water temperature was 67 degrees. Beautiful!



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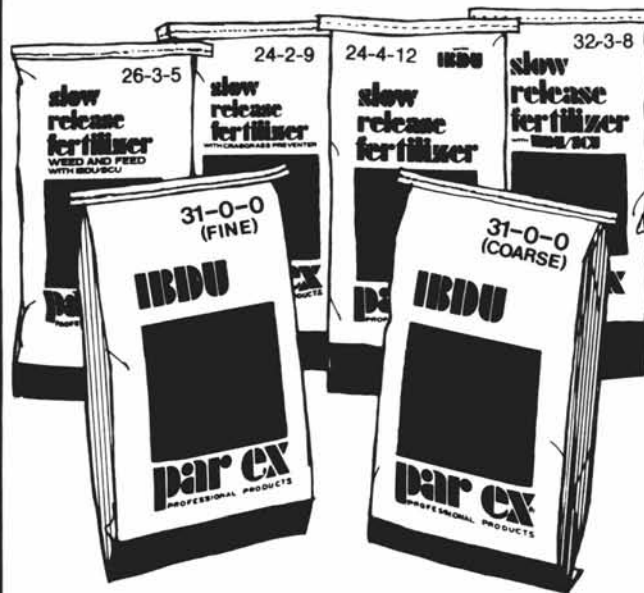
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Marcescent Mania

Why do some trees keep their leaves all winter?
by Fred Tetreault, Public Information

Autumn's leafy color parade is over for the year, but a new tree-watching sport is in progress. It is a game that appeals to those fascinated by the reasons and dynamics causing some broad leaf deciduous trees to keep their leaves in the fall and winter.

The activity involves finding such trees and trying to identify them as "marcescent" species. Marcescent trees are those that hang onto their leaves throughout the fall and winter annually, rather than only occasionally in response to unusual conditions in a given year. Marcescent means "withered," referring to the fact that the leaves wither on those kinds of trees, just as they do on other species. But though these dried up leaves often become severely tattered in the winter winds, their stems remain firmly attached to the twig until spring.

A very old New England maxim claims the falling of oak leaves in autumn marks the time to pay bills. That would be a pretty good deal for the debtor, but less attractive to his creditors, since many oak species are marcescents. Among these in Illinois are the white, pin, shingle, blackjack and scarlet oaks.

Other Illinois marcescent species are blue beech, hornbeam, hop hornbeam and sometimes hawthorn, pecans, burr oak, black locust and sweetgums.

This phenomenon is not fully understood by science and neither is it uniform among the so-called marcescent varieties. For example, it occurs generally in younger trees, but in a patchy manner or not at all in older trees.

The process seems to have something to do with a species being in the wrong place at the wrong time — in other words, out of its natural, more southern range. As a result, the tree tends to keep on growing and producing leaves, rather than shutting down for the season, until the very cold weather arrives and it is too late to get ready for winter.

Leaves produce food — primarily sugars — to feed the tree. In most species, hormonal changes triggered by specific weather changes in the fall signify to the trees that the production season is over. The hormones begin forming a scar tissue — or more properly, an abscission layer — around the base of the leaf. The flow of sugars into the tree is shut off as the abscission slowly chokes off the route and their production ceases. Those sugars remaining in the leaf produce the fall leaf color.

Again in tune with climatic conditions, enzymes produced by the hormonal changes in the tree begin destroying the link between the leaf and its twig. The leaf eventually comes free from its mooring and falls.

In marcescent trees, leaf production continues unabated into the late fall. Hormones do not herald the season's end and the abscission or separation zone never forms. The tree continues producing sugars until freezing weather halts the process and the leaves wither and/or freeze in place. Without the abscission process to loosen them, the leaves remain so firmly attached not even heavy winds can dislodge their stems.

(cont'd. page 24)