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(Does Your Canoe cont'd.)

global, it changed my thinking dramatically. Peer discussions can open your mind to other avenues.

5. SELF-CONDUCTED RESEARCH: Most of us have been known to experiment from time to time. Universities call that research. What separates us from them is that we usually aren't so particular in our methods. While our results may be "tainted", they do offer (if conducted with a modicum of scientific method) a means to compare products and test claims. If you are really adventurous, you can even see how agricultural or industrial products may behave on turf. No, one does not use the 18th green or the middle of a sports field for the test plot.

6. OBSERVATIONS: Perhaps the single most valuable tool in keeping up with changes is your ability to observe and ask questions. This is done with visits to field days, sports fields, a round of golf at another golf course, and, of course, looking in your own arena of turf management. Ask not merely why something is wrong, but just as importantly why it is right. Question why, in the face of adverse conditions or problems, is a certain turf area looking good when by all rights and reason, it shouldn't be. You can learn more from answering that question than all of the wrongs you can find. Keep daily tabs on your observations, and work on questions, theories, and answers as time permits. The old "trial, error and logic" method is still a valid learning technique.

7. CONSULTANTS: Finally, and you would have been disappointed in me if I hadn't included this, you have consultants. Many of you already know where you would like to have consultants, but that is another story. Sometimes I feel as welcome as a shark eating its prey alive. Nevertheless, a good consultant is a wealth of current information. In order to be a consultant, one must strive to absorb all that is possible so that a proper recommendation can be made on a variety of problems and circumstances. If you were looking for an old answer, you would already have it. I try to share with my clients information that I have learned from every one of the points previously listed. However, my limited brain space (some say the space is there but not the substance) only allows so much of this sharing to take place on any one visit. Don't count on a consultant to solve all of your problems, or even to be the single source of staying current. However, do ask questions, probe and prod on any topic related to turf management to get the most out of a visit.

There are many other means for keeping your edge sharp in modern turf management. Industry sales information, student apprentices, technical researchers themselves, are just a few. My point is, you can't expect to rely simply on your own training, experience, and plan to safely see you through the mess we sometimes call turf management. You also need to stay current with a good reference library, a monthly supply of trade periodicals, regular attendance at turf conferences, frequent discussions with your fellow professionals, a little experimentation at the work-place, a lot of looking and asking why, and good use of a qualified turfgrass consultant. Then, when you find yourself 'up the creek'' in front of a roaring rapids, you can smugly smile at the thrill seekers bashing to and fro about the rocks as you glide gently through with your spare paddle ready for as much rough water as the turf world throws at you.



On the Waterfront

by Jim Reed

Back in the middle of May, I had a conversation with Rick Hahn of Marriott's Lincolnshire Golf Club. He related how he had determined that Chicago weather patterns ran in 10 week cycles. His expectation was that our cool, dry weather would change around the first week in July. Superintendents have been thankful that the change was not too hot and wet.

This month's topic is a continuation of last month's article on "PVC Strength Characteristics and Typical PVC Fitting Failures" by Ron Bliesner.

Burst Failures

Burst failure in PVC pipe and fittings is usually rather dramatic. It may begin a point of stress concentration or weakness and may continue by splitting through fittings and pipe for some distance. Sometimes, the failures will completely shatter a fitting and the adjacent pipe.

Burst failures usually occur during hydraulic transient conditions that create large pressure variations in the system. These include rapid valve closure, pumps starting or stopping, rapidly escaping entrapped air, or an air pocket shifting within a pipeline. Burst failure will, sometimes, occur in a pipe of fitting that was damaged during installation or that is subject to external loads. In these cases the failure may occur at pressures well below the expected burst limit of the product.

Long Term Pressure Failures

Long term pressure failure occurs when the system operates continually at a pressure that will eventually cause failure. The failures may occur within a short time after system installation or after many years. The failures will usually appear as slits or small cracks or in an area of stress concentration. Some yielding of material will usually be evident.

Cyclic Surge Failure

Cyclic surge failure can occur in systems that are subject to frequent changes in flow and/or pressure. Modern golf course systems with computerized controllers are prime candidates for cyclic failures. A typical system may experience from 40,000 to 100,000 cycles per year of magnitudes from 10 to 80 psi. H. W. Vinson indicates that is is not uncommon to see cyclic failures in golf course systems after 2 to 5 years of operation.

Design standards have been proposed by Vinson to consider cyclic surges. However, the standards apply to pipe and not fittings. It appears that fittings, due to the stress concentrations and extra forces placed on them, will not withstand as many cycles, although their burst strength may be equal to that of the same class pipe. Limited testing completed by Keller-Bliesner Engineering also indicates that there may be marked reduction in burst strength after subjection to a period of cyclic pressure conditions. Used tees that had been subject to cyclic conditions sufficient to cause failure in some fittings were removed before failure and tested for burst strength against new fittings. The used tees exhibited only about 56% of the burst strength of the new tees ...

Of all the operating conditions that can create problems, cyclic pressure appears to be the most critical, especially in golf course systems. Given the cyclic nature of irrigation system operation and their limited capacity to handle cyclic pressure conditions, fittings are the weakest system components. Serious consequences may result if this fact is not adequately considered at the design stage.





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Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

September 21 — MAGCS meeting at Big Foot C.C.

October 5 — ITF Golf Outing at Olympia Fields C.C.

October 12 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Settlers Hill G.C.

October 23 - Dinner Dance at River Forest C.C.

November 18 — MAGCS Clinic, Medinah C.C.

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

January 23-30, 1993 — GCSAA Conference & Show, Anaheim, CA

April 26, 1993 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Geneva G.C.

June 21, 1993—MAGCS monthly meeting at River Forest G.C.

July, 1993 - MAGCS monthly meeting at Poplar Creek G.C.

Starting in 1993 all golf meetings will require preregistration and prepayment ... This was passed by the Board of Directors at their August meeting. More on this ruling will come in future newsletters by the committee chairman.

Looking for a mechanic? Call Dean Ruiz, he has 5 years experience on small engine repair and golf course equipment. 708/964-4062.

The 1992 regional Perennial Plant Symposium will once again be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden, October 1, 1992. Registration fee for the day will be \$75.00 plus lunch. For further information call Galen D. Gates, 708/835-5440.

NECROLOGY

It is with a deep sense of loss that we announce the death of the mother of Art Benson, Jr., who passed away in late July.

The 63rd Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference will be held January 5-7, 1993, at the Holiday Inn — South Convention Center in Lansing, Michigan. Please note that this is an earlier date in January than previously held MTF conferences.

Conference information is scheduled to be mailed by the end of October. If you should have any further questions please call Kay at the MTF office, 517-321-1660.

Rumor has it our own Dudley Smith created a scene — that he and his playing partners were escorted off the course at the Michiana GCSA meeting at Sand Point on August 10. Now Dudley, what was that all about?

This form or a photo copy of it must be sent in to participate in the 1992 Annual M.A.G.C.S. Golf Tournament

1992 M.A.G.C.S. Annual Tournament Entry/Registration

Date: September 21, 1992

Place: Big Foot Country Club

Time: 12:00 Shotgun Start

Event: Flighted according to handicap. Prizes in each flight. You must return the entry below to enter. Entry must be

received by Saturday, September 19, 1992. Allow 2 days for delivery.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT. If you show up the day of the event without pre-registering, you will be placed if there are openings to play but you WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES.

***** To qualify to participate you must:*****

1. Have attended at least 2 M.A.G.C.S. meetings in 1992.

2. Have an established CDGA handicap through our association or your club.

No fees are required to be paid when this entry is returned. All fees will be paid on the day of the event.

The reasons for this pre-registration are as follows.

1. Since this is our annual championship, we conduct it as a tournament. You will be paired with players in your flight with similar handicaps. To do this, we need the entries in advance to arrange pairings.

2. Pre-registration will help us in other areas of event preparations.

RETURN THE ENTRY BELOW TO KERRY BLATTEAU, OAK BROOK HILLS HOTEL, 3500 MIDWEST ROAD, OAK BROOK, IL 60522.

M.A.G.C.S. 1992 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT ENTRY/REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Handicap

I have been to the previous two M.A.G.C.S meetings in 1992

1. _____

2.

Membership Class ____

September 21 — Big Foot C.C. — Event is the annual MAGCS championship. All players must pre-register for the event and will be flighted and paired according to handicaps. Failure to pre-register will result in not being able to participate in the event. All prizes will be low gross only within your flight. Event Chairman — Kerry Blatteau Pre-Event co-chairman — Paul Bastron

Post-Event co-chairman - Brian Bossert

"Ray Gerber Editorial Award Contestants"

by Fred Opperman, Editor

The award was not given in 1991 due to having only 4 superintendents that wrote articles. This year we had 14 articles that will qualify.

- Article 5 of the guidelines for the award state:
 - 5. There must be at least six articles in a qualifying year (September through August) to be considered. If less than six articles in any one year, those qualifying will be carried over to the next year(s), till there are six articles to be judged.

Those qualifying to enter for the award in 1990/1991 are: September 1990 — "Noise/Nuisance Ordinance" by Brian Green of Sunset Valley G.C.

December 1990 — "A New Green Construction Technique" by Nick Hongisto, Schaumburg Golf Club.

March 1991 — "Birth of a Video" by Jerry Mach, Lake Bluff G.C.

July 1991 — "Inform Your Golfers" by John Gurke, Aurora C.C.

Qualifying in 1991/1992 are:

September 1991 — "Experiment at Cantigny" by Tony Rzadzki, Cantigny G.C.

November 1991 — "Winter is the Time to Aerate" by Tony Rzadzki, Cantigny G.C.

January 1992 — "Don't Read This" by Dennis Wilson, Sunset Ridge C.C.

January 1992 — "Dollarspot Problems at Ridgemoor C.C." by Peter J. Hahn, Ridgemoor C.C.

March 1992 — "Gooses" by John Stephenson, Pottawatomie G.C.

March 1992 — "The St. Charles Nature Walk" by Peter Leuzinger, St. Charles C.C.

April 1992 — "Our 18th Hole Norman Rockwall" by Joel Purpur, River Forest C.C.

May 1991 — "People - Who Needs Them" by Ken Shepherd, Wedgewood C.C.

May 1992 — "Another Court Decision" by Dave Blomquist, Naperville C.C.

May 1992 — "Environmental Awareness: Get With the Program" by John Gurke, Aurora C.C.

June 1992 — "Peremption of Local Pesticide Regulation" by Jeff Nack, Springbrook C.C.

June 1992 — "Mother Nature and the Polish Culvert" by Tony Rzadzki, Cantigny G.C.

August 1992 — "U. S. Open Notebook" by Robert Maibusch, Hinsdale G.C.

August 1992 — "Students, Give Them a Chance" by Tony Rzadzki, Cantigny G.C.

The above articles will be judged by a panel of 5, and the award will be given at the Midwest Clinic, November 18, 1992 at Medinah C.C. The judges for this year's award will be: Raymond Schmitz, President, MAGCS; Dr. Randy Kane, U of I and CDGA; Dr. Tom Fermanian, U of I; Donald Gerber, Retired Golf Course Superintendent and Past President of MAGCS; and Editor, Fred D. Opperman.



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Senior Outing

Photos by Ray Schmitz



Albie Staudt & Leon Hartogh



John Kiraly & Ed Smith



Carl Hopphan & John Stephenson



Adolph Bertucci & Wayne Trometer



Lynn Wesson, Frank Krueger & John Stephenson



Carl Hopphan & Albie Staudt along with Ed Braunsky & Todd Hopphan discussing the "Old and New Ways".



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Prevent Wildlife Damage to Landscape

by James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser, Horticulture

Even though most of the Greater Chicago area is heavily urbanized, it is also home to a large population of wildlife. According to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, the populations of rabbits, mice and especially deer may be higher now than they have ever been. When snow has covered the natural browse, these animals are forced to feed on trees and shrubs, often on prized landscape plants.

There are several ways to protect your plants from these animals. Mice take up residence in snow or debris near the bases of trees and shrubs, gnawing away the bark all winter, girdling the plants. Fruit trees, pines, and shrubs such as rose tree of China or flowering almond are most attractive. The mice will build a tunnel system under the snow from plant to plant so they can move and feed, safe from predators. Remove debris around the bases of the plants and walk down the snow so the mice can't tunnel up to the plants.

Rabbits, too, will resort to eating bark when snow covers their normal forage. They may girdle trees, but normally eat only the ends of branches of shrubs. This "haircut" usually does no permanent damage. Preferred are roses, fruit trees and young plants with thin bark.

Mechanical protection for trunk of young trees is effective. Use cylinders of hardware cloth at least 1½ feet taller than the expected snow cover. Commercially available rabbit guards of plastic, aluminum, etc., work well, too.

Protect beds of roses or finite areas of small trees using fencing 3 feet high, with the bottom six inches bent outward and an inch or so below the ground to prevent burrowing.

Keep snow at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the fence or tree guards, or rabbits will get over them.

Deer populations are very high throughout the urban area. They have become accustomed to humans. They fearlessly feed on landscape plants even in densely populated areas anywhere near forest preserves, rivers, streams or other natural areas where they can hide during the day.

Once snow covers the grass, the deer feed on evergreens, and deciduous trees and shrubs, often removing everything from ground level to as high as they can reach.

This is especially damaging to evergreen hedges and foundation plantings which may not grow back once all foliage is removed, and to dwarf fruit trees destroying the reachable fruiting branches.

Deer may be repelled by using bars of fragrant soap tied to four-foot laths driven into the ground every 10-15 feet. If the deer are not wary of humans, this may not work. Spraying plants with rabbit/deer repellant containing thiram will usually prevent feeding by deer and rabbits. The material needs to be reapplied every month or so as it washes off.

Small areas may be fenced for seasonal deer protection. Fences must be placed so that there is insufficient take-off or landing room or the deer will jump them. Snow fence may work in such cases. Large areas can be protected with electric fence where legal. Plans for such installation are available and must be followed carefully.

The over abundance of wildlife is due to the succession of mild winters experienced in the 80's, and the lack of natural culling by starvation and by predators. Unless natural controls reduce their numbers, wild animals will continue to damage unprotected landscape plants.

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