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President's Message



Ray Schmitz

July was another month where the temperatures were below normal and there was plenty of rainfall available on a timely basis. I have not had to water greens, tees, or fairways in over 4 weeks. Almost unheard of during the month of July. The cool temperatures and adequate rainfall made the golf courses in the Chicago area look very lush and green. For several years I have been trying to tell the members at my club that even though we practice good agronomic techniques and have access to the latest equipment and a modern irrigation system we still need cooperation from mother nature to make our golf courses sparkle. If you believe in cycles and averages you can probably look forward to a fall with above average temperatures and below normal rainfall.

The Board of Directors of the MAGCS has been meeting on a regular basis and attending to the affairs of the Association. At the last meeting a time and place was selected to discuss the proposed changes in the by-laws of the GCSAA as recommended by our national association.

The meeting will be held November 4th, 4:30 p.m. at Oak Brook Hills Resort. Bruce Williams, director for the GCSAA will be on hand to discuss the new proposals and explain why they are necessary. A question and answer period will be offered following the discussion. All current voting members (Class A and B) of the GCSAA are invited to attend.

The Federal Government has recently determined that small engines account for 20% of all pollution from engine emissions. I look forward to some kind of legislation requiring pollution controls on our equipment which would certainly have a big impact on the golf and lawn care industries. What will they think of next?

"Summer Sentiments"

September, with the promise of Fall,
Take a deep breath, overhaul it all?
Another great Golfing Summer's nearing an end,
Challenge of next year's here my friend.
Another Western Open became a classic,
Hot, dry, lots of play, Fantastic.
Yes, another Golfing Season's slipping by,
A winner, a loser, pie in the sky?
"Way to go, Ken Lapp!"

Kenneth R. Zanzig

“Back on Board”

by Dave Louttit

Back in the fall of 1986, I was delighted to have been elected to the Board of Directors of the MAGCS. To become a director, and to gradually work my way towards the presidency, was my goal. After serving the first year of my two-year term, failing health forced me to spend a year or two out of commission. Thoughts of ever being on the Board of Directors again, were the furthest things from my mind.

In 1990, as I had begun my second year in the sales field, then MAGCS president appointed Phil Taylor to chair a newly formed committee, the CMAC, or Commercial Membership Advisory Committee. In 1992, President Ray Schmitz took that one step farther, allowing a commercial member to attend the MAGCS Board of Directors meetings. Thanks to Ray and all the commercial members for letting me assume this position.

Since I was first elected in 1986, the names for the Board of Directors has changed, but the goal remains the same: To make sure that the MAGCS is the best regional superintendents association in the U.S. As the association has grown and prospered, the commercial members have continued in their growth as members of the MAGCS. While sitting in on the Board of Directors meetings, the commercial sector can now have their ideas presented in a professional manner. Currently Class E (Commercial) members comprise over 35% of the total membership.

Although the route back to the board has been a bit circuitous, it is great to be back on board.



August 8, 1992

Mr. Fred Opperman, CGCS
810 Greenwood Ave.
Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

Dear Fred:

I just received my August issue of **The Bullsheet** and particularly enjoyed the two articles by Joel Purpur and Bob Maibusch, CGCS.

Both authors emphasized a point which I feel needs to be communicated more – the abuse of the stimpmeter and the obsession with extremely low cutting heights. I saw a quote the other day which said that speed will either kill the green or the supt. or both. How true!!

I also agree with both Joel and Bob that the USGA has a double standard regarding green mowing heights. The Green Section is telling us about raising the heights, but in their tournaments, like the U.S. Open, the greens are cut way down. I truly believe that the Green Section has the golf course supt. in their best interests. However, I also believe that their hands are tied and conditions which existed at Pebble Beach are mandated by the USGA Executive Board. It has to be extremely frustrating to the Green Section to see this happen time and time again.

Somewhere the above situation has to stop. I certainly don't have the answer, but education has to be part of it. I believe that we as the supts. have to be more vocal about it. We have to get our message across to our own golfing membership, plus the PGA, and the media.

I continue to admire the quality of **The Bullsheet**. I enjoy a publication which has the bulk of its articles written by member supts. Plus, I also enjoyed your article about your trip to the British Isles.

Looking forward to seeing you at the N.C. Turf Conf. in Dec.

Respectfully,

Dave

Dave Fearis CGCS

Key to the 90's: “Working Together”

by Wendy Stebbins, Psychotherapist

Through my travels around the country giving speeches and doing seminars, I have become acutely aware of the necessity for effective golf superintendents, managers and pros to learn and teach cooperation and “working together” skills. Self-discipline, time management and dealing well with people separate the “award-winners” from the “also-rans”.

Since there is a high burnout rate in the golf business, learning these skills are necessary to avoid stress and burnout.

Before trying to change others, it is necessary to look at yourself, your personality, your personal life because whatever you are, whatever you bring to work with you will impact everything that goes on at the club.

Did you know that the first two hours of the day set the tone for the rest of the day? Better pay attention to how you get up, what you say to yourself when you look in the bathroom mirror when you are shaving, who gives you grief and who gives you energy. Since stress often is caused by your perception of people, places and things it helps to get in a positive mood.

SHAVING FOR SUCCESS

The following exercises while shaving almost guarantee a positive “go get 'em — I've got the world by the tail” modus operandi attitude all day.

Ask yourself and give at least 3 answers for each “OUT LOUD”. (The louder the better. Really get into it).

1. What will I notice today that I haven't seen before?
2. What am I most happy about? How does it make me feel?
3. What else am I really happy about? How do I feel?
4. What am I really excited about in my life? Who does it excite me? How does it make me feel?
5. What am I most proud of? How does it make me feel?
6. What am I most grateful about in my life? How does it make my feel?

Have you heard the old adage “You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.” This is most definitely true in dealing with people. Pretend that every single person you come in contact with has 4 red garrish letters written across his forehead “MMFI”. MMFI stands for “MAKE ME FEEL IMPORTANT!”

The philosophy “Put everyone in the same boat” doesn't work well with different types of personalities. Complainers, naggers, steam-rollers, know-it-all, super-agreeables, etc. ... all have different goals and needs and must be treated uniquely.

Working together, dealing with people and people dealing with you goes better when everyone knows how to keep their stress level in line. The following really says it all.

TWO RULES TO ELIMINATE STRESS

1. Don't sweat the small stuff.
2. Everything is the small stuff.

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Turf Grass Species Facts and Problems

by Mark G. Grundman
Medalist America

More and more golf courses are following the trend toward lower fairway mowing heights or returning to higher BLUEGRASS contents in fairways.

With lower mowing heights, you reduce the choices for grasses, that will survive in any given turf situation. For instance, at lower mowing heights, BENTGRASS should be the desired species because of its capability to survive at ½" or less. Which BENT to use will depend on the amount of traffic and maintenance programs.

RYEGRASS can be another grass of consideration for not only lower mowed fairway situations, but as a intermediate grass mixed with BLUEGRASS for a multitude of potential problems. These problems could include lower to higher mowing heights, heavy wear, drought tolerance, rapid establishment, and overall disease resistance. The major problem with this concept is the variation in color, texture and growth habits at different times of the year.

BLUEGRASS, on the other hand, can give you the optimum in a turf situation. Newer varieties are available that can be mowed as low as 5/8" for tournament play. With their overall disease resistance, insect resistance, quicker establishment rates, finer texture, better winter hardiness than any other turf species, and dark green color. However, they do have their problems with thatch development, some insect problems, limited disease susceptibility and limits to height of cut.

A concerted effort should be made by overseeding to even out turf areas with the proper grass species, and improve I.P.M. programs.

The concept of overseeding turf is nothing new, but with the advent of newer equipment and newer varieties, which are more aggressive, have better overall disease resistance, better uniformity, and better mowing qualities, the days of damaged or modeled turf are over for the most part. The way to approach this is through overseeding every fall or do split applications by seeding once in fall and possibly seeding again in spring (if needed). Many superintendents realize better turf and reduced maintenance budgets through incorporation of a set amount of dollars per year into their budgets for overseeding. This concept has proven itself time and time again in the fight against POA ANNUA. For instance POA ANNUA needs soil temperatures of 70 degrees for germination while most BLUES and RYES will germinate at 50 degrees or above. As a norm under iced situations, POA ANNUA will only survive for 30 days while most cool season grasses will survive for at least 90 days. During the summer months 104 degree leaf temperatures can create problems with POA ANNUA DECLINE. Recent studies suggest that POA ANNUA DECLINE, LEAF SPOT, and ANTHRACNOSE all seem to work together to weaken turf.

In many cases, the initiation of an annual overseeding program will seek to affect a distorted equilibrium that has developed over the years and favors ANNUAL BLUEGRASS

(cont'd. page 6)



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(Turf Grass Species cont'd.)

ENCROACHMENT. It will take time to shift this equilibrium but a shift will result from dedicated and vigorous annual overseedings.

One last problem facing every superintendent, is that of every day management of rough areas. With shrinking or stagnated budgets, more and more superintendents are looking for ways to reduce rough maintenance costs, yet make their roughs look like they are a viable part of the normal maintenance program.

How is this accomplished, you may ask? With the proper use of low management, slow growing BLUEGRASSES and or blends of FINE FESCUES a Scottish links affect can be accomplished for deep, unmown rough areas. To add a touch of color to these areas a sod cutter can be used to open strategic beds for wild flower introduction. Which WILDFLOWERS should I use? This will depend on one simple questions: CAN YOU BURN IN YOUR AREA?

With most long term prairie grasses and forbs burn management is a very real tool. This tool is used to manage annual weed encroachment, dead matted material, insects and diseases that will soon turn your beautiful wild flower area into a large weed patch.

If burning these areas is not a realistic program then maybe short term wild flowers should be looked at with mowing and overseeding with light rates of short term flowers every fall. Solid beds of flowers can also be used to accent many different parts of the golf course or prairie grasses can be used to screen tees from greens or any other area. Which grasses should I use? This will depend on soils, and growing height requirements.

The end result of proper overseeding is a golf course that has more uniform turf with reduced maintenance problems and reduced overall costs threw proper Integrated Pest Management.

And a pinch of baking soda

Ready for a really handy fungicide? Dr. Kenneth Horst and his colleagues at Cornell University are seeing startling results using sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) to control powdery mildew and other fungal diseases. The compound, mixed with various spreader/sticker agents, not only prevents the growth of several fungal diseases, it cleans up plants already stricken.

Horst's work is primarily with ornamentals, but colleagues have had good results with grains, cucurbits, small fruit, and turf. Horst is unsure why a common compound such as baking soda works against diseases, but he says it controls mildews better than any other product he has seen, including those chemicals specifically marketed for mildew control.

Working with Church and Dwight, makers of Arm and Hammer baking soda, Horst recently met with EPA representatives in Washington. The goal: to get pesticide registration waivers or exemptions so that this product, can be used in the ag market. The meetings, says Horst, were "very productive", and he expects to have sodium bicarbonate registered for use on ornamentals within 8 to 12 months. Registration for food crops would follow quickly, he believes.

Credit: Pesticides Coordinator Report



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Does Your Canoe Have a Paddle?

by Jonathon L. Scott
Agronomist, Jack Nicklaus Golf Services Div.
Golden Bear International

Here in the U.S., we have a saying that may have originated with the frontiersmen who opened up the country for trade and settlement many years ago. While I don't know of any particular incident, I can imagine how one must have felt when, after canoeing through the wilderness, miles from anywhere, loaded with supplies and trade goods, the only paddle in the boat shatters against the first rock of a roaring rapids. This poor soul was then truly "Up a creek without a paddle". We use that phrase pretty loosely to describe anyone who finds themselves in the middle of a mess without any visible means of extraction. What, do you say, does that have to do with growing grass? A lot if you don't stay up to date with your profession.

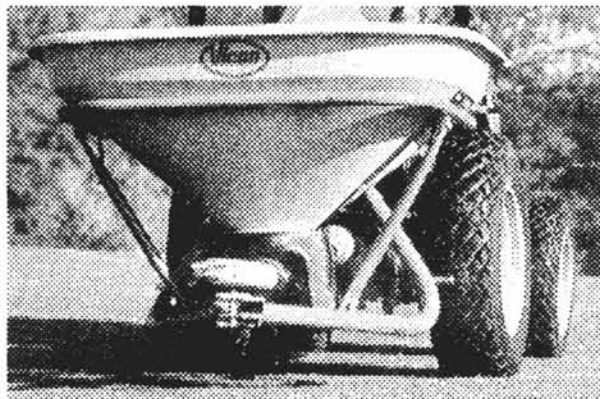
As a golf course maintenance consultant (yes, I know, the bloke who knows less than you do but knows how to say it better), I see quite a few so called canoeists without paddles crashing through the rocks and rapids of modern turf management. They bounce from one boulder to the next, twirl in the whirlpools, bruise and bend their canoes, and hope to hell that they come through in one piece. Some make it, some don't. Those that do think the thrill is much greater without the paddle, and continue on to the next rapids without stopping to fashion another. Eventually, the canoe is so weakened by the repeated bashing, it gives out and the poor sod drowns. You would think, then, that the turf world would be quite full of people with paddles. Alas, there always seem to be an unending supply of thrill seekers hanging on for dear life.

Everyone knows, the proper way to approach a rapids, or turf management for that matter, is with proper training, experience, a good plan, and the tools with which to carry it out. However, rivers rise and fall, rocks move, and safe channels change. So it goes with grass growing. Anyone who thinks they can use the same plan and tools year after year is asking for trouble. This means keeping up on new technology, techniques, and regulations. So, a fifth dimension is added to the proper approach to turf management; staying current.

Recognizing the need to stay abreast of new developments (and reviews of old ones now forgotten) is the easy part. Finding the right methods for doing so can be overwhelming, and sometimes difficult. Mr. Jack Harris, your faithful bloodhound of the literature, makes it seem too easy with his excellent reviews in each TURFCRAFT issue. If any of you peeked at the list of references from his recent article on endophytes, you got an idea of the magnitude of material available on that subject. I have frequently found myself buried under a pile of books and papers while researching a particular recommendation after a site visit. Ask any graduate student doing a paper for his degree how many references were used, and you'll probably get a big eye-roll for a response. So, if this is what is needed to stay current, how does one find the bloody time? You don't, not this way at least.

What you can do to keep up with new information is con-
(cont'd. page 10)

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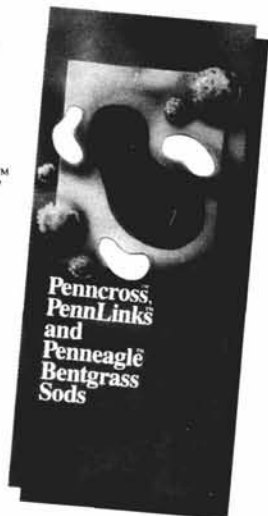
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(Does Your Canoe cont'd.)

stantly keep your mind open to learning. You would be surprised how much is available with a little effort on your part to bring it in. This can be done in the following ways:

1. BOOKS: Create a library of current textbooks and reference material. Start out with the basic turf management bibles, such as Dr. Beard's TURFGRASS SCIENCE AND CULTURE, and his TURF MANAGEMENT FOR GOLF COURSES. Others could be Drs. Smith, Jackson, and Woolhouse's FUNGAL DISEASES OF AMENITY TURF GRASSES, Dr. Couch's DISEASES OF TURFGRASSES, and Dr. Vargas' MANAGEMENT OF TURFGRASS DISEASES. Add to that Drs. Daniel and Freeborg's TURF MANAGERS' HANDBOOK, Dr. Turgeon's TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT, and, of course, any textbooks or government publications specific to Australian and New Zealand insects and grasses.

2. MAGAZINES: Subscribe to any and all trade and technical periodicals you can afford from not only Australia, but abroad as well. As I have said in a previous letter published in TURFCRAFT, I get a great deal of valuable information from this magazine, as well as those from the U.S. Certainly, GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, published by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is among the leaders in providing timely information. Also, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT by Edgell Communications, GROUNDS MANAGEMENT, by Intertec Publishing, and GOLF AND SPORTSTURF, by Adams Publishing Company are staples in the U.S. turf management diet. Your counterparts in the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association publish GREEN MASTER, an excellent pipeline into the University of Guelph. And, of course, BIGGA publishes GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL, with direct links to Bingley in the UK. I receive about twelve different periodicals a month and try to read every one before the next batch comes in. I don't recommend you get that many unless you spend as much time in an airplane as I do, but you should read at least four each month.

3. TURF CONFERENCES: Every one of you should be attending your National Turf Conference, as well as any regional conferences put on by local associations. The same applies to seminars and workshops sponsored by TAFE or other schools, agencies, and industry. You should also try to attend the New Zealand National Turf Conference, at least every other year. and the International Golf Course Conference and Show here in the U.S. whenever possible. The experience gained at these "live" sessions is invaluable in maintaining up to date turf management practices.

4. PEER DISCUSSIONS: I have been in the turf industry since 1972. In that time, I have learned as much or more from my discussions with fellow professionals than all of the books, magazines, and conference seminars combined. That is not to say that the latter aren't valuable. It's just that you can't beat a one on one discussion with someone who has "been there" or is going through the same problems as you. I found this especially true when I was fighting black layer problems on my greens. I talked with everyone I could find who either was in the same battle, or had won or lost a similar fight in the past. As many of you know, that included one Daniel Varrey, late of Wanerroo in Perth, and now with Paris International Golf Club in France. When I learned the problem I was facing was

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