

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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Bull Sheet printed by Ever-Redi Printing, 5100 East Ave., Countryside, IL 60525.

The Bull Sheet is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page, and by the full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white. Circulation is over 600 issues per month.

On Course with the President

by Timothy Kelly,
President, MAGCS



I am writing this article in early March. We as Golf Course Superintendents are poised to start another busy golf and turf season for 1993. By the time the MAGCS membership reads this column it will be well into April. All of us by this time will have an early taste of the 1993 season. We also will have a better sense of how the 1993 golfing season will be shaping up. I hope that all MAGCS members were able to complete their planning for this season, and have developed an excellent "game plan" for all facets of their duties and responsibilities. I sincerely wish the entire MAGCS membership success in their endeavors throughout the 1993 season.

The MAGCS Board along with two committees, Arrangements and Golf have finalized the new system of: advanced registration and pre-payment for all MAGCS golf meetings. This system will be utilized starting this month. If any member has a question concerning this system please contact myself, or any of the MAGCS board members.

I have given something a great deal of thought lately. It is, what I call "walking the tight rope". "Walking the tight rope", is what I believe all of us as Golf Course Superintendents are going to be doing for many years. It requires us to balance these

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two factors: providing the best possible golf turf possible (demanded by membership or customers), while being as environmentally responsible as possible. I thought that all Golf Course Superintendents were as environmentally responsible as possible, until I heard Senator Metzenbaum tell us to get off of our butts and do more. From his prospective Golf Course Superintendents are not doing enough. I took offense with his statement at first, gee whiz, what more can we do? As I thought about it more, I felt that he is probably correct. First of all every Golf Course Superintendent must realize that we are totally responsible for the environmental stewardship of our golf courses. I also remembered back in November, at a meeting an incredulous statement was made by a MAGCS member. He stated that he was not responsible for the environmental management of his staff or golf course operation. This statement and thinking went out with the dinosaurs! The proper thinking is that all of us are environmentally responsible. We need to be part of the solution. I believe that GCSAA encompassed this environmental responsibility correctly in Ballot A of the Bylaws which was passed by 77%. The MAGCS Board's motto for this year is: Environmentally Responsible and Striving to Be the Best! This motto fits in well with "walking the tight rope". As an industry more can be done through research and development. Practical, usable, alternative methods need to be developed rapidly, so that they may be employed immediately.

(continued on page 3)

A good example of usable research is the USGA Turfgrass Research efforts, and the new proposed GCSAA Toxicological Exposure Study.

We as Golf Course Superintendents need to communicate to others our story of successes, such as how we are using less pest control materials than in the recent past. The New York Audubon Society — United States Golf Association Collaborated Program, along with the Ciba-Geigy Rain Bird Environmental Steward Awards Program are helping to communicate and promote the good environmental news about golf courses and superintendents. (Congratulations to Tony Rzadzki on receiving this award for last year.) Our golf courses are islands of: turf, trees, shrubs, etc., producing oxygen for the world environment, and providing habitat for wildlife. Many of us are practicing good IPM at our golf courses while "walking the tight rope". All of us continue to struggle with our own problems whether it is a tough localized micro climate, budget constraints, or strains of incurable/uncontrollable fungal diseases. As the struggle continues, Golf Course Superintendents and their staffs must play by the rules: by being licensed, utilizing pest control materials according to directions, and following sound environmental practices. Let's get off our butts and show Senator Metzenbaum and others outside of our industry what we can do!

Director's Column

by David Blomquist
Naperville C.C.



This is my second year as a director of the MAGCS. I would like to thank those members who have supported me in my brief tenure. This year I am the chairman of the Public Relations committee. Along with Don Cross, Joel Purpur, John Gurke, and Tony Rzadzki, I am expanding the services offered by the P.R. committee to include:

- Press Packets
- Superintendent/local club biographies for the **Bull Sheet**
- Continued improvement of the Video Library
- Library of articles/reports about pesticides and other environmental topics

The press packets will help superintendents access media outlets to gain valuable "press time". They will be customized for various topics such as: Tournament preparation, environmental programs, and recognition of awards presented to the club or superintendent. It will have pre-written releases so the superintendent may simply "fill in the blanks" and forward the release to the contact at the desired newspaper.

Each month the **Bull Sheet** will recognize the superintendent and golf course that will host the monthly meeting. This will give members an opportunity to learn about their fellow superintendents and some of the inside stories of area clubs. Look for this feature in this issue!

Our video library has been around for several years and is available to all members at no cost. A list of the collection and availability description is listed elsewhere in this issue. We are

constantly adding to the collection so if you have a tape, please contact me so I may add it to the collection.

We've established a collection of print articles and scientific reports pertaining to environment issues specifically pesticides. I've found this to be helpful when dealing with environmentally over-sensitive people. MAGCS members can access this collection by calling me and I can provide necessary information.

The Public Relations committee is here for MAGCS members to utilize. If you have any input either good or bad, please let me know. Our goal is to promote pride within our association as well as improving the reputation of golf course superintendents in the general public.

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MAGCS Video Library



The MAGCS has accumulated many VHS videos for members to acquire for their own library. The Public Relations Committee is working on procuring more titles, if you come across something that is not in the MAGCS library, please let us know about it so we may add it to the collection.

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"On the Waterfront"

by Jim Reed

This month's article is a continuation of the March **Bull Sheet** report from the Keller-Bleisner study on "Designing, Operating, and Maintaining Piping Systems Using PVC Fittings" on installation considerations.



THREADED FITTINGS

With threaded steel piping, the only problem pipe fitters needed to worry about was to make sure the threaded fitting didn't leak. To make sure, the joint was tightened a little more. With threaded PVC fittings, that technique can lead to fitting failure. The biggest single cause of failure in female threaded PVC fittings is over-tightening. This is easy to do because PVC threads are much smoother than the threads in iron pipe fittings and, with today's lubricating thread sealants, it is very easy to over-tighten a threaded PVC fitting. In addition, the PVC will deform more easily, allowing deeper thread makeup with less torque. In some cases, it is even possible to over-tighten the fittings by hand.

Arriving at a guideline for assembling threaded PVC fitting joints is difficult. The amount of torque required to assemble two fittings will vary with the thread taper and tolerance, the type of sealant used, the temperature, the size of the fitting, etc. The number of exposed threads is even less precise as a guide to proper assembly. The method that seems to work best is to first tighten the fittings "finger tight" and then add another 1 to 2 turns. Although "finger tight" is qualitative, it is a fair measure of the required initial tightness, and will rarely result in over-tightened fittings.

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Tightening a fitting more than 2 turns past "finger tight" can exceed the design strength of the fitting.

Much controversy exists over the type of thread sealant to use. Some manufacturers recommend a liquid or paste sealant and some recommend Teflon tape. As long as care is taken to follow manufacturers' recommendations, either can be used successfully. However, designers and installers should be aware of a few precautions for each type of sealant.

With paste of liquid thread sealants, extreme care must be used in selecting a sealant which is suitable for PVC pipe. Standard pipe dope and even some of the Teflon paste compounds are not compatible with PVC, so be certain that the sealant used has been tested and approved for PVC fittings. For fittings that will be subjected to movement, such as swing joint risers, the paste or liquid sealant must be non-setting. The higher viscosity sealants that do not dry seem to perform better in applications requiring movement.

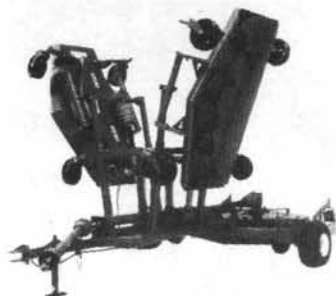
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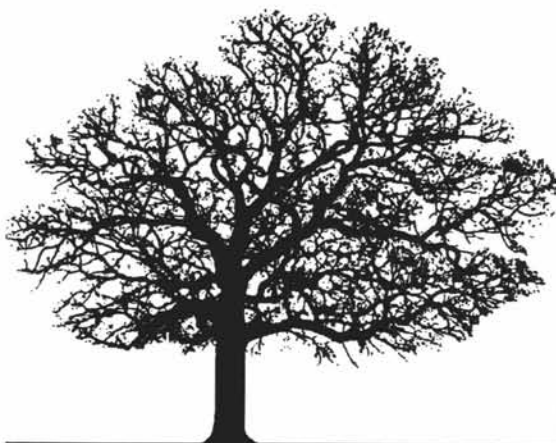


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With Teflon tape, application is the primary precaution because the thickness of the tape varies widely among manufacturers. With very thin tape, multiple wraps may be required to achieve leak-free joints. However, when applying multiple wraps, the risk of thick and thin areas is increased. Such non-uniform application can cause additional stresses on the fittings. Uneven application can be avoided by using a tape that is at least as wide as the width of the threaded area on the fitting. Multiple wraps are made directly on top of the previous wrap without spiraling, creating a uniform thickness. Sufficient wraps should be used to insure that the threads do not "gall" or "lock-up" on make-up. A few test make-ups should be made as a trial. After make-up, the parts should be adjusted until no evidence is seen of broken tape in the threads.

An additional precaution is necessary when handling threaded fittings. It is a fairly common practice to preassemble sprinkler swing joints as assemblies and stock-pile them for later installation. If this is done, the assemblies should be kept in a shaded, ventilated storage area until installation. Excessive heat on the assembled fittings can cause the PVC to relax and loosen the fitting. Leakage may result, or if the joints are retightened, the fittings could become over-stressed when cooled.

Next Month: System Maintenance Requirements

From the Workbench

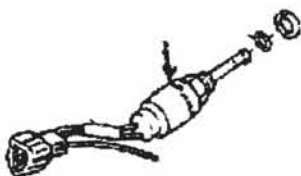
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Written by Chuck Totten, CGMA Vice President

Topic: Cushman 327 liquid cooled carburetor.

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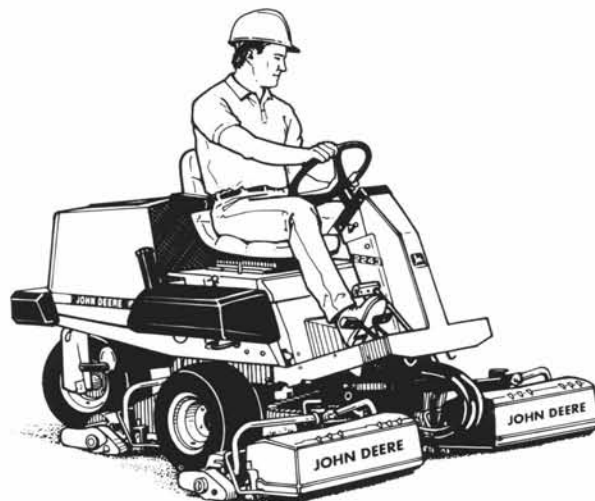
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PRESS RELEASE

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25 January 1993

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Royal Honour for Local Course Superintendent

Golf Course Superintendent, ROBERT MAIBUSCH, of Clarendon Hills, has just returned from Harrogate in Yorkshire, England where he received the top award of his profession from His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

Robert, 35, Course Superintendent of Hinsdale Golf Club, is one of only two US recipients of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association's Master Greenkeeper Certificate. This he achieved by academic courses, experience, a written examination and independent assessment of the golf course. Only three other greenkeepers, all from Britain, have qualified to date.

"I never realized quite what an achievement it was until I got to England" says Robert. "Meeting the prince was — difficult to put into words — but almost overwhelming."

"I never realized quite what an achievement it was until I got to England" says Robert. "Meeting the prince was — difficult to put into words — but almost overwhelming."

Robert, 35, has a BS in Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University, is on the National Committee of Certification Appeals for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. At Hinsdale, one of the oldest clubs in Illinois, he has 18 staff in season "the best staff I've ever worked with" and his members are "very appreciative of what we do" and are "wonderful people to work for".

Robert and his wife, Cheryl met the Prince informally at a reception after the award ceremony. They found him genuinely interested and friendly. They also met Viscount William Whitelaw, President of the Greenkeepers Association and the former Deputy Prime Minister under Margaret Thatcher.

The Prince told the greenkeepers in his opening speech that "we golfers" should realize that: "It is only possible to play this Royal and Ancient game because of all the hard work, commitment, patience, care, and above all because of the pride" that they take in their profession.

Robert and Cheryl Maibusch have two young children, Alexandra, four and a half and Kieron, aged three.

What an Honour ...

Being the Editor, I took the liberty to run the above press release describing the "honour" bestowed upon our own Bob Maibusch by the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

I interviewed Bob over the phone about his certification and the trip to England. But I must spend some time with him at a pub and discuss this over a pint of dark bitters someday soon.

Two years ago at the GCSAA convention in Las Vegas, Bob saw the British Greenkeepers booth and stopped to chat. At that

(continued on page 10)



Master Greenkeeper Certificate recipients, left to right: Gordon Irvine, Mill Ride G.C., North Ascot, England; William Montague, Oakwood C.C., Cleveland, Ohio; Robert Maibusch, Hinsdale G.C., Hinsdale, IL; and Kerran Daly, Salisbury & South Wilts G.C., Wiltshire, England.

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("What an Honour" continued)

time, he picked up information on their association. He soon discovered that they also had a certification program that was just starting. Consequently, he inquired and was sent information on how to become certified. They have three stages one needs to pass to become a "Master Greenkeeper".

The first stage you are given points for your education, experience and seminars that you have attended. The second stage your golf course has to be inspected by members of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association. In Bob's case they asked for a list of six certified GCSAA members of which they picked one of the six to do the on-site inspection of the golf course. There was an extensive list of items that were checked and answered. Up to this part, Bob was doing okay and had passed both stages.

The third part of certification requirements meant taking a 6 hour test. Closed book. Bob wrote and asked for study materials for this test and was sent back a list of 50 text books from which to study!



Robert Maibusch receiving the "Master Greenkeeper Certificate" from His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, Harrogate; in Yorkshire, England.

The exam is given only on May 6 of each year and at a central location in England. This test made up of two parts is composed by a panel of college professors in Great Britain and is changed each year. The first part of the test contained five questions, all essay type dealing mostly with theory. An example: Describe how to construct a USGA green. The second part of the exam was one question (worth 50% of exam). The question was: Given 2 years to prepare for a national links tournament that would be televised world-wide, how would you begin to prepare for, during, and after the tournament? Bob was permitted to take this exam by being monitored by a CGCS: Len Berg.

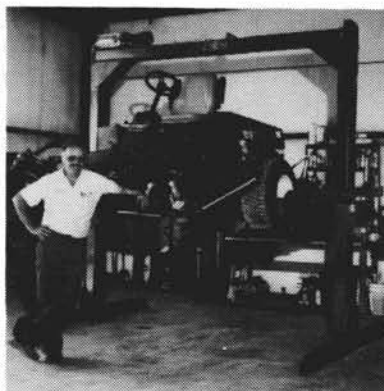
In June Bob was notified that he had passed. He was only the second U.S. superintendent (Bill Montague, of Oakland C.C. in Cleveland also passed at this time) to hold this honour. There was only one greenkeeper in England the previous year who passed the certification and only two others had passed the test along with Bob this year. At the present, there are only five "Master Greenkeepers."

A very nice gesture, through the working of Bob's green-chairman, was that certain members of Hinsdale Golf Club collected funds to allow Bob and his wife Cheryl to make the trip to England. This enabled Bob to be presented the award in person by His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

Bob was also given a royal tour of the St. Andrews golf courses by Walter Wood, a very capable greenskeeper of world renown. Bob came away very impressed.

Congratulations — Bob Maibusch, Master Greenskeeper.

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Representing:

Floratine Products Group:

Biostimulants:

Astron Plus
Knife Plus
Largo
Per 4 Max Plus
Perk Up
Proliff
Renaissance

Soil Amendments:

Aamend
CalpHlex
Maxiplex
Penetrax
Penetrax Max
pHlexmag
pHlexman

Auxiliary Products:

Addamax	Iron Maid
Clean Tank	Pathfinder
Foam-Z-Way	Raider
FP 747	Xact

SynTenniCo:

Novatee
Novapath
Novagreen

For Additional information, please call:

Bud Edman

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