

# the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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## On Course With The President

by Timothy Kelly,  
President, MAGCS



This month I promise not to mention anything about our wonderful, varied, and interesting Chicagoland weather. I am sure each and everyone of us has an interesting weather story to tell so far this season. If you are interested in the effects of hail on putting greens for example, just ask good old Al Fierst, he is an expert.

I want to thank Ken Lapp, his staff, and MAGCS Board Member Dave Blomquist for all of their efforts to provide us with a first class hospitality tent at the Western Open. Unfortunately the MAGCS hospitality tent was very poorly attended. Dave stated that attendance for the entire four days was about fifteen to twenty individuals. This trend of declining interest in the MAGCS hospitality tent has been happening for the past three or four years. Due to the lack of interest the MAGCS Board has decided to drop the hospitality tent starting next year, 1994.

Ray Schmitz will be our Nominating Committee Chairman this year. The MAGCS has a continuing need to ascertain and run for election to the Board of Directors, quality Class A Members. Ray will be looking for Class A Members who: served or helped on a committee, show a willingness to become involved with the MAGCS, and regularly attend monthly meetings. If you or another member you know is interested in helping MAGCS to continue to progress contact Ray now, he will be glad to hear from you.

Our August meeting will be held on Monday, August 16th. Jim Evans will be our host at Turnberry C.C. Be sure to take note of this because it is a change from our printed 1993 meeting schedule.



## Director's Column

by Donald A. Cross, CGCS Skokie Country Club

While staring at my blank PC screen hoping for insightful words to magically appear I asked myself, "What content criteria should be observed in a Director's Column?" Well, I came up with a few. In my opinion a Director's Column should be educational, encouraging, entertaining, and in this day of environmental correctness, ecological. Now these may not be exactly the same as other Directors would suggest, and they are certainly not all-inclusive but nevertheless, they work for me. (At least for this writing as they fit the four items I want to address.)



I'll start with the last first. If you did not see the Chicago Tribune article "Ecology Getting to Be a Habitat With Golfers" (June 23, front page), I would urge you to find it and read it. It was splendid to see this very positive public relations piece about the commitment that over 800 courses have made toward improved environmental stewardship through the Audubon Program. Get involved if you currently are not. It is the "correct" thing to do, it's great fun, it adds variety to our daily work, it puts you more "in tune" with nature and it's an excellent tension release.

On the same subject, I thought it was interesting and enjoyable to discuss and compare with other superintendents, at one of our earlier MAGCS meetings, the number of bluebird, flicker, and wood duck nest-boxes and purple martin, and bat houses we all had. We spoke of the various bird species we had seen at our respective courses with great pride. (When a bluebird pair nested here in June, I felt honored to be chosen!) Our discussion sure was a refreshing change from those of green speed, mowing heights, and cultivation programs. I'm sure these environmental and ecological topic discussions will continue to expand. One last note on this issue, our MAGCS commercial members would surely enjoy seeing some of the flora and fauna on your course. Give them a tour.

### (When a bluebird pair nested here in June, I felt honored to be chosen!)

In terms of education I want to briefly mention a Storm Warning system we recently installed. The system consists of lightning detection equipment and wireless radio controlled sirens at four locations throughout the course. With the all-too frequent storms we have had this year, it has been a valuable asset. Installation is quick if a power supply is accessible (such as an irrigation controller) and operation is simple. I would be happy to give you full details if you are interested. Give me a call.

I want to encourage you to attend the MAGCS Family Picnic on August 21. The Long Range Planning Committee asked the Arrangements Committee to develop this and Kevin Czerkies and his committee have a great day in store. We are all away from our families for long periods during the summer so why not treat them (and yourself) to some fun. This is also a great way for wives and girlfriends to make acquaintances so as to feel more comfortable at future functions such as the Fall Din-

ner Dance and the Hospitality Room at the GCSAA Conference. So come on out and help make this a day to remember.

I've taken up too much space already but I still have the entertaining part to complete. Now this is not intended to make fun of any person, and we all have made and will make, how should I politely say, thoughtless mistakes, but I found this story quite humorous. It seems as though a bee's nest in a rather large oak

### In making decisions, you win some, you lose some, and some get burned-out! Here's to no burn-out in August!

tree was in need of control. Well, this fellow poured kerosene in the cavity where the nest was and lit it on fire. The fire burned and promptly controlled the bees as well as eliminated any future bee nest problem. How can that be? Well, it turns out the fire smoldered and burned all night long and the next day the tree was burned in half. It is now merely wood chips!

In making decisions, you win some, you lose some, and some get burned-out! Here's to no burn-out in August!

### Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Monthly Meeting Monday, August 16th, 1993

Turnberry Country Club Host: Jim Evans

Event: 4-man team total, prizes for net and gross

Pre-registration and pre-payment required

The field is limited to the first 120 paid registrants

MEMBERS ONLY — NO GUESTS

Cost for the day - \$55.00; dinner only - \$25.00; dinner only at door - \$30.00.

10:00 Check-in

10:30 Lunch Buffet Cookout

11:30 Shotgun

5:00 Cocktails (Cash Bar)

6:00 Dinner & Meeting

Coat & Tie required

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## Super-In-Site

by Joel Purpur

It will be great to be back at the beautiful Turnberry Country Club for our August meeting with host Jim Evans. Jim last hosted a M.A.G.C.S. golf event back in 1987 and since then there have been some changes.



Jim has been the superintendent at Turnberry for 14 years and has been the host of the Illinois Open in 1989 and the CDGA State Amateur Tournament in 1992. The fairways were converted from bluegrass to 50% Penneagle and 50% Seaside bentgrass in 1985 and 1986 and continue to receive treatments for Poa annua control. Currently the fairways and tees are on a program of Betesan early and Prograss in the fall which has given pleasing results. Prior to the present management program liquid Endothol had been used quite a bit and Jim still works with the material on occasion.

In 1988 the addition of the Garden Room was completed (where we will be having our lunch buffet) and landscaping was completed in-house. Shrub and flower beds with walls and other improvements have been made to the practice range area in-house as well, keeping the crew busy. Other course renovations include the rebuilding of the 8th, 10th, and 11th tees along

**Other course renovations include the rebuilding of the 8th, 10th, and 11th tees along with several championship tees. The 11th green and bunker complex has been completely rebuilt to raise the area onto higher ground**

with several championship tees. The 11th green and bunker complex has been completely rebuilt to raise the area onto higher ground (this year is the test) and they are currently working on the drainage around the 13th hole. (It will probably stop raining when they are finished.)

Turnberry has gone through ownership changes as well. From 1986 to 1989 the club had been owned by a realty company called McIntosh Ltd. The company ran into money problems in 1989 and went into bankruptcy. This was particularly bad timing for Jim because there was no money for the new 18 hole course he was working on. The irrigation system and seeding had been completed and they were just entering the grow-in phase for the course he had worked so hard on when the money came to a sudden halt. The newly completed course was abandoned. In 1990 the membership of Turnberry bought the old course and everything began to run smoothly, and in October of 1990 the "Lakewood" course was sold.

The club is now developing a long range plan for remodeling the old course just to keep Jim busy. Jim Evans and his wife Debbie have two children, Jim (15) and John (13). Jim stays young by working out and playing hockey after being retired from the sport for many years. (His skates are older than half of the guys on the team). His stick handling talents are coming back quickly even though he refuses to part with his pair of 1972 Bobby Orrs'!



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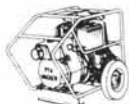
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When it comes to decisions, they do as they please,

All inscrutably written in governmentese.

**B.E. Day, plant physiologist, Berkeley, CA**

**Credit: From Letters Section Golf Course News**

**Vol. 5, Number 4, April 1993**

## *Disease Update: June 1993*

**by Randall Kane, CDGA**

The last few days of hot, humid conditions and continued rain should change the spectrum of diseases we are seeing around the area. I have seen the beginnings of dollar spot for the last week or so, and have heard of some areas where brown patch has been observed. I also have seen some Pythium on an isolated tee enclosed by trees and shrubs. Hopefully, we won't be seeing any more Fusarium patch or other cool temp problems.

The major disease story of the last couple of weeks would have to be take-all patch of bentgrass caused by Gaeumannomyces graminis. It is appearing frequently on bent fairways of newer courses (three to four years old). Some patches are three or more feet in diameter, which indicates that the fungus has been present at the site for some time (2 years or more) but symptoms were not visible until this spring. G graminis seems to be more damaging when we have a spring like this year, with a prolonged cool and wet weather pattern.

Has anybody seen any insect problems yet, other than ANTS? I have seen very little injury from cutworms, and have not seen any Ataenius. Another point to ponder: with all the rain, we will have to watch fertility levels since the water will leach out nutrients — especially on sand rootzones. Potassium is readily leached and K deficiencies are likely.

**(Editor's Note:** This is from the Computer Bulletin Board. When it came out it was very timely for the weather conditions of the past couple of days. Just another example of what you may find by turning on your computer and hooking up.)

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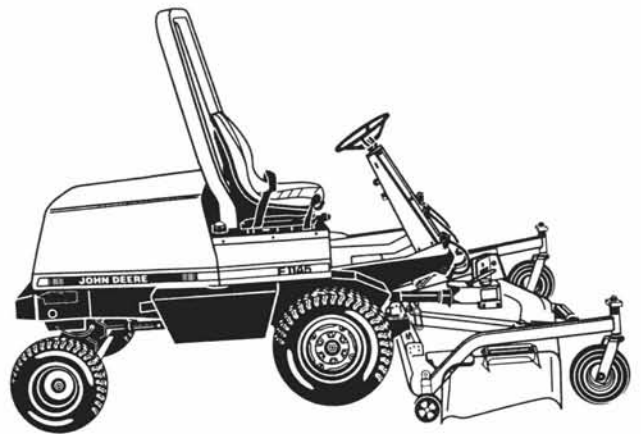
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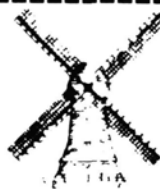
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## Ash Dieback\*

by James A. Fizzell & Associates, Ltd.  
P. O. Box 46, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Dieback of white and green ash is typical of dieback and decline diseases. It is most often initiated by the stress of water shortage. Especially severe outbreaks were associated with periods of low rainfall in the 1930's, from 1950 to the early 1960's, and more recently during the late 1980's and early 1990's.

The onset of ash dieback is signaled by the reduced growth of stems and twigs. This is followed successively by the death of terminal buds and branches and by the production, often at nodes, of small, sparse and chlorotic leaves. Affected crowns appear thin and tufted.

**On some trees, leaves prematurely acquire the characteristic purple-bronze color of autumn and drop early. As trees progressively die back, bole sprouts often develop in toward the trunk and down toward the ground. Finally, the trees die.**

On some trees, leaves prematurely acquire the characteristic purple-bronze color of autumn and drop early. As trees progressively die back, bole sprouts often develop in toward the trunk and down toward the ground. Finally, the trees die.

Soon after the onset of symptoms, reddish-brown to orange-yellow cankers develop on the branches and on smooth bark of the main stem. When these cankers girdle twigs or stems, they contribute markedly to the dieback process. At least two canker fungi, *Cytophoma pruinosa* and a *Fusicoccum species*, attack bark tissues made susceptible by water shortages. These fungi, common inhabitants of bark of shaded, lower crown branches, are thought to contribute under normal conditions to the death and "self-pruning" of the lower branches so characteristic of forest-growth ash trees.

Ash dieback can be thought of as a "system" for which word equations can be stated:

Healthy ash trees + water deficit = altered ash tree (growth reduced)

Altered ash tree + continued water deficit = ash tree altered further (dieback begins)

Altered ash tree + canker fungi = ash branches and stems invaded (trees dieback, decline, die)

Other factors may be involved in ash dieback. Ash trees are hosts for viruses and mycoplasmas, and they are highly susceptible to injury from air pollution. How much these factors may contribute to ash dieback is uncertain.

It may be significant that while the abatement of the disease generally has coincided with abatement of drought periods, the dieback and decline of ash has continued in some areas where they are viruses, mycoplasmas, and high levels of air pollution.

\*Stress Triggered Tree Diseases, Houston, D.R. and Carrol, D.M., USDA Forest Service, 1981.

### AUGUST 16 — Turnberry C.C.

Event is a 4 man team total. Gross and net prizes. Net score will be determined by adding the 4 players handicap and taking 80% of the total. This number will be subtracted from the 4 man total for a team net score.

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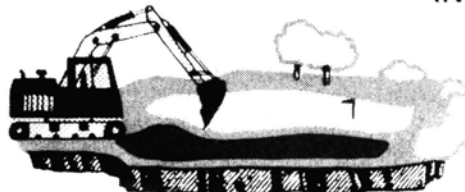
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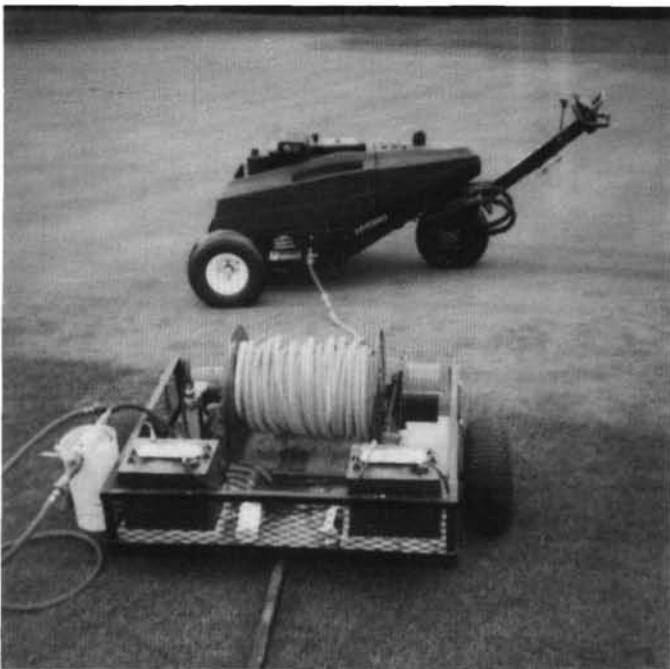
## Thinking Superintendent

by Fred Opperman, Editor

Art Benson, Jr. of Butterfield and his mechanic built a trailer to hold the electric winch and hose reel for his Toro HydroJect 3000. Art was tired of having two people doing a one person's job and came up with the idea of a trailer. They have 2, 12 volt batteries to run the winch. The winch has a remote control that can be run by the operator at the controls of the HydroJect.

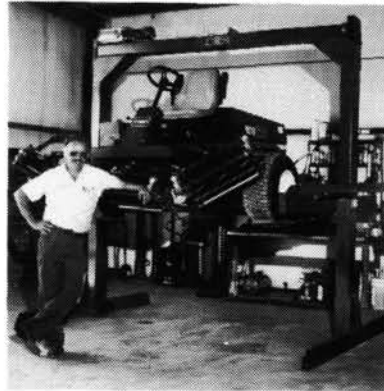


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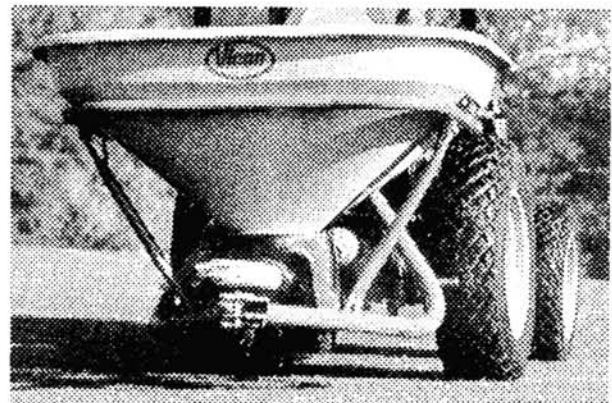
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