

# the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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## President's Message



Timothy Kelly

by Timothy Kelly, President, MAGCS

I hope that the entire MAGCS Membership had a very enjoyable and productive trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show, during late January. This February looks like an ideal month for members to take some time off to: vacation, or relax. While MAGCS members are recharging themselves for the upcoming golf season, the devoted Members of the MAGCS Board of Directors are diligently working to keep our Association ready to provide service during the upcoming season.

Financially the MAGCS remains in a very strong position. The Board recently voted to give \$1,000 to the Musser Foundation, and \$3,000 to the GCSAA (\$1,000 to the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund and \$2,000 to the Toxicological Study).

The Arrangements Committee has all of the dates for this year set. Our next monthly MAGCS meeting will be Monday, March 15th at Nordic Hills.

The Education Committee is endeavoring to finalizing their educational plans for the remainder of the year.

The Membership Committee is working on a Survey, and a new Directory for this year.

The Golf Committee (along with the Arrangements Committee) is working on the new advanced registration and prepayment system for all monthly golf meetings. Further information regarding this will be provided to the membership as soon as it becomes available.

The Long Range Planning Committee is providing various recommendations to several other committees for implementation.

The Public Relations committee is actively working to provide information to the membership, regarding the MAGCS Video Tape Library that is available to all members.

The best news that I have to report is the vast involvement of MAGCS Members in assisting with our association's operations. The following members have volunteered to help during this year: Voting Delegates — Roger Stewart, Bob Maibusch; Golf Committee — Albie Staudt, Rob Zimmerman, Phil Taylor, Dave Louttit, Mark Johnson, Brian Bossert, Doug Long, Paul Baston; Education Committee — Bob Maibusch, Marty Baumann, Doug Long, Brian Bossert; Arrangements Committee — Len Berg, Don Ferreri, Luke Strojny, Greg Fuchs; Benevolence Committee — Dudley Smith, Adolph Bertucci, and Pete Vandercook. I salute all of these members for their willingness to be involved in our Great MAGCS Association!

## Director's Column



### Professional Development

by Kerry Blatteau, CGCS  
Oak Brook Hills C.C.

Well, its February and the national conference is over as are the regional ones and most seminars in our area. With each passing year, I am impressed by the wide variety of opportunities available to expand my knowledge and experiences within our field. We are lucky to be in an area of the country where we have a few months in the winter to reflect on the previous season and make plans for the upcoming year. It also enables us to get our shop, equipment and crew re-organized and ready for the upcoming season. I hope all of you are progressing in these projects.

Last summer was a relatively trouble free one and I think most people enjoyed our profession. However, as I write this article, we have had a November with regular rain and cool temperatures. December then came with cold temperatures, snow, warming, cold temperatures, snow, warming, freezing rain, ice and snow. In other words, it seemed as if there was leaf spot followed by snow mold followed by ice covered turf. Of course with the weather, it was a challenge to get proper fungicide protection down during that period. Hopefully, we will get a break in this pattern and the turfgrass will come out of the winter in a better state than it looks now. If not, now is the time when our public relations skills will be put to good use in educating our membership and management at our facilities.

To tie these concepts together, consider the following: When things are going well, it is easy to neglect the many educational and professional improvement programs available to us as unneeded or not beneficial. However when problems arise, the more information and experiences you have at your availability, the easier and more fulfilling your job is going to be. Attend as many seminars, conferences and local meetings as possible. Perhaps the educational program provided will not be to your liking but if you get one new idea or concept from a function, it is a worthwhile function. I find that talking to friends and discussing what they are doing will give me many ideas and concepts that perhaps I had not considered. We're in a great profession and you owe it to yourself to stay current and informed. Interact with your fellow professionals; expand your experience and knowledge. Good luck this season and I hope by the time you read this, the ice is gone and there is a blanket of snow covering some dry, dormant turfgrass.

## Turfgrass Information Center

Dear Turf Manager:

I am coming to you for your help in what is a matter of urgency. This urgency is the continuation of the Turfgrass Information Center.

The purpose of the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is to provide efficient and effective access to all publications and processed material reporting the results of research affecting turfgrass and its maintenance. The access will be provided for the research community, for practitioners, such as golf course superintendents, for extension type services and for commercial concerns.

The goal of the Turfgrass Information Center is for all interested individuals throughout the world to have access to all published information that is available concerning turfgrass.

This goal began 30 years ago when the O.J. Noer Research Foundation established the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Library at Michigan State University with the support and guidance of Dr. Richard E. Chapin, Director of Libraries at Michigan State University, and Dr. James Beard. The U.S.G.A. saw the necessity of making this information accessible to everyone and with a commitment towards this goal established an electronic retrieval system, a data base that today contains 25,000 entries and abstracts to accompany them.

The Turfgrass Information Center has a staff, under the guidance of Project Manager Peter Cookingham that is ready to serve its users.

The United States Golf Association has supported the Turfgrass Information Center with more than \$625,000 over a 10 year period. The U.S.G.A. is ending its funding this March with the thought that the Turfgrass Industry can and should sustain this service.

An independent Advisory Council has been established to oversee the affairs of the Turfgrass Information Center.

An individual membership application is supplied. The cost is \$75.00 per year. The individual subscriber receives:

1. An 1-800 number to make information requests by phone.
2. The Turfgrass Index (a quarterly update of TGIF entries)
3. The SWARD (a quarterly update newsletter about IGIF)
4. 10 free hours computer connect time: \$20.00 per hr. charge over 10 hrs.
5. Free software updates.

Please remember if you do not have a computer, this service can be used by calling 1-800 number and have the information faxed or mailed to you directly.

Not only do I need your support by being a subscriber, I need your support in contacting others about the service. The Turfgrass Information Center has sent out letters to all Turf Foundations, Turf Organizations, Golf Course Superintendent local chapters, and Manufacturers. If you feel this information source is worthwhile as I think you do, voicing your support both to your respective Association and Foundation will be doing a great service both to the Turfgrass Information Center and the local organizations of which you are an important member.

(cont'd. page 4)



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(Turfgrass Info. cont'd.)

I hope that you can see the long range implications if this service is lost to our industry. As responsible members of the Turfgrass Community, we cannot afford to let this happen.

**Danny H. Quast, Chairman**

☐ Yes We want access to turfgrass information. Send us our subscriber's packet and start our subscription to the Turfgrass Index and the SWARD.

☐ Yes We are also interested in using our computer for direct online access to TGIF. Send us what we need to activate our online use of TGIF.

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MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Turfgrass Information Center.

Mail to: Library W-212, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048.

## Communication — A Foreign Language?

by Tim Scott, Asst. Supt.  
Lake Shore Country Club

La maquina esta quebrada! No puede prenderla! How many of your workers are Spanish speaking? If you work in the Chicago area, one will find that a good percentage of the workforce is Hispanic. Therefore, the ability to communicate with your Spanish speaking employees is becoming ever increasingly important.

In 1991, it was estimated that ten percent of the United States population was Hispanic and will be the fastest growing segment of the American labor force. Currently, eight percent of the labor force is Hispanic and it will grow to at least ten percent by the year 2000. The majority of these workers immigrate from Mexico, and make up sixty-three percent of the total Hispanic population, with another twelve percent from other Central American countries. The Chicago area is one of the ten most populated areas with Hispanic workers in the United States.

The ability of a person in a management position to communicate with the Hispanic workers is becoming more and more important in the American workforce. For a person that is bilingual, in English and Spanish, the opportunities for job employment and advancement gets better each year with the increasing population of our Hispanic society.

(cont'd. page 6)



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In the Chicagoland area, a large percentage of the Hispanic workers are employed by golf courses, landscape companies, lawn care and other agronomic businesses. As a manager or superintendent in these businesses, one must be able to manage, and the single most important part of management is communication! Communication between management and its employees is the lifeblood of the company. Without it, a company will not run efficiently and could fail, especially one that has language barriers. There are many ways to bridge the communication gap in a company with language barriers, and some include the following —

- 1) Hiring management personnel that are bilingual.
- 2) Hiring workers that are English speaking and/or bilingual.
- 3) Employment of only English speaking workers.
- 4) Provide education in the Spanish language for management personnel.
- 5) Provide English as a second language for the Hispanic workers.

Spanish as a second language is offered at many of Chicago area universities, junior colleges and extension centers. By checking with educational institutions in your area, one will be able to obtain the type of classes offered to start or further your understanding of the Spanish language. For those that would like to begin taking Spanish classes, I suggest enrollment in a conversational Spanish class. This type of class is for those that want a basic understanding of Spanish in short period of time, usually once a week for eight to twelve weeks. Non-credited Spanish courses are less expensive than those taken as college credits and are offered in the evenings for working adults. But, if you already have a basic understanding of the Spanish language, I recommend an entry level Spanish class for college credits. They offer a greater understanding and in depth look at the structure of the language.

When registering for classes, there are a few cost factors that should be noted. First, look at schools that are located in your local district because nearly all institutions will charge higher fees to out-of-district students. Secondly, if you choose an adult continuing education course, an admission fee will not be charged. But, if it is a college credit course, an admission fee will be charged to new students.

Not all managers or superintendents have time available for enrollment into Spanish courses. This does not mean that you still can't learn any Spanish pertinent to your field of employment. Many agronomic or horticulture companies sell English-Spanish phrase books that will help the landscape manager or golf course superintendent with basic everyday phrases for the workplace. The ability to communicate with your employees is a necessity to keep the management of the business running smoothly.

---

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# How Will You Handle a Crisis?

by Marty Baumann, Fresh Meadows Golf Course  
EMT-P West Dundee Fire Dept.

When I ask myself how I would handle a crisis on my golf course, the types of crises that come to mind are pythium, a hydraulic oil leak on a green or maybe a major irrigation blow out. Pretty easy, everyday stuff, eh?

But what about a crisis with one of my employees or customers? What if I were to be placed in the position of handling a major injury or emotional outburst? Regardless of the cause, what if I needed to take action on an issue concerning a serious threat to life, safety, or the overall well-being of my employees or customers? Am I ready to take charge? After all, I am the one that will be called to the scene ...

A number of basic elements can help you during a crisis of this nature. First, make sure before you act that you or someone you trust calls the appropriate agency needed for assistance. You may not be able to make the call once you are involved in the crisis situation. Have the phone numbers of the local police, county sheriff, local EMS or state EPA posted in a prominent place and posted in the appropriate foreign language of your staff if necessary. Once the call has been made, carefully move into the situation — you don't want the rescuers to find two people down when they arrive. Your primary goal should be to reduce any additional stress and assist the distressed individual(s).

I find the following ideas helpful when sizing up a situation:

- ★ Take charge — be the one in command.
- ★ Carefully assess the problem.
- ★ Try to set an immediate goal.
- ★ Be prepared to support any positive action taken by others at the scene.
- ★ Assist any professional personnel that arrive.
- ★ Follow-up on the actions taken.

If you act quickly and show leadership, you will be able to provide needed assistance directly where it will do the most good. This will minimize the situation and restore a normal level of activity sooner. You will also build a more positive and trusting relationship with your employees and customer.

In summary, keep in mind that in a crisis, you are the rational mind. Use good judgment and a level reaction and you will be a great deal of help. Be prepared — you will react much faster and in the end, feel better about the way you handled your crisis situation.

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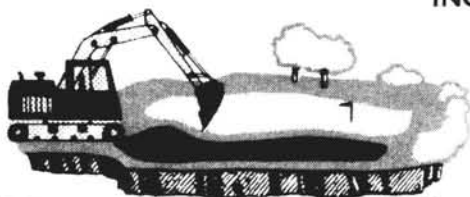
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## Wasting Dollars on Dollar Spot?

by Peter J. Hahn, Supt.  
Ridgemoor C.C.

We had over 30 fungicides and combinations tested here in 1992. This study or trial has been paid for by the various chemical companies whose products we use. Dr. Randy Kane and Dr. Hank Wilkinson were the people responsible for this study.

The study proved that Urea is a very good fertilizer that can be used to prevent and aid in recovery of Ridgemoor's dollar spot. The study also proved without a doubt Ridgemoor's dollar spot is **not** controlled with many fungicides labeled for control of dollar spot. This finding I've known for years already. What really bothers me is all the money wasted on useless fungicides labeled for dollar spot control. I applaud Ciba-Geigy for their honesty and their continued interest in this problem. I challenge chemical companies, chemical suppliers, and pathologists, in making this information available to everyone. We must identify the cause, then explain the chemicals or fungicides effects on turfgrasses.

We as superintendents really have to change chemical fungicide classes if we want to avoid problems with resistance. Fungicide classes:

1. DMI systemics: Rubigan, Bayleton, Banner, Cutless, and Scotts TGR.
2. Benzimidazoles systemics: Tersan 1991, Fungo, and Cleary's 3336.
3. Dicarboximides systemics: Chipco 26019, Vorlan, Curalan, and Touche.
4. Contacts: Daconil, Dyrene, Fore, Koban, Terramec SP and others.
5. Phenylamides systemics: Subdue.
6. Carbamates systemics: Banol.
7. Organo-phosphates: Aliette.

Also, superintendents need to understand that certain growth regulators are also in the same fungicide class as the DMI fungicides. This may compound an already bad situation.

Our fairways this year were much improved. We used Urea, (Vorlan, DF, Touche), Daconil WDG, and Dyrene in mixes or alone. We got between 17 and 21 day control throughout the summer. Also, we raised our total nitrogen on fairways from 1.50 lbs. N to 3 lbs. N/1,000 sq. ft.

I understand several more golf courses were hit with this type of dollar spot in 1992. This dollar spot is not controlled with many fungicides. In fact I honestly believe we have created a super strain of dollar spot by our continued use of certain fungicides. This results in wasting dollars on dollar spot control.

**The question is not always  
where we stand, but in which  
direction we are going.**