

# 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



A time for change is coming, because on November 10th, the MAGCS membership will elect a new President and Board of Directors. This will be my last President's message. It has been a privilege to be the President of the MAGCS during the past year. I appreciate the effort that the entire Board has made during the past year. The Rookie of the Year Award, for this year would be awarded to Kevin Czerkies. He has done an outstanding job with the Arrangements Committee. He has worked well with our Commercial Sponsors, and he provided them with the proper

*The Rookie of the Year Award, for this year would be awarded to Kevin Czerkies.*

recognition they deserve as a Meeting Sponsor. Both he and Ed Braunsky did an outstanding job with the golf meetings and the new pre-payment, pre-registration system.

This has been a difficult time for me during this year. My father recently passed away after being seriously ill. He was preceded in death by my mother, only 17 months ago. I needed to spend some time to sort out my feelings and thoughts. I was able to do some of this recently by spending some time with my brothers at our family home in Cable, Wisconsin. Some of the time was spent closing down the home for the winter. A lot of the time was spent in thought and prayer. The three of us decided to take a canoe trip down the Namekagon River. It was quiet and beautiful. I saw and heard abundant wildlife. It was a great way to think, pray and to say goodbye.

The Board of Directors has decided to seek a new Executive Secretary. Penny Meyer, our current Executive Secretary, has agreed to continue to serve the MAGCS through October 31st of this year. Until a new Executive Secretary is on board the

*The Board of Directors has decided to seek a new Executive Secretary.*

Secretary/Treasurer, Joel Purpur will be performing these duties along with the full help and support of the entire MAGCS Board. As further developments unfold the MAGCS Board will endeavor to keep the Membership well informed.

I hope to see many of our members at the Midwest Turf Clinic. The Clinic, Annual Meeting, and election will be held at Medinah Country Club, on November 10th.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please fill out and return the enclosed post card. The home address was inadvertently left off the membership forms sent out. We need this information for our membership directory.

## M.A.G.C.S. Director's Column

by Kerry Blatteau

The season is nearly over and if I'm like everyone else, I can't wait. This was a strange year and I will be happy to see it go. Cold and wet in the spring, wet and warm in the summer, no roots to work with and then a cool fall. Stop the boat — everybody off. Oh well, the best thing about our profession is we get to re-charge our batteries and reflect and plan in the winter. Surely next year will be better.



As education chairman this year, I am going to take this opportunity to give you the program for the Midwest Clinic at Medinah C.C. on November 10, 1993.

- 9:00-10:00 Registration — Coffee and Rolls
- 10:00-10:15 Opening Remarks
- 10:15-10:30 Mr. Bob Maibusch, Supt. Hinsdale Golf Club  
"Evolving Management Styles in Great Britain"
- 10:30-12:00 Mr. Jim Latham, USGA  
Mr. Tim Davis, Supt. Shoreacres G.C.  
Mr. Ken Shepherd, Supt. Wedgewood G.C.  
Mr. Bruce Sering, Supt. Glen View Club  
Mr. Larry Chirico, Supervisor, Course -3,  
Medinah C.C.  
Mr. Brian Green, Supt. Sunset Valley G.C.  
"Greenspeed Management Practices"
- 12:00- 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00- 1:45 Keynote Speaker — Mr. Dennis Hull
- 1:45- 3:00 Mr. Bill Kindorf, Attorney  
"Contracts and Work Agreements, Why Do We  
Need Them"
- 3:00- 5:00 M.A.G.C.S. Annual Meeting
- 5:30 Dinner

## "The Big Blow Out"

And when the Lines were drained

A type of Peacefulness came over All,

Except for Tricky Mother Nature,

Knowing Heaving and Expansion should Spoil All.

Those that remember Cast-iron Follies,

Know Plastic's can play It's Game Too.

So, next Year, when the Course comes alive,

And No New Irrigation Stations appear,

Give Your Friends the High Five,

Go out and have a Beer!

Kenneth R. Zanzig

## Part II — MAGCS Membership Survey 1993

by Michael Bavier

24. Have you hosted a meeting for MAGCS within the following time frame?
  - A. 1-5 years — 23
  - B. 6-10 years — 17
  - C. 11-15 years — 8
  - D. 16-20 years — 9
  - E. Never — 81
25. Would you consider hosting a meeting in the near future?
  - A. Yes — 66
  - B. No — 71
26. What limits you in hosting a meeting?
  - A. Private club rules — 27
  - B. Loss of revenue/Loss of tee times (daily fee facility) — 27
  - C. Club is not big enough (no dining room, locker room, etc.) — 32
  - D. Have not been asked to host meeting — 11
  - E. Other — 39
27. How would you rate our monthly golf meetings?
  - A. Excellent — 22
  - B. Good — 91
  - C. Fair — 14
  - D. Poor (need improvement-explain on separate sheet) — 3
28. In general, should the amount of education provided to MAGCS members be:
  - A. Increased — 43
  - B. Decreased — 4
  - C. The same — 51
  - D. The same and keep up the good work — 35
29. Who would you like to hear speak at monthly meetings?  
(Mark all that apply)
  - A. Superintendents — 98
  - B. Industry representatives — 73
  - C. University personnel — 91
  - D. Professionals in Business & Personal growth topics — 76
30. Should non-golf monthly meetings have a greater educational emphasis than golf monthly meetings?
  - A. Yes — 118
  - B. No — 16
31. What do you feel is an appropriate length of time spent on education at a monthly **non-golf** meeting?
  - A. 20-30 minutes — 3
  - B. 30-45 minutes — 37
  - C. 45-60 minutes — 64
  - D. 1 hour plus — 32
  - E. none of the above — 0
32. What do you feel is an appropriate length of time spent on education at a monthly **golf** meeting?
  - A. 20-30 minutes — 78
  - B. 30-45 minutes — 38
  - C. 45-60 minutes — 10
  - D. 1 hour plus — 2
  - E. none of the above — 9
33. Would more than one speaker be desirable at monthly meetings?
  - A. Yes — 40
  - B. No — 92
34. Would you prefer an occasional educational round table or panel discussion at a monthly meeting?
  - A. Yes — 83
  - B. No — 20
  - C. No preference — 32
35. Should we skip education during the months of July, August and September? (September being the annual tournament).
  - A. Yes — 79
  - B. No — 33
  - C. August & Sept. only — 22
36. Should meetings during July, August and September include just cocktails and hors d'oeuvres unless specified for various reasons?
  - A. Yes — 97
  - B. No — 35

(continued page 4)

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(MAGCS Survey continued)

37. Are you using the audio-video reference library established by MAGCS members?  
A. Yes — 22 B. No — 113
38. Would you send your employees to operational training classes (pesticide use training, etc.) developed and taught by MAGCS members?  
A. Yes — 112 B. No — 23
39. Would you attend classes on Conversational Spanish if developed for MAGCS only?  
A. Yes — 75 B. No — 60
40. Should the MAGCS seek out service companies (such as aquatic spraying, mosquito abatement, tree planting, core aeration services) to co-host seminars on their specific service?  
A. Yes — 92 B. No — 40
41. Do you presently have a computer?  
A. Yes, used for irrigation — 16  
B. Yes, used for irrigation, reports and word processing — 61  
C. Yes, used only by other staff members — 11  
D. No — 47
42. Do you presently have a modem?  
A. Yes — 44 B. No — 88
43. Are you thinking of getting a computer?  
A. Yes — 52 B. No — 53
44. Would you, with the help of your computer and/or modem, be interested in forming and participating in a local Chicagoland superintendents "Bulletin Board?"  
A. Yes — 81 B. No — 50
45. Would you pay a service charge for this bulletin board?  
A. Yes — 66 B. No — 65
46. Should we restrict the number of Class E memberships in the Midwest?  
A. Yes — 57 B. No — 73
47. Have you ever written any articles for the Bull Sheet?  
A. Yes — 45 B. No — 92
48. Have you ever been on the program at the Medinah Turf Clinic?  
A. Yes — 46 B. No — 90
49. Do you feel a commercial person or vendor should hold an elected seat on MAGCS Board of Directors?  
A. Yes — 50 B. No — 64
50. If you answered yes to #49 do you feel this elected person should have voting rights on the Board of Directors?  
A. Yes — 45 B. No — 25
51. If you answered no to #49, do you feel that a commercial person or vendor should hold an appointed seat (without voting rights), on the MAGCS Board of Directors, as is current practice?  
A. Yes — 58 B. No — 16
52. Please use a separate sheet of paper to write out any comments concerning the MAGCS, and include what you like or dislike about our organization.

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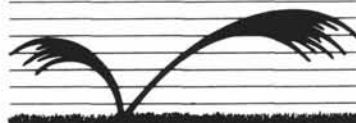
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## Yellow Tuft on Bentgrass and Bluegrass

by Hank Wilkinson & Randy Kane

University of Illinois & Chicago District Golf Assn.

**Illinois Update.** Once again, yellow tuft has developed in both bluegrass and bentgrass turfs in Illinois. The disease was very prevalent last year and again this year. We have observed that the bentgrass variety Penncross is considerably more susceptible than most of the other bentgrasses found in Illinois. Fortunately, yellow tuft does not occur every year and generally does not kill the turf. It is important to be able to recognize yellow tuft. If you mistake it for another disease and apply a fungicide, you have wasted time, money and incorrectly used a pesticide. A review of yellow tuft will help you understand this disease.

**Symptoms of the Disease.** Yellow tuft is also called downy mildew. The name yellow tuft refers to the very dense and tufted appearance of diseased grass. The name downy mildew refers to a condition when the leaves are covered by a white powdery or downy growth. This stage is not often seen in turf because the grass is mowed short, but in roughs you may observe the downy stage. It may remind you of powdery mildew, but they are very different fungi.

*The name yellow tuft refers to a very dense and tufted appearance of diseased grass.*

In addition to the yellow leaves and the downy mildew, the diseased grass plants are very dense due to the formation of many tillers. This is caused by hormonal changes due to the infection. This will cause the diseased turf to appear as a clump of very dense leaves about 2-5 cm. in diameter. These clumps will be randomly scattered in the turf. If you dig the clump of yellow grass up using a pocket knife and inspect the crowns, you will observe that there are a tremendous number of shoots compared to healthy turf. These are the only obvious symptoms that you can use to determine if your turf has yellow tuft. Also, if you were to observe the crowns of the plants under a microscope, you might see very large fungal structures (oospores).

**The Pathogen.** The fungus (*Sclerophthera macrospora*) that causes yellow tuft has some similar characteristics to *Pythium* fungi, but it has some very important differences too. This fungus produces oospores, which are swimming spores. Much like *Pythium*, these spores are the reason that yellow tuft can be spread in a turf by the movement of water, wet machinery, shoes and so on. The fungus also produces oospores, which allow it to survive long periods (years) in the turf. The major differences between this fungus and *Pythium*: 1) it is an obligate parasite; 2) it is less sensitive to fungicides; 3) it generally appears in cooler weather. While a number of fungicide labels list yellow tuft, few have been observed to

(continued page 9)

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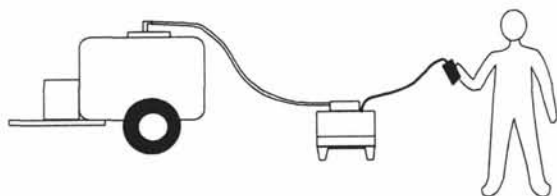
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(Yellow Tuft continued)

adequately control this disease. The reason is probably due to the fact that the yellow tuft fungus and the *Pythium* fungus are genetically different, and the yellow tuft fungus spends most of its life deep within the grass plant and inaccessible to fungicides.

**How Yellow Tuft Develops.** When wet conditions prevail for extended periods (weeks) and soil temperatures is above 12 C, this fungus is actively growing. It produces zoospores and these swim or float to a healthy plant and infect it. After infecting the plant, the fungus grows inside the plant toward the crown. There it lives and induces the plants to produce an unusually high number of tillers and turns the leaves yellow.

**Control Practices for Yellow Tuft.** Control is very difficult. Once you have the problem it will be difficult to eliminate. While there are no good data to support differences among varietal bentgrasses in terms of resistance to yellow tuft, some

*Control is very difficult. Once you have the problem, it will be difficult to eliminate.*

have been observed in Illinois (see above). Cultural practices including good surface and sub-surface drainage will reduce disease severity. Balance your fertilization program and avoid over-fertilization, because the fungus will thrive on lush turf.

If you have more questions or want yellow tuft verified in your turf, call one of us.

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8:30-9:00 Registration, Introduction  
9:00-10:00 Herbicide Mode of Action (Turf, Ornamental and Right of Way - Jeff Lefton, Agron.  
10:00-11:00 Right of Way/Total Vegetative Control - Dick Baade, DowElanco  
11:00-12:00 Ornamental Bed Weed Control - Jim Barbour, Commer. Extension Horticulturist  
12:00-1:00 Lunch (on your own) Purdue University  
1:00-1:30 State Chemist Update - Carl Rew, Assistant Administrator ISC Office  
1:30-2:00 Pesticide Safety Equipment-Fred Whitford, PhD, Purdue Pesticide Programs  
2:00-3:00 Troubleshooting Pesticide Application Equipment-Fred Whitford  
3:00-5:00 Ornamental Disease Control - Bob Partyka, PhD, Plant Pathologist  
5:00-6:00 Pesticide Containment, Storage and Spill Procedure - Jeff Lefton

DECEMBER 15, 1993

8:00-10:00 Ornamental Insect Control - Bob Partyka  
10:00-12:00 Small Animal Biology and Control(Moles, Voles, Muskrats, etc.)-Bobby Corrigan, Small  
12:00-1:00 Lunch (on your own) Animal Control Specialist, Purdue  
1:00-2:00 Turfgrass Insects and their Control-Jeff Lefton  
2:00-3:00 Turfgrass Disease Control - Jeff Lefton and Bob Partyka  
3:00-5:00 Pesticide Application Technique and Calibration Methods - Jeff Lefton

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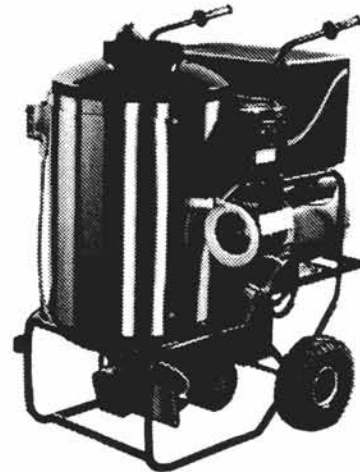
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No refunds will be accepted after November 27, 1993; however, substitutions of people will be accepted.

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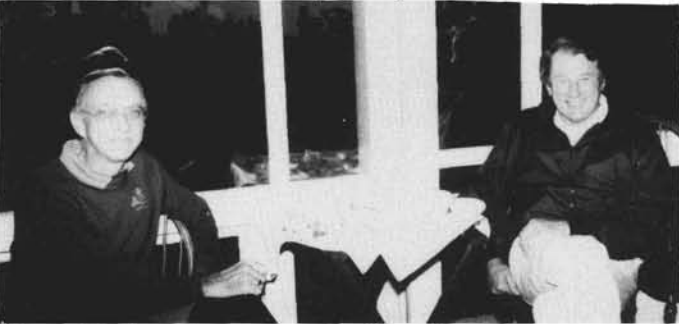
# MAGCS 1993 Golf Champions



*From left to right: Bruce Williams, 3rd Flight; Ken Goodman, 2nd Flight; Tom Robinson, Championship Flight; Bruce Schweiger, Commercial Flight; and Steve Cummins, 1st Flight.*



*Tom Robinson in his Championship Winner Chair*



*Avery Harris and soon to retire Vern Rascher*



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