

# 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 read with interest an article in the Chicago Tribune recently, it was about using natural pest control. The main thrust of this article was how the Village of Schaumburg was going to be using about two million ladybugs to wipe out a host of pests that snack on trees, flowers, and other vegetation. Now the trick of this article is that it states the ladybugs are to control a host of pests, and a resident said that insects had eaten the leaves on bushes and trees. Further on in the article it then states that the ladybugs will work to reduce the aphid pest population. In my understanding ladybugs will control the aphids, but insects that eat leaves (caterpillars, beetles, etc.) will not be controlled by ladybugs. This is an example of unclear communication. Many unknowledgeable readers will assume that ladybugs are a panacea, which they are not. As a golf course superintendent when asked to discuss these type of questions it is my responsibility to set things right. Yes, ladybugs have a place in controlling small soft bodied pests like aphids, but they are only a part of the ever changing pest control matrix. Superintendents are interested in utilizing new biological controls, as long as they work. Superintendents always utilize sound IPM practices, including: scouting, determining economic damage, proper selection of a control method (biological or chemical), and proper application of the control. I am currently utilizing: ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps as pest control methods for ornamentals and annuals.

Our next meeting will be September 21st at Shoreacres Country Club, Tim Davis will be our host.

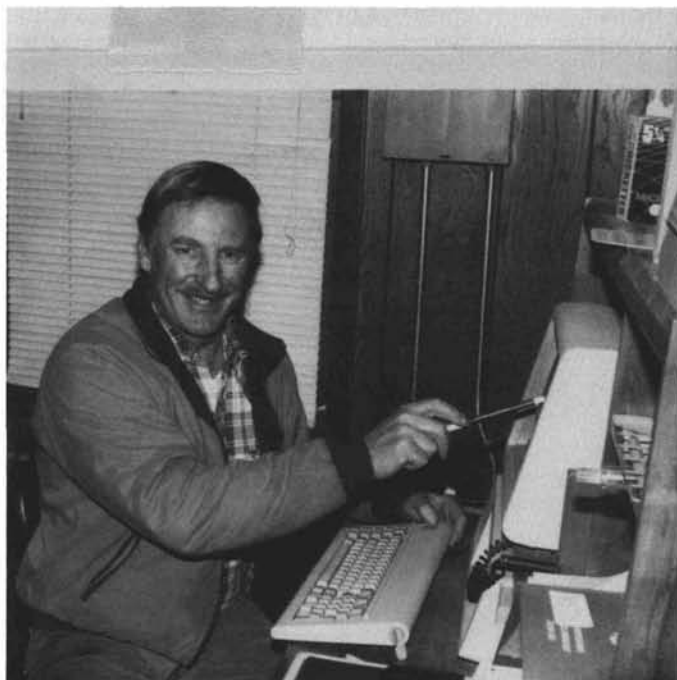


## "September"

by Kenneth R. Zanzig

September's here, Labor Day and Autumn too.

Frost soon will mingle with the morning Dew.  
Nipped Buds and Leaves begin to change color,  
Pressures and heavy play are smothered.  
Shorter Days say Summer's gone,  
Another Season has sung It's Song.  
All in All, a good Year, at times Iffy!  
Heart goes out to those along the Mississippi!



## A Few Good Men

by Ray Schmitz

As a past president of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents I have been appointed by President Tim Kelly to chair the nominating committee. The committee consists of committee members Jim Evans, Mike Nass, Ray Schmitz, Roger Stewart, and Bruce Williams. It is our responsibility to select the candidates for the 1994 MAGCS Board of Directors. We are looking for a few good men.

According to article IV section 2, the President of the MAGCS shall appoint a committee of five past presidents of the MAGCS to be known as the nominating committee. This committee shall nominate a candidate for President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and candidates for each directorship that is vacant. The list of nominees shall be sent to all regular members at least ten days prior to the annual meeting and election which will be held November 10th at Medinah Country Club following the MAGCS Turf Clinic. Nominations may also be made off the floor for any office by any regular member who is eligible (Class AA, A, and B) to vote.

In order to be elected to the MAGCS Board of Directors the candidate must be a Class A Golf Course Superintendent and presently employed in such capacity. He should be willing to set aside some of his time to contribute to the process in the operations of the Association as the President of MAGCS shall direct. There is no pay nor compensation but the personal satisfaction can be very rewarding. You will make new and lasting friendships and work with an association that is committed to the enhancement of our profession of Golf Course Superintendent.

After serving on the MAGCS Board of Directors for the past eight years I can assure you that the nominating committees in the past have done an excellent job of choosing candidates to be elected by the membership. I will strive to have this nominating committee perform as diligently as those in the past.

Nominating Committee Chairman  
GCSAA Headquarters  
1421 Research Park Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049-3859

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents proudly nominates, for election to GCSAA office, one of the finest Golf Course Superintendents currently in the discipline of golf course management. This dedicated individual has long served the golf community with aplomb and distinction, crossing many boundaries of the golf course management discipline with a sense of professional leadership, dignity, and vision. Throughout his professional career, he has, through a dedicated effort, brought his unique and forthright management style from the verdant links of Bob O'Link Golf Club to the leadership positions of several local and regional professional chapters. More recently, he has capably and unselfishly served multiple terms as a Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

It is an individual of this caliber with an unselfish perspective of professional commitment that best personifies the needs of the GCSAA of the future. He knows that makes an international organization with the scope of GCSAA work and evolve to ever higher levels of professional impact. We know this individual is poised, with the blessing of his family and employer, to assume the mantle of management responsibility to meet this challenge.

Therefore, the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents proudly nominates Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, to the elected office of Vice President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America seeks individuals of this caliber to shape the future of the association and the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents strongly endorses Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, as that very type of individual.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Kelly, President

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Green Section  
Great Lakes Region



## Same Old, Same Old

by Robert C. Vavrek, Jr.

**Agronomist, Great Lakes Region, USGA Green Section**

The two most common topics of discussion during Turf Advisory Service visits this season will come as no surprise to anyone: the unreliable nature of **Poa annua** and green speed. If I had a dollar for every green that lost a significant amount of **Poa** from either winterkill or midsummer heat stress, then I could probably afford a new set of Calloway woods. Last summer, the unusually mild weather caused little if any stress to **Poa annua**. Consequently, many courses in the nine-state Great Lakes Region entered the winter with a "bumper crop" of **Poa** on greens, fairways, etc. In fact, a number of courses in the northern transition zone, central to southern Illinois and Indiana, found that the percentage of **Poa** on greens increased during the winter. This came as an unwelcome surprise to a few superintendents who had made a considerable amount of progress reducing the amount of **Poa** through overseeding programs and the careful use of plant growth regulators.

Courses in the northern portion of the region were the first to experience significant losses of **Poa annua**. "Crown hydration" and to a lesser extent prolonged periods of ice cover caused severe injury in poorly drained, low-lying areas. Perennial ryegrass practice tees were also hard hit. To make matters worse, recovery of damaged areas was very slow this spring because of the cool days and cold nights accompanied by frost — conditions that persisted well into June in some areas.

**"Crown hydration" and to a lesser extent prolonged periods of ice cover caused severe injury in poorly drained, low-lying areas.**

Many courses throughout Wisconsin, northern Michigan, northwest Illinois, and northern Iowa were affected by winterkill. Several very highly regarded golf courses were sodding entire greens this spring. Fortunately (as if there's anything fortunate about winterkill), the damage was so widespread that the superintendents' jobs were not in jeopardy and golfers generally took the damage in stride. There were, however, several exceptions. For instance, at one city course, an old-time golfer started a petition to fire the superintendent because he had obviously poured gasoline on the greens over the winter which killed the turf.

Courses in central to southern Illinois and Indiana were hit next. The mild summer last year left the impression that **Poa annua** wasn't all that bad after all. Many courses entered the summer with a "double dose" of **Poa** in greens and fairways because little turf was lost from heat or drought last season. Well, take all the **Poa** that should have died last summer, add that to the **Poa** that would normally die this summer,

(continued on page 6)





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(Same Old, Same Old continued)

mer, and for good measure add a very shallow root system caused by heavy frequent rain this spring and you have a time bomb just ticking away.

The bomb exploded around the end of July. Frequent heavy rainfall saturated soils to a point where they became very slow to accept any more water. A heavy early morning rain followed by a sunny very hot and humid afternoon produced ideal conditions for wet wilt in low puddled areas of greens and fairways. If the turf didn't die outright it became very susceptible to the intense disease pressure from pythium and brown patch. Many superintendents had already used up their fungicide budget by August and had little to show for it. Active pythium on a perennial ryegrass tee was seen at 11:00 a.m. at one southern Illinois course. Losses of turf were sometimes blamed on more exotic problems such as "bacterial wilt" or nematodes, when simple heat stress was the more likely explanation for the injury. The take home lesson — when the going really got tough, *Poa annua* died within several days while even the older varieties of bent remained in relatively good condition in spite of the heat and humidity. Often the difference between live and dead *Poa* was adequate surface and subsurface drainage.

In contrast, the summer has been relatively mild in the central part of the region this year. Courses in Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis/St. Paul have not had the intense stress and severe injury experienced farther north or south. It was difficult shifting gears between visits. After all, how sympathetic could I be to a Green Committee Chairman who is disappointed about having only 9 to 10 feet green speeds after visiting courses for two weeks that would just like to have enough grass on the greens to slow the ball down (pure algae stimps at over 12 feet when dry).

The low handicap golfers tend to judge the quality of all the greens by the conditions on the flattest, easiest green on the course. The playing conditions on the most difficult, contoured green should dictate the speed of the greens if consistent conditions between greens are desired. I know, easy to say, but very difficult to convince the better golfers who constantly compare playing conditions between courses. Of course they are often invited to play other courses when that particular course has been primed for tournament conditions. They come home assuming that all courses should double cut and rolled each day.

Roll, did I say roll? If the greens still have grass this summer then the golfers want to know if they can roll them. Yes, rollers work, the green will be faster and smoother, but what

**Of course they are often invited to play other courses when that particular course has been primed for tournament conditions. They come home assuming that all courses should be double cut and rolled each day.**

is the price? The long term effects of rolling the variety of greens that exist, sand, soil, USGA, "modified USGA", etc., are not known. Will the surface seal over, will grain become a problem? Time will tell, but the simpler, practical problems are real and must be considered as well.

For example, faster greens have fewer hole locations so how will concentrating the traffic into a more limited area affect the quality of turf over time? Similarly, pace of play has become a concern at many courses. Perhaps the scratch

(continued on page 9)

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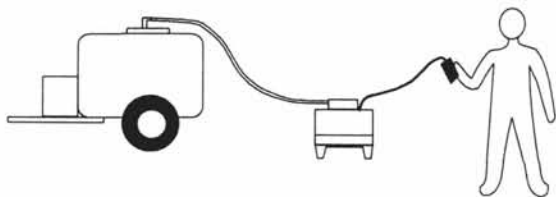
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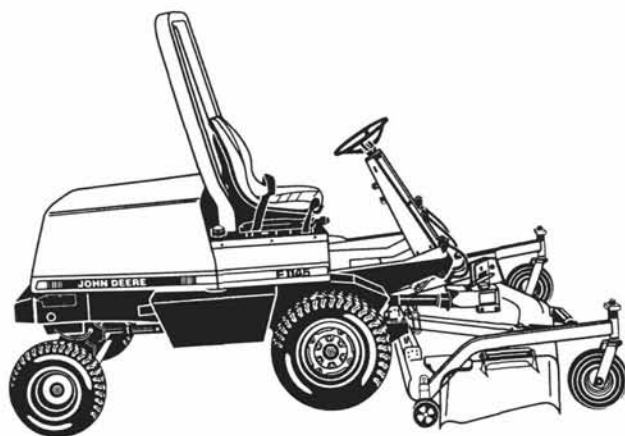
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(Same Old, Same Old continued)

golfers can handle fast greens, but for the average golfers, 3 and 4 putts can quickly transform an enjoyable 4½ hr. round of golf into a 6 hour ordeal. As the saying goes, "be careful what you wish for, because it may come true." There will always be a golfer who won't be pleased until his opponent misses that downhill putt and it rolls off the green, down the fairway and out of bounds.

I haven't given up hope because the other day a Green Committee Chairman raised this question during the visit. "Wouldn't the greens be healthier if we raised the height of cut from 1/8" to 5/32" but maintained the speed and smoothness by rolling a few times a week and perhaps rolling instead of mowing on Mondays?" Sometimes going the extra mile to communicate and educate pays off.

## Super-In-Site

by Tony Rzadzki

It's been 13 years since the Midwest Association has had the pleasure to play golf at the Shoreacres Golf Club. This month's meeting will be proudly hosted by Tim Davis.

Tim has been the superintendent at Shoreacres since 1984. Before working at Shoreacres, Tim started his career at Plum Tree National in 1976. After one year at Plum Tree, Tim began working at the Woodstock Country Club as an assistant. After one year at Woodstock Tim became the course superintendent. Throughout his early years Tim attended college while working. First Tim attained an Associate degree from McHenry Community College. Undaunted Tim continued his educational goals, and finally graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1981.

Tim has been married for 15 years to his wife Jean and has 2 daughters, Erin 10 and Vicki 8. Aside from golfing Tim enjoys fishing (when he can) and his winter hobby is reading.

The first major project Tim faced at Shoreacres was the rebuilding of their club house that burned 9 months before Tim started in 1984. Part of the project included the installation of a new 6000 foot sewer line that traversed the course. Other than that, Tim says that the course has basically remained unchanged since it's founding in 1916. Shoreacres was founded by former members of the Onwentsia Club. It seems that way back then things were a 'little too crowded and tee times hard to come by', so in 1921 Shoreacres opened.

Tim has begun a renovation project where bunker complexes are renovated but not redesigned. Sod is stripped, sand that has infiltrated the soil profile is removed, and tile lines are replaced, but all is put back to it's original design. Tim plans to have an architectural evaluation done at his course to see if some small changes can be made on the course to keep up with new equipment technology. Some tees may soon be renovated and repositioned also, but kept in vogue with the original design of the course.

Old North Shore courses have a quality all their own. It is nice to see that in our whirlwind of change in design concepts and construction, that there are still some classic jewels to challenge our golfing abilities. I encourage everyone to attend this meeting and experience golf in a timeless atmosphere .. Shoreacres.

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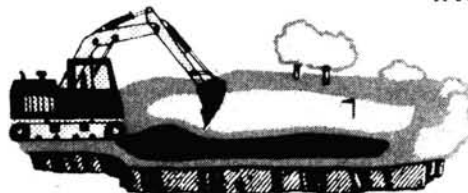
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**Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts.  
Monthly Meeting — Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1993  
Shoreacres Golf Club — Host: Tim Davis**

**Event: Annual Tournament — Flighted Divisions**

The field is limited to the first 104 paid registrants. You must have attended two MAGCS meetings during 1993 to be eligible for the tournament.

**MEMBERS ONLY — NO GUESTS**

Pre-Payment and Pre-Registration Required

Cost for the day: \$65.00

10:30 — Check in

11:00 — Lunch

12:00 — Shotgun

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and prizes follow golf

September 21, 1993      Golf Event      Shoreacres

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Two previous meetings attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MAGCS, P. O. Box 248, Eola, IL 60519. Payment due no later than September 17, 1993.

**Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts.  
Monthly Meeting — Monday, October 4, 1993  
Bartlett Hills Golf Course - Host: Kevin DeRoo**

Event: College Championship, Two Man Scramble  
A college must have at least 2 two-man team scores to qualify for the championship. The college championship winner is gross scores only. You may play with another team from another college. There is an independent division as well.

Field Limited to 120/Pre-Registration and Pre-Payment Required

Cost for the day - \$50.00 — Cost after deadline - \$60.00

Non-member cost - \$70.00 — Dinner & meeting only - \$25.00

Dinner only after deadline — \$30.00 — Casual Attire

10:00 — Check-in

11:00 — Shotgun (lunch on course at Halfway House)

4:30 — Steak cookout and Meeting

October 4th, 1993      Golf Event      Bartlett Hills

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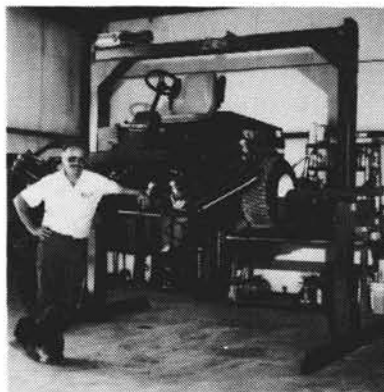
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