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(Dowsing continued)

2/3 of the way down its length. Though this is my preference due to its durability, physical make-up of the rod can vary. Ordinary coat hanger wire, electrical wire, and plastic tubing bent this way also work. You will want to experiment and find your own favorites. The short end is then held lightly between the thumb and forefinger with the longer end pointed straight ahead. This method can be done one-handed with a single rod or by using two rods, one in each hand. When the dowser is over the target the rod(s) will turn either inward or outward, depending on the person dowsing. If getting the grip required is a problem or if you're accused of turning the rod intentionally, place the short end of the rod in a piece of tubing and try again. If you don't get a reading on the first try keep at it. Experiment with different target materials; PVC pipe, steel pipe, or irrigation wire. Having water in the pipe or current in the wire is no prerequisite. You can use known sites of buried material or just lie short pieces on the ground.

When you do start to get readings a couple of things will be noticeable. First, it's spooky. The rod does turn seemingly of its own volition for no noticeable reason. Once again, an understanding of why or a faith in any special power are not necessary. The rod will begin to turn before you are right over the target and in the case of pipes and wires it will wish to turn along the running length of such a target. Very exact locations can be determined by crossing the length of such targets on the perpendicular. The rod will turn 90 degrees to your body (either inward or outward) when the rod is directly over the target and actually turn past the right angle after you cross it. The strength of the turn can vary from slight to strong enough to cause heat and friction on your fingers if you try to stop it.

The real "art" of dowsing is not in learning to get readings from your divining rod, but interpreting what those readings are. Along with pipes, drains, wires and valves the rod will read tree roots, underground water and many other undesired objects that may be buried for whatever reason. A general foreknowledge of the area to be dowsed is a great help. Then use the divining rod to determine more exact locations and directions to reduce the search time and labor necessary in uncovering your target.

The value of more modern wire finders and locaters is indisputable, but the simplicity, speed and accuracy of dowsing definitely earns it a place in modern turf maintenance.

Credit: Turf Times 7/93

The below are messages on TurfTalk from Bruce Williams.

I just received a note from Arthur Clesen, Inc. that Grace-Sierra withdrew the registration of Calo-Clor with the EPA. Existing inventories will be sold throughout the remainder of 1993 and 1994.

Don't expect supplies to last long, though. I checked the local suppliers and there is not a lot of product left. Typically, supply and demand took over and the prices have really gone up. I bought at 25 lb. drum in the spring for \$700. The lowest quote I got this week was \$840 and the highest was \$1035.

What are the fellows up in snow country planning on using in the future. Maybe we could hear from the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, or Dakotan users of Turfbyte on a replacement for the mercurial fungicides.

For everyone's information, John Turner called me yesterday to let me know that Prostar is now registered with the EPA and we can expect it on shelves in your local turf distributor's warehouse by the end of next week. Great News!!!

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Wouldn't It Be Nice ...

by Editor

Wouldn't it be nice — to have a MAGCS Membership Directory that is current?

Wouldn't it be nice — to have one source to look up that address or phone number you need.

At the present, to publish **The Bull Sheet**, I need the following directories: The outdated MAGCS Directory, the Chicagoland AGCS Directory (wives' names), the CDGA Directory (for some club addresses and phone numbers) and the ITF Directory, if the others don't seem to have the answer I'm looking for. In fact, all of my directories are outdated!

I will admit, the first time around, it does take time to put the directory together. But with the data bases and computer programs we have today, it shouldn't take 6+ months to redo.

The Directory, I feel should have the following information in the main listing:

Name:	Wife's Name:
Club/Business:	Home Address:
Street Address:	Town, State, Zip Code:
Town, State, Zip Code:	Home Phone:
Work Phone:	Work Fax:
Mobil Phone:	Class:
Year Joined Association:	

In the back of the directory cross reference the main listing by an alphabetical listing of the club or business, the persons name and the work phone number. Our last directory was arranged in this manner; however many names and businesses were missed in the cross reference.

Wouldn't it be nice ...

J. Michael Hart Environmental Specialist

J. Michael Hart, certified golf course superintendent of Danville Country Club, Danville, IL, has earned an environmental specialist certificate in Integrated Plant Management (IPM).

The IPM specialization focuses on effective and safe alternatives to the regular use of chemicals on golf course management. The goal of IPM is to reduce reliance on pesticides and increase the use of biological, mechanical and cultural pest control techniques.

The IPM specialist recognition is part of the Environmental Management Program (EMP) offered through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

GCSAA's EMP consists of six distinct specializations: IPM; Underground Storage Tanks; Golf Course Development; Employee Safety and Right-To-Know; Water Quality and Application; and Storage, Disposal and Recycling.

Golf course superintendents may choose to complete one or more of these specializations, each of which is composed of a series of relevant course work. Because environmental science and regulations evolve rapidly, the superintendent must renew the specialization certificate at the end of three years.

The superintendent who successfully completes the required course work in a specialization receives a certificate from GCSAA. In addition, the superintendent who earns this credential demonstrates his or her commitment to preserve and protect the environment and local resources.

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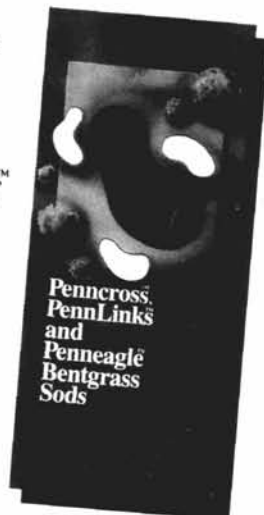
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Bats: Safe Insect Control

In an age when landscape designers are looking for environmentally safe insect control, help comes from a rather unlikely source — bats.

In North America the majority of bats are insect eaters and, in fact, major predators of night-flying insects. Almost half of these species may use artificial roosts.

The use of bat roosts for insect control is not a new idea. AT the turn of the century, Dr. Charles A. Campbell built artificial roosts in Texas to try to control mosquitoes in order to eradicate malaria. He based his idea on birdhouses, artificial cavities provided for birds and was nominated for a Nobel Prize. One of his towers, a "hygieostatic bat roost," is a Texas State Historical Landmark. And it still has bats living in it.

Around the time of Campbell's experiments, bat houses were being used in Europe. In the past decade, they have been given consideration in North America largely through the efforts of Bat Conservation International of Austin, Texas. Nature, of course, has used natural bat controls for a long, long time.

Backyard habitats include bat houses that hold from 20 to 100 bats. These can be mounted under the eaves of buildings or in trees. The roosts look like bird houses, the largest being about two-feet-high, one-foot-wide, and one-foot-deep. The bottom is open. Inside are vertical partitions spaced from 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches apart.

The common little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, is one species likely to move in. They can eat up to 600 mosquitoes per hour. Another possibility is the big brown bat, *Eptesicus fuscus*, "big" only in relation to "little". They will eat Japanese beetles.

Some bats eat half their body weight in insects each night. Along with mosquitoes, gnats, midges, Japanese beetles and black flies, bats eat farm and garden pests such as cutworm and cornborer moth.

Because bats are nocturnal, they will not interfere with the homeowner who has a purple martin colony, a bluebird house, or is encouraging other insect eating birds on their property.

For a municipal design project, a Missouri style bat roost can be used. Seven-feet by four-feet by three-feet, it can hold 1,000 bats. These roosts have been successful on golf courses and in park and recreation settings in a number of states. As a community conservation effort, it has both educational and public relations value.

Bat roosts are not for every project but with certain conditions, a supply of insects, and a source of water, it may be a possibility. There is a scarcity of tree cavities used for roost sites, a loss of habitat for these beneficial animals.

For more information contact the APLD's Committee on the Environment and read *America's Neighborhood Bats*, by Merlin Tuttle.

Credit: The Landsculpture, May 1992

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