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the Bull Sheet

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On Course With The President

It happens each year, and not only at one particular time during the year. We, the "Midwest", as an association, are repeatedly asked to generously donate scholarship and/or research funds to a wide variety of well intentioned and well deserving recipients. The MAGCS receives numerous requests for these funds and as an association we try to judiciously and fairly to distribute as many dollars to scholarship and research as the association's budget can afford. Whether the final recipient of the grant is an individual, an association, or a foundation; there is never a lack of return gratitude when any funding, regardless of the amount, is dispersed. There is absolutely no question of the need for continued and generous funding of these endeavors that at some future point shall serve to benefit us, the turfgrass managers. What has become a question, however, is how do we, the "Midwest", properly and adequately provide for these requests???

Volumes may be written about the merit of funding one area versus the other (scholarship vs. research, etc.) and about the many sub-divisions where any S&R dollars might go. We, the membership of the MAGCS, however, need to address an even more basic issue. How may we, an Association representing over 300 golf courses and 600 golf industry professionals, begin to more adequately serve and provide for the omnipresent need for always more of these dollars? At present, the issuance of Scholarship and Research funding comes wholly from the realm of the MAGCS annual operating budget. There

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never seems to be enough discretionary dollars to satisfy the needs and requirements of the potential recipients, and the list of those seeking virtually any level of funding does not seem to be shrinking. So what am I leading to?

We have, among the many of us, discussed and talked and considered a variety of ways to supplement the current and arguably low level of MAGCS scholarship and research funding. Continually, we search for and explore new ideas for the enhancement of this particular area. How DO we provide for the requests? There must be means, away from the MAGCS operating budget, of providing for this important funding. Too many well deserving entities are without the basic resource for their survival and their ultimate progression in the pursuit of the unknown in turfgrass research. And we, perhaps, are denying ourselves the privilege of the ultimate benefit of that expanded knowledge. What then, must we do? Think about it.

ATF

Director's Column

The "Off-Season"

by Don Cross

Superintendent Skokie C.C.

First of all I would like to thank all of you, whom attended and voted at the annual meeting, for electing me as Secretary-Treasurer of our association. It is an honor to be an officer of such a fine group and I will work hard to earn the trust you have given me.

As I write this, it's New Years Day and I want to wish all of you and your families the very best in 1994. You may be wondering why I'm spending New Years Day, more than a month prior to you receiving this **Bull Sheet** issue, to write this column. Well, I'll get to it later but I first want to discuss our so-called "Off-Season". You know, most of you have been asked, "What do you do in the Off-Season"?

The word itself implies we have the entire time off. Well, we all know this is the farthest from the truth and we should all communicate to others, that much work still continues in this "Off-Season". It may seem like we have an abundance of time on our hands, but perhaps it is due to our work week dropping from seven to five days and our hours resembling more the norm of forty instead of sixty plus!



I first want to discuss our so-called "Off-Season". You know, most of you have been asked, "What do you do in the Off-Season"?

It seems as though our weather (at least for the past several years) has been mild enough such that work can continue on the golf course well into December and then we are back out again in early March. About two and a half months of "Off-Season". Plenty of time, most would claim, to get equipment in top shape for next season and still have some free "Off" time. Well, let's analyze this a little more closely.

Most of us have snow removal responsibilities, and you may have paddle courts which must be kept free of snow and the heaters and lights maintained at all times. Many of you may perform, or contract, tree pruning during this time and with this comes branch hauling and/or chipping tasks. Transporting sand to bunkers or soil and/or other materials for construction projects and planting trees in pre-mulched locations are other activities performed. Pumphouse equipment maintenance, shop cleaning and organizing, and of course rebuilding, re-painting, and re-furbishing numerous pieces of equipment are our main tasks at hand.

Personally, as managers, we spend this "Off-Season" writing reports to green committees, writing articles for club newsletters, planning maintenance and improvement programs, performing inventories, making purchases and catching up on reading trade journals and other publications.

Attending educational events such as the NCTE, the Midwest Turf Expo, the Mid-AM show, GCSAA Regional seminars, and the GCSAA International Conference and Show, are other activities which require much time devotion during this "Off-Season".

One of the most important activities we should do, because we may not get the chance at any other time of the year, is to take time to "recharge the batteries". Which brings me back to why I'm writing this on New Year's Day.

It is because the ski slopes await me and a few other fellow superintendents for a little "recharge" time. We leave tomorrow and the day we return is the deadline day for **Bull Sheet** articles for the February issue and also the day of our January MAGCS meeting. Today was the best chance for me to write before the deadline. At least I can start off the new year without procrastinating.

Hopefully you can find time soon to get away, with friends and/or family or better yet both, and "recharge". This so called "Off-Season" is short-lived and when we really look at it, it is still a busy time.

Hope to see you all in Dallas!

Aspen Grove Declared Heavyweight Champion

In the ongoing contest to identify the largest, heaviest, most awesome organism in the world, blue whales lost out to redwood trees. Redwoods were topped recently by a large soil fungus in Michigan, and now the fungus is dwarfed by a grove of quaking aspen trees in the mountains of Utah.

Three professors at the University of Colorado say that all 47,000 stems in the grove of aspen arose from the root of a single tree. This "growth" now covers 106 acres and weighs approximately 13.2 million pounds, perhaps three times more than the largest redwood, a *Sequoia gigantea* tree.

"Quaking aspen, already recognized as the most wide-spread tree species in North America, can now take its rightful place as an acknowledged giant among giants," life science professor Michael Grant, Jeffry Mitton, and Yan Linhart wrote recently in a letter to the English journal *Nature*.

The large clone of trees is located in the Wasatch Mountains, south of Salt Lake City. It was originally described in 1975 by a forestry researcher, Burton Barnes, from the University of Michigan.

The Colorado professors estimated that it is about 33 times heavier than a 396,000-pound blue whale, the largest animal on earth. The king-size fungus, which has spread through 37 acres of soil in northern Michigan, was estimated to weigh about 20,000 pounds.

Mitton said there is no accurate way to estimate the aspen grove's age.

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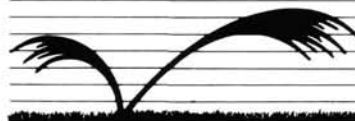
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“Robert W. Graunke, CGCS, Receives 1993 ITF Distinguished Service Award”

The 1993 Distinguished Service Award, the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's highest honor, was presented during this year's 10th Annual North Central Turfgrass Exposition held November 29-December 1 at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL to Mr. Robert W. Graunke, CGCS.

Phillip H. Hall, CGCS, ITF Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the award to Mr. Graunke during the ITF Annual Meeting at NCTE on Tuesday, November 30.



Mr. Graunke, known and admired throughout the turf profession, has been involved in the golf industry for 28 years. He has worked at Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort, Galena since 1973 where he currently is Director of Golf & Grounds. In addition to his many years of work in the industry, he has been active in the Northwestern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association, serving as President this year. A long-time member of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, he served on the Board of Directors for 9 years including terms as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President; he has President of ITF in 1986. A Certified Golf Course Superintendent, throughout his career, he has remained active and involved in promoting education and research in the field.

The ITF Distinguished Service Award, which has been presented since 1979, is awarded to an individual who has been or currently is an active member of ITF or the turfgrass academic community and one who has held office in a state or local turfgrass organization. The winner shall have been a dedicated promoter of the turfgrass industry, an innovator of new ideas and cultural practices in the industry, who has exhibited honesty, self discipline and a high degree of knowledge of turfgrass and the turfgrass industry.

Mr. Graunke joins the ranks of past recipients who have included, Peter Vandercook, Illinois Lawn Equipment; Carl Hopphan, Evanston Golf Club; Albie Staudt, Geneva Golf Club; Frank Stynchula, University of Illinois; ITF's first "Service Award" was presented in 1979 to Mr. Ben Warren.

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, founded in 1959, is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for turf research and education. Its membership of over 500 turfgrass professionals represent all avenues of the industry. Since its inception, ITF has awarded nearly \$500,000 for university level research in the state of Illinois. For additional information on ITF membership or activities, contact ITF headquarters at (312) 616-0800.

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Now, a Time to Rest

by Dudley Smith

On December 28, 1993 Theodore "Ted" Wiersema, 84, passed away. He was the victim of a cerebral hemorrhage. Ted was a Class AA member of M.A.G.C.S.



Back in the 1940's Ted succeeded Leonard "Brownie" De Broyne as superintendent of Ridge Country Club. Ted resided in a bungalow on the club grounds which had a large victory garden that he grew and maintained. Ted was able to avoid the draft by working for his green chairman; who owned a factory that vulcanized and retreaded truck tires, an essential wartime industry. Meanwhile, he kept the golf course playable. Ted was at the "Ridge" for seventeen years and can remember mowing fairways with a team of horses, and later on with Model A Fords with steel drum wheels. The pay scale at Ridge C.C. at that time was 35 cents an hour. Head Golf Pro Elmer Schacht told me "Ted had the finest golf greens on Chicago's southside." Ken Zanzig, our poet laureate, and Tom Di Guido were members of Ted's grounds staff.

From 1956-58 Ted was employed by Tom Walsh, then President of the P.G.A., to develop and "grow-in" eighteen additional holes at Westgate Valley C.C. in Palos Heights.

In the Spring of 1959, John Coghill Sr. contracted Ted to be the full-time, mechanic-foreman at Silver Lake C.C. Ted held that position until he suffered a stroke in May 1993. Ted never ordered parts using part numbers. He would tell Smitty (George A. Davis), "I need some sprockets and chains, some reel bearings, and some graphite packing for the spray rig." It was amazing to watch him operate. My assistants were in awe watching Ted fix a recoil starter, a faulty clutch, or a loose bedknife, all with one swift blow from his trusty plastic hammer.

Ted witnessed the whole gamut: From walking push green-mowers, to tractor pulled Worthington and Roseman nine-gangs, to the self propelled diesel hydraulic mowers of today. What would O.S.H.A. say if they saw Ted sitting inside a 300 gallon cyprus spray tank replacing the stainless steel shaft and agitator paddles? Or better yet ... mixing lead arsenate and Milorganite on the barn floor with a "time-out" now and then to gargle Canadian Club, to get the chalk residue off his teeth. Indeed, those were the days!

Years ago, before the influx of Mexican labor, Ted encouraged me to hire women on the grounds crew. The "Hollander" had a flair for the ladies. Former employees, all the salesmen, even visitors who came to Silver Lake never left without chatting and reminiscing with Ted Weirsema.

I will especially miss Ted this Spring when it's time to set out his pride and joy — the Red Canna Lilies.

Ted, for over 34 years you have been my father, my advisor, my confidant. For over 65 years you have sprayed dandelions, cleaned carburetors, spread topdressing, and patched sod. It's time for a long, peaceful rest. God bless you Ted.

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Hazard Trees on the Golf Course

by Michael A. Beebe, ASCA
Consulting Arborist

Trees are as important to a golf course as are the players. Recognizing tree hazards on the golf course and performing remediation or removal is essential to remove the risks involved with their presence. Trees may be dangerous. In this litigative society, this is where an ounce of prevention is worth ten pounds of cure. There are many common defects associated with tree hazards and the ability to evaluate these defects should be left in the hands of an experienced Consulting Arborist. Golf course superintendents are experts with turf by virtue of education, continuing education and experience. Many are quite knowledgeable on trees, and tree health, yet this is not their prime area of expertise and rightly so. There is only so much time in one life.

The liabilities involved with "Hazard Trees" is tremendous. The bottom line responsibilities of serious injury from tree related incidents lies with the owner. Our courts are getting more and more cases involving tree related accidents.

Most of our golf courses still have old willow trees, poplar trees and cottonwoods that have passed maturity years ago. Many of the courses I have played on have older trees with large dead branches, big cavities, construction damage, reduced soil level or increased soil level on the roots or around the trunk, dead branches hanging, and many more indicators of actual hazards.

In order for a tree to become a "Hazard Tree" it must have a target. Unfortunately, like myself, not all golfers stay in the fairway. By virtue of the game, this makes most of the golf course accessible and susceptible. To protect your crews, players,

In order for a tree to become a "Hazard Tree" it must have a target. Unfortunately, like myself, not all golfers stay in the fairway.

and owners may I suggest having a "HAZARD TREE INVENTORY" completed during your off months (Jan., Feb., March, April). Most golf courses have tree pruning crews do their work in the winter, and armed with your "Hazard Tree Inventory" you derive multiple benefits from your tree care dollars. You may have only one hazard tree on your course or you may have many. Hazard trees are dangerous. Have them identified, and remediated.

An inventory of trees is advisable. It should contain enough information, ie: size, species, location, condition, and dollar value to be of any real use to your organization. Ideally an

Hazard trees are dangerous. Have them identified, and remediated.

inventory not only includes the above but it also should be done as to be acceptable on your computer. With the above information on disc the superintendent is well armed with the necessary data to make timely, money saving and wise decisions regarding the trees on his course and the safety of all that play on it.

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