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the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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On Course With the President Rambling's from Dallas ...

It's over finally, another week long marathon at the annual GCSAA International Conference and Show. This year's rendition, in Dallas, proved to be the equal of the preliminary build-up put forth by the GCSAA staff in Lawrence. In a word, the conference and show was huge and very well organized. The assemblage and variety of educational and professional opportunities was outstanding, and the enormous trade show was without parallel. There were more than 3,300 Superintendents and Assistants enrolled in four days of educational seminars. And that was followed by three more days of fine educational offerings as well as the aforementioned trade show. It was gratifying to see the response to the "early bird" Innovative Superintendent sessions. These, beginning at 6:30 a.m., were as well attended as some of the primary educational sessions offered later in each of the day's sessions. There were many opportunities to see, hear, and participate in virtually any and every facet of golf course management. As Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State University mentioned during a long conversation during an interlude of the proceedings, there is no precedent in the discipline of agriculture where there is such an assemblage of educational opportunity. The offerings are there to take advantage of and for the attendees to ultimately utilize the information from the research and experiences at their home golf facilities. The Dallas conference was a well managed experience for any Superintendent and turf professional that cared to attend.

There is no precedent in the discipline of agriculture where there is such an assemblage of educational opportunity.

On that note, it was disheartening to hear of a number of individuals and to personally listen to several (whom I know) Superintendents boast of their many rounds of golf during the run of and in lieu of the GCSAA Conference. A little personal time here and there is to be expected and frankly is just about necessary to make it through the onslaught and overload of education. But, it has not been shown yet to the world that education can occur through osmosis or by merely being in the general locale. It does take participation. It was nice of them, however, to donate their registration fees, etc.; I'm sure they learned a lot during their rounds of golf in Dallas ...

Congratulations to Bruce R. Williams, CGCS on his election victory and subsequent appointment as GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer.

On a positive note, congratulations to Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, on his election victory and subsequent appointment as GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer. He, above all, deserves to be positioned to ultimately lead the Association and now is poised to do so. Also, Roger Stewart, Jr., CGCS, and his sidekick Robert Maibusch, CGCS, are to be thanked for their efforts on Bruce's behalf as well as toiling through a number of candidate interviews and voting delegate sessions. It was a busy conference for all of them and a very successful one as well.

(continued page 4)

(“Ramblings from Dallas” continued)

Although it is well discussed and adequately covered in a separate column in this issue, the MAGCS Hospitality Room really could not occur without the generous fiscal support of many of the people, companies, and corporations with whom we do business. Their generous contributions enable the “Midwest” to offer an unparalleled place to relax and meet friends and associates at each year’s GCSAA conference. Please let them, the contributors, know that you, as individuals, appreciate their fine support. We, as the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, certainly do!

And thanks too, to Janet ... Since August she has been trading faxes and phone calls with the catering manager at the Anatole on behalf of the “Midwest”. Her efforts made this year’s hospitality room a critical and financial success. She worked hard to develop the themes and menus for each of the three nights. She also consumed a lot of her time and energy in negotiating the arrangements as well as justifying the final tab. Great job, and many thanks for the fine effort.
ATF



(continued from page 28)

This means that if Bruce Williams is nominated for Vice President in 1995, he will run opposed.

The actual vote totals as recorded by Bob Maibusch — Alternate Delegate:

P = passed

F = failed to pass

By-Laws:

Ballot #1	For — 5229 P	#9	For — 5152 P
	Against — 46		Against — 123
#2	For — 5230 P	#10	For — 4774 P
	Against — 45		Against — 501
#3	For — 3950 P	#11	For — 5207 P
	Against — 1323		Against — 5
#4	For — 4659 P	#12	For — 5270 P
	Against — 616		Against — 5
#5	For — 2954 F	#13	For — 5275 P
	Against — 2321		Against — 0
#6	For — 2485 F	#14	For — 5122 P
	Against — 2790		Against — 153
#7	For — 4357 P	#15	For — 5270 P
	Against — 918		Against — 5
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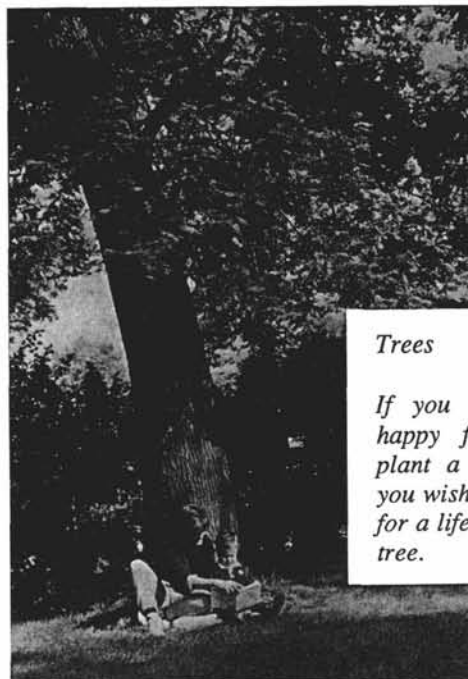
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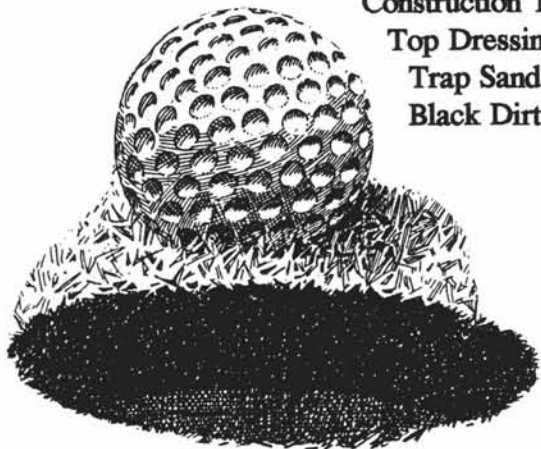


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Director's Column

by Kevin Czerkies

As I write this article, the weather outside is nasty. Minus 10 degrees with a wind chill of 40 below. We've had plenty of cold days this winter so I've been spending a lot of time in the office. As we all know, there's only so much to do in the office in the wintertime. This article is one of the few things on my agenda.



I've had time to reflect on the past few years as well as look to the future. Being a Golf Course Superintendent is something I truly enjoy. I decided to write this article on the things I like and dislike about my job.

Because our profession is so unique, I'm sure that not everyone will agree with my views. Anyway, here's a few thoughts about being a Golf Course Superintendent at a park district facility. I'm sure many of you can relate to what I'm saying.

It's always better to begin with the positive things first, so here they are:

1. Golf course construction.
2. Planting trees.
3. GCSAA convention.
4. Free golf since high school.
5. Watching irrigation sprinklers at dusk.
6. Being outside on nice days and inside on bad ones.
7. Recharging myself during the winter season.
8. The smell of fresh cut grass.
9. The many friends I've made in the business.
10. Watching the sun rise every day.

Now the flipside. Some negative aspects of my chosen profession:

1. Having to go to bed on a warm summer evening while the sun is still shining.
2. Continually having to explain to new board members why a fairway mower costs more than their new car.
3. Pressure to keep the golf course open during inclement weather conditions.
4. Park district safety committees.
5. No summer vacations.
6. Nuts and bolts salesmen.
7. Finding course vandalism at the crack of dawn.
8. Conducting surveys.
9. Irrigation leaks.
10. Getting up at 3:30 a.m. for six months and **watching the sun rise every day.**

After all is said and done, we've really got it pretty good. I could be stuck in this office year round!

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Food for Thought II

by Tod Hopphan

I'm back. Just when you thought you had enough of me, I spring back with some more stuff.

In my last piece I wrote about things you can do to help spruce up your image with the environmental crowd. Now I would like to go into more detail about a subject I wrote about last time, the Audubon Society of New York State Cooperative Golf Course Sanctuary Program (Wow! What an impressive and long title).



We at Evanston have been members since April, 1992. We were looking for ways to help improve our image with the community and from suggestions from Peter Leuzinger, we decided to join. In 1991, we had started a program of letting out-of-the-way areas to develop naturally. Some areas had been developing over the last ten years or so. Being in the heart of Skokie, we were surprised by the amount of wildlife that we could support in our 160 acres.

Being in the heart of Skokie, we were surprised by the amount of wildlife that we could support in our 160 acres.

After filling out the original short form and sending in our dues, we received an inventory form to be filled out about our golf course. It was about five pages long and somewhat easy to fill out. It asked for size of our course, basic layout, water sources, natural areas, etc. Once that was filled out and sent back, they returned an evaluation of our course and gave us some suggestions to help improve the wildlife areas. It is important to note that they were only suggestions and not requirements.

Some of the suggestions we followed up on right away, such as building more bird houses, putting up some feeders, allowing other areas to grow naturally. Many of the other suggestions such as using IPM, developing water conservation programs, water enhancement, and public relations with our members and community had already been initiated.

The Audubon Society has a wealth of informational sheets that they send out upon request. We used these to design and place our bluebird houses (16), wood duck house, and hopefully this winter our first bat houses.

The next possible step in the Audubon process is begin the ball rolling toward certification. There are seven areas that you can be certified in. They include wildlife food enhancement, wildlife cover enhancement, water conservation, water enhancement, environmental planning, public relations, and integrated pest management. The Audubon Society gave us all of the forms and examples we could use. I was in contact with their staff ecologist, Jean Mackay and Pete whenever I needed help.

(continued page 10)

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("Food for Thought II" continued)

The information we gave was about a page or two in length for each category. After the first try in April 1993, we became certified in environmental planning. We received helpful suggestions and encouragement for the other categories. Over the summer, we implemented their ideas and resubmitted in the fall. We became certified in all of the categories and I am now proud to be one of the nine (maybe ten) certified members of this program. It is also a proud moment for the Midwest Association that of the nine certified courses, five of them are in the Chicago area.

With all of this information I have thrown at you, you may be wondering where am I going with all of this. Since becoming a member and becoming certified I have had a few questions thrown my way about our involvement. Most people seem to be interested however, I have been hearing some negative vibes about the program. Some have said that it is too hard to become certified, we don't want boy scout or birdwatcher clubs

It is also a proud moment for the Midwest Association that of the nine certified courses, five of them are in the Chicago area.

walking up and down our fairways, we don't have the space to form nature trails, this is a golf course, not a park, etc.

First of all you don't have to have all of these things to become certified. The Audubon Society of New York State is very understanding to our situations. They realize that not every golf course can support nature trails or what have you. Even if you do nothing, the fact that you have a large portion of land that is kept green and not paved over is a benefit for the environment and the wildlife. With a very few changes you can reap a large amount of benefits for your membership and your community.

You can be a member of this organization without having to gear yourself up to be certified. You could also be certified in the categories that fit your particular course. The options are many and are up to you.

The only reason I see that you should not join is if your membership has no interest at all. If there is some interest, then join up.

We have always been aware of the wildlife that surrounded us on our course. However, since joining and becoming a part of this organization, we have looked at our course with a different eye and we are even more proud of what we have accomplished and so could you.

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