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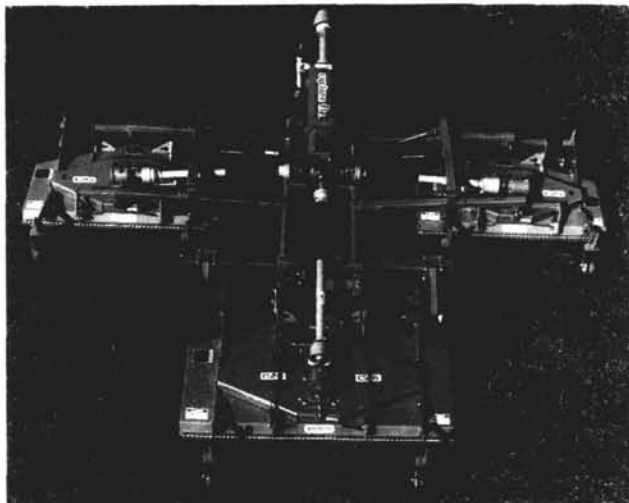
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## On the Waterfront

by Jim Reed

Since this is my first "Waterfront" issue of the year, I want to thank the MAGCS and the **Bull Sheet** for presenting me with the prestigious Editors (Fred Opperman) Award for 1993. I enjoyed presenting the important information on hydraulic surge issues and especially appreciated the feedback from many of you that you read and used the material in the operation of your irrigation systems. I hope the new topic chosen will also be useful to you in maintaining your golf course at its ultimate level in 1994.



This year's agenda for the column will be on electrical surge protection. Because of the many storms and resulting electrical power issues stemming from 1993's turbulent weather, and the lack of good information regarding surge protection, this topic seemed appropriate for 1994. Two individuals with outstanding credentials have provided most of the material that will be used in the presentation. Hopefully, some of this information will be of great value to you and your club.

Upon reading an outstanding article from Robert Healey on "Regular Maintenance Schedules Prevent Irrigation System Predicaments" in the March/April "Golf Course Irrigation" magazine, a question arose about the following item under the section on "Checking Field Satellites (page 30):

"B. Check grounding and test once or twice yearly."

Resulting questions about this statement came to mind:

1. Why should grounding of field satellites be checked?
2. How does one check a ground?
3. When should this test take place?
4. What level of protection should be achieved?
5. Are there any other components of the irrigation system that also need to be tested?
6. What will this cost?
7. What additional protective devices can be used to increase the level of surge resistance?

This and future articles will attempt to answer adequately these questions and more not listed above.

The most important immediate step you can take in checking your grounding is to tighten the grounds. "Proper grounding at the field controller ... (and the central controller) ... is very important. Good grounding of remote sites requires periodic checking to insure ground integrity. Merely driving a 8 foot copper rod next to the controller will not necessarily provide a good ground. The type of soil and available moisture will have a direct bearing on ground potential. All grounds should be tested with a proper resistance meter and **tightened annually.**" When you start up your irrigation system this spring, make it a practice to find the ground rod at each satellite location, tighten the ground clamp onto the rod, and insure that the ground wire going into the pedestal is securely fastened to the ground lug provided in that pedestal. If the connections are loose, you will have either a very poor or non-existent ground, and no amount of additional surge devices you could install will protect your investment, regardless of their cost. A few irrigation

(continued page 24)

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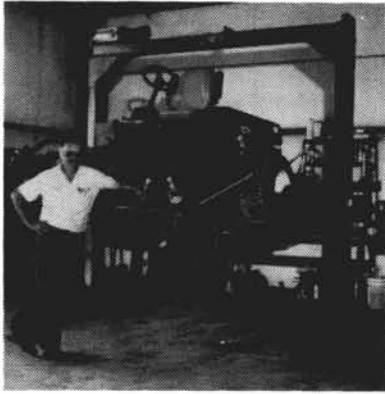
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(On the Waterfront continued)

technicians who have been given this advice have already reported finding poor connections, and think there was a correlation between timers sent back for repair last year and the potential of poor grounds at the locations of those timers. This is a no cost (other than the time involved in performing this test) expenditure that could save hundreds of dollars in repairs, reduce immeasurably the aggravation to you and your irrigation staff in operating your system, and improve the playability and appearance of the golf course. Perform the identical procedure at the central controller location to insure its optimum safety. An explanation of how these connections could loosen up is not important now — just tighten the connections.

Next month: Why should grounding be done?



Chick Mayronne, Green Chairman and Pete Janik (right) Superintendent of Chicago Heights C.C.

## Oak Wilt

### DON'T PRUNE OAKS

Oaks should not be pruned from now through the summer due to the potential of oak wilt infection. The best time for pruning oaks would be late fall or winter. Fresh wounds on oaks may invite sap feeding beetles, which could carry the oak wilt fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum* spores from infected trees. There is also the potential that squirrels could carry the oak wilt fungus.

In the event wounds are made on oaks, this is one instance where treating the wounds is suggested. This is to prevent insects from coming in contact with new wounds. Trim any jagged wood to make a good, clean cut. Then treat with orange shellac. Once this is dry, follow with a asphalt-base tree paint.

Oak wilt is a serious disease of oak, very similar to Dutch elm disease. The oak wilt fungus will clog water-conducting vessels in the sapwood. As the supply of water to the canopy of the tree is reduced, the tree will wilt and die. Watch for wilting in the UPPER portion of the tree, progressing downward, over the next several weeks. Leaves typically turn pale bronze, eventually dropping from the tree. Red/black oaks (pointed leaf tips) will die quickly, while white/bur oaks may recover and appear "stagheaded".

Oak wilt may often be confused with other problems. Examine the sapwood of fresh wilting branches for vascular streaking. Laboratory culturing from freshly wilted branch samples can confirm oak wilt; the University of Illinois Plant Clinic is available for a nominal fee, contact the closest Extension Office for details on how to submit a sample.

Credit: CES Newsletter



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Editor's Comment: Paul wrote this back in 1972 when he was President of the MAGCS and I thought it should be reprinted again.

## The love of greenkeeping

by Paul N. Voykin

I may be mistaken but I think I see the golf course superintendent's profession turning from its true direction. I am speaking of the recent trend of green superintendents slowly encroaching on the field of managership and away from our true profession of greenkeeping. This situation, I believe, has developed from the managers becoming general managers and taking charge of the whole clubhouse-and-grounds operation. As a result of their yet unproven venture, we have become panicky and think that by acquiring new titles and certificates, by attending bookkeeping and finance seminars and urgently seeking further clubhouse property responsibilities the situation will change.

I don't think so. A Golf Course Superintendent is a Golf Course Superintendent, and a Manager is a Manager, and the only way this fact will change is if you wish to change your profession completely. If that's what you want, go ahead, but do it in full turn, please. Do not play games — you're only fooling yourself.

In my case, there is no conflict. I know what I want to be: a good greenskeeper and nothing else. I'll be happy with that title, because I know something else — call it a basic managerial premise if you wish. That is, unless the golf course superintendent is in complete charge of all and total bookkeeping, and unless all money passes through his office, he can never be top dog or in full control at the club — at least not in the eyes of the board members. This fact is as sure and true as the fact that the golf professional will always be the glamour man at the country club, no matter how many double knits you own or how well you groom the grass.

Clouding up our true identity by seeking out extra jobs and taking more responsibility for a little more money has nothing to do with our real profession and skill of growing and manicuring grass. This is futile hypocrisy.

General managership is not our business. The managers who have taken over completely and are now total general managers have sold down the river their true responsibility to the club. They have taken on too many responsibilities and have gone into field that they know nothing about. Let's not play their ambitious game. As in the past, top clubs will learn that it's not going to work, and there really is no money saved.

Let me be absolutely blunt. Become a manager or stay a golf course superintendent, but whatever, be true to yourself. You can't be superb at both jobs. Declare your hand. Don't get into a mixed-up ballgame unless you want to change jobs every few years, as some general managers are doing. The wise ones work with us, cooperate with us, communicate and coordinate with us, and they are smart enough to keep out of our areas of responsibility — something they know nothing about. That's the way it should be.

I would like to say something else. I am not, nor is anybody else, impressed by greenkeepers calling themselves property managers, golf engineers, turf managers and other nonsensical names. Golf or green superintendents — yes, greenkeepers — lovely. "Grass growers" or "grass farmers" is fine with me. I know what I am and I make good money at it. I don't need

(continued page 28)

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(The Love of Greenkeeping continued)

to seek extra "janitorial" jobs around the clubhouse to tarnish my true professional image. My direct responsibility is the golf course and that load is heavy enough for me. And please don't give me that old business about shirking my duty as a breadwinner, or not being able to take on extra responsibility, or not trying to uplift our profession. I take on more responsibility and I am more involved with exciting things than I know what to do with — for my family and for the image of the profession. And I know many of you are the same. Long ago I could have become a manager, but that's not my forte. I am a GREENKEEPER, and in this field of endeavor I strive for perfection.

There is something else I must tell you that is in me (and unless you have a touch of the same, you might as well become a manager or go into something else). I would miss the soft warm rains that fall on the turf that I grow. I would miss the white snow that covers the golf course in late fall for the first time, melts, and then softly comes again. I would truly miss all the challenges of nature that go with my profession. The hot sun of summer heat and the salty sweat of humidity on my brow. I would miss the pleasure of admiring turf manicured and maintained under both good and adverse conditions and knowing that I had a hand in keeping the verdant picture that way. But, of course, there would be other things also soothing the frustrations of working with nature. I would miss her many gifts to us greenkeepers, the trees changing in the seasons and the flowering shrubs in spring. I would miss the daisies and other wild flowers hiding from our mowers next to majestic elms, and I would miss the wood thrush calling to its mate in early morning. I know I would miss the honest faces of commercial friends calling on me and old greenkeepers advising me. But most of all I would miss getting up early each morning and playing the endless chess game of man against nature or, perhaps, more truthfully, trying to work with her and relishing the achievement. And, oh, the satisfaction and the pleasure that come once in a while each season when, just for a short time, I have won the battle.



Left to right: Peter Leuzinger, Jeff Leuzinger, Jim Keith, Assistant Supt. and Green Chairman John Cebryzmski of St. Charles C.C.

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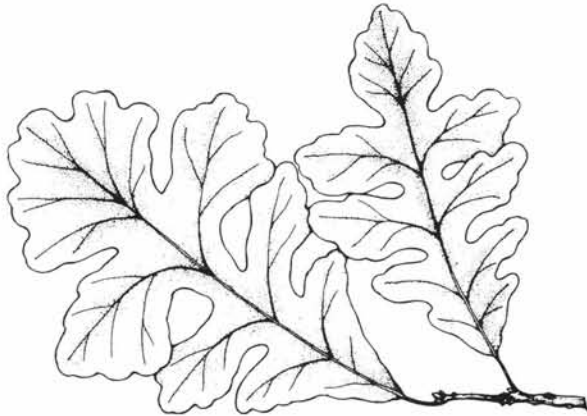


by Fred Opperman

Tree trivia question: What height of a tree is needed to provide the wood and paper products consumed annually by the average American?

This month's selection is a true native tree of Illinois. Its branches have shaded many generations of native Americans. The crop of its acorns is the staple diet of the white-tailed deer, wild turkey and of course the squirrels. The squirrel is the one who should get the most credit for planting this mighty tree. The Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa* is the king of the prairie. Its thick bark can withstand the grass fires that used to sweep the vast prairies of Illinois.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, 4 to 10" long, about 1/2 as wide,



obovate to oblong-obovate. Lower portion of the leaf usually has 2 to 3 pairs of lobes, dark green and often lustrous above, grayish beneath. Leaf somewhat shaped like a fiddle.

Buds: Rounded or slightly pointed at the tip, yellowish-brown to reddish-brown, finely hairy.



Fruit: Acorn usually solitary, with or without a stalk, the nut ovoid to ellipsoid, dark brown, up to 1 3/4" long, the cup covering half to nearly all the nut, and hairy.

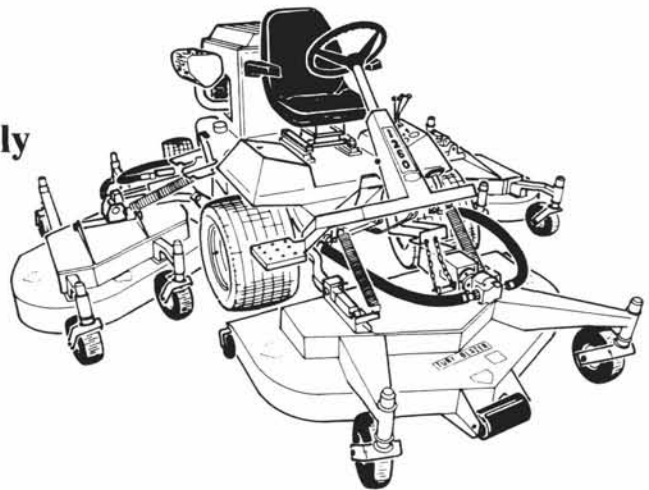


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Trivia answer: About a 100' tree is needed.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Dirr & Stipes

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