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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

It is with a great sense of pride and appreciation that I begin the opportunity the membership has entrusted to me to serve as your MAGCS President. I look forward to the challenges ahead and will do my best to act with the interests of our entire membership in mind. The MAGCS is fortunate to have selected a



Board of Directors with the experience, foresight, and enthusiasm to carry on the services of the association. The desire is there to implement several new projects, and the vision is there to look toward future progress. I congratulate Jim McNair and Greg Thalmann on their election to the Board and look forward to the fine efforts they will provide. I also welcome Phil Taylor, the appointed Commercial Advisory council board representative, and eagerly anticipate his valuable input.

Our association is also fortunate to have had outstanding leadership from so many past Presidents, each with varied experiences and areas of expertise in the past management of the MAGCS. I invite their comments and suggestions and intend to utilize this valuable resource for counsel.

Exciting events are about to transpire. The new MAGCS promotional brochure is near final production. In January the premier issue of our newsletter, "On Course" will be unveiled and two, one-day GCSAA Regional Seminars will be held. In February we will participate in the Chicago Golf Show and our Past President Bruce Williams will assume the Presidency of GCSAA. At the March meeting the Education Committee will again conduct an expanded educational offering. And onward we go into a new golf season!

At the 1995 annual meeting the MAGCS membership approved a dues increase for 1996. You received prior notification as to the rationale for the increase and the Board's intentions. To reiterate the full details is unnecessary, but in summary, the funds will be utilized in three primary areas; 1) Improvements to our newsletter (printing and quality), 2) Public relations (brochure and golf show), and 3) association administration (executive secretary, equipment, and liability insurance). Your approval of the increase will permit rapid action and implementation by the new Board. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The 1996 dues statement which you received reflects this increase. Please remember to fill out the membership data form completely. This will avoid omissions and inaccuracies in updating our files and will aid in directory accuracy. Your prompt return of the form and payment will enable us to get the new membership directory to you in a timely manner.

(continued page 4)

(On Course continued)

Last year we initiated the voluntary contribution program to allow the MAGCS to provide additional funding to organizations for turf research and for other worthy projects. The response was outstanding and affirmed our commitment to these organizations. Your continued support of this program will allow our contribution levels to match, and hopefully exceed, previous levels.

I look forward to a productive and progressive year for the MAGCS. We truly have an outstanding organization and the option will be available for you to take advantage of ample opportunities in 1996. I hope your choice will be to participate and surround yourself with these offerings.

Lastly, To you and your families; a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Donald A. Cross, President, MAGCS



Prune Many Trees, Shrubs Now

by James A. Fizzell

Even in the coldest winter, there are some nice days, sunny and clear, when it is just good to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air. Pruning small, deciduous trees and non-flowering shrubs might be just the excuse you need to get out of the office or shop.

Winter is a good time to prune these plants. Without leaves, the structure is easier to see, and often there is more free time than during the season when turf care is all-consuming.

Overgrown deciduous shrubs are ideally pruned at this time of year. While maintenance-trimming can be done during the season to remove small amounts of current growth, major pruning to renew a shrub or to reduce its size is best done in winter. If you have never done any pruning before or if you are afraid to make a mistake, don't worry. Plants do grow back. The important thing is get started. Here's how:

Some shrubs such as honeysuckle, privet, snowberry or potentilla can actually be cut to within a couple of inches of the ground. This is called rejuvenation, and is used to re-grow old, unsightly or overgrown plants. New growth from the base will result in an essentially new plant, full and green to the ground.

In the process, any overwintering scale insects, mites, and aphids are removed as well.

Plants will usually achieve their original size in a couple of seasons, and will be much more healthy and attractive.

Screens and hedges can be rejuvenated, but doing so eliminates them as effective barriers. By cutting one side to the ground, and waiting until it achieves enough height before cutting the other side, will rejuvenate the plants without losing their benefits in the process. Cut the back-side the first year. The damage to the front won't be so obvious if the remaining hedge is vigorous and attractive.

(continued page 9)

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(Prune Trees & Shrubs continued)

Renewal is a continuous process in which a quarter to a third of the oldest stems are removed to the ground each year. Arrowwood, weigelas, deutzia, dogwood, and overgrown lilacs respond well to this treatment. This opens the plant to light and air, and new stems are stimulated to grow from the base of the plant, completely renewing it every three to four years.

Stems left after renewal are sometimes too long and can be headed back to keep them in scale. In heading back, cut each overly-long stem back to a shoot growth in the same direction, but shorter. Try to find shoots growing away from the center of the plant.

It is important to try to maintain the natural form of the plant, not to create a sheared look. The correct tools to use are hand clippers, de-horning clippers, or hand saws for large limbs. Do not use hedge shears.

Small trees, including over-grown crabs or hawthorns can be pruned in winter as well. First remove any bottom suckers and any strongly vertical shoots growing through the center of the tree. These rarely bloom and will destroy the structure of the tree.

If the tree is grafted, be sure to remove any shoots growing from the root stock. (Try Finale in summer to burn them off as they arise).

Next, remove any dead or broken branches, and any limbs growing toward or through the center of the tree and those crossing other branches. These will eventually rub other limbs causing injuries to the bark and possibly opening them to infection by cankers.

Try to select and maintain several well spaced and healthy branches of the same size. These need to be rather horizontal for best flowering.

If the trees have been neglected over a number of years, don't try to make all the corrections at one time. Develop a plan for each tree and implement it over a couple of seasons.

Large trees are best trimmed in winter too, but this job is better left to a professional arborist. Plants of this size take special training and equipment, and large limbs are surprisingly heavy. Certified arborists have demonstrated that they have the skills to do this kind of work. Let them do it and avoid the risk of an unfortunate incident.

Pruning is an important part of the culture of ornamental plants if properly done. Don't try to over power your plants with pruning. Use judicious pruning to guide the natural growth of your plants. Good pruning is like a good haircut. The result is attractive, but you can't tell that it was done.

Enjoy your day in the fresh air. Do some pruning. Next summer when the results begin to show, maybe someone will notice how nice the plants look, but won't be able to tell why.



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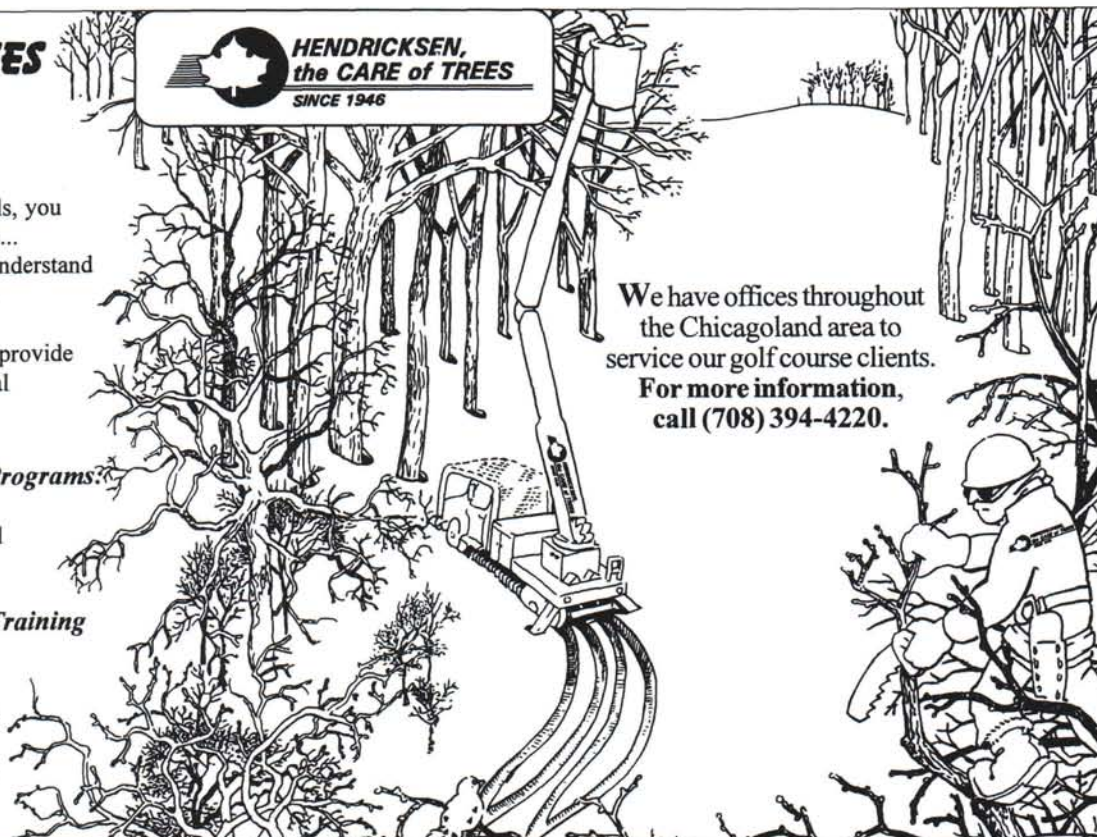
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Directors Column

by Ed Braunsky

The 1995 world of the Secretary/Treasurer of the MAGCS has been a wild ride! If I could receive frequent drivers miles, I could probably be able to drive to Denver free of charge. The work load of the Secretary/Treasurer has increased tremendously over the last few years. Many people have truly done an outstanding job in 1995 with regards to the running of the association. A big thank you goes to Joel Purpur, Don Cross, Al Fierst and George and Joan Minnis.



Here are a few highlights of the business activities of the MAGCS over the last year:

- The monthly newsletter **The Bull Sheet** continues to provide the MAGCS with a nice profit. A big thank you goes to Mr. Fred Opperman. We hope to take some of the money making burden off of the newsletter in the future.

- The new "gold or silver" dues contribution setup provided the MAGCS with over \$8000 to use for additional dollars for research and contribution. The money given to the CDGA alone by the MAGCS was one of the largest contributions to date. A special thanks to Dr. Kane for all of his help.

- The MAGCS monthly meetings continue to be run very efficiently. When you see Brian Bossert or Kevin Czerkies tell them thanks for a great job of running the arrangements and golf committees. The other "BIG" part of a **low** cost monthly meeting is the sponsorship from our commercial members. These members gave over \$12,000 in 1995. This could be a record! When you see them, tell them "HEY I LOVE YOU MAN!" Buy them a Bud Lite!

- Since the fiscal year does not end until 12/31/1995 we will have a run down of the end of the year numbers at the January meeting. We should end the year in good shape. Hey, I was the Sec'y/Treasurer, would you expect anything else! Seriously, the entire membership can feel good about the on goings of the association. A lot of people really do give 150% and it shows.

As at the Midwest Turf Clinic I would like to list the organizations we supported in 1995:

- ★The Ed Braunsky Family Fund (just kidding!)
- ★The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
- ★The Musser International Turf Foundation
- ★The Evans Scholarship Foundation
- ★The Illinois Turf Grass Foundation
- ★The University of Illinois
- ★The Chicago District Golf Association.

Thanks to all for allowing me to be your Secretary/Treasurer in 1995. I truly enjoyed all of my work and learned a lot. Finally, HAPPY HOLIDAYS! All the best to everyone in 1996.

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Photos by John Meyer



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