

JANUARY, 1986
VOLUME 39, NO. 8

the Bull Sheet

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
of The Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area



ARTICLES:

President's Message
Sand Trap Renovation
Turfgrass Research a Vital Need
Foliar Feeding — Friend or Foe?
San Francisco
The Role of the Assistant Golf Course
Superintendent
Late Season Nitrogen Fertilization
Putting Your Christmas Tree to Good Use

GCSAA REGIONAL SEMINAR

January 6-7, 1986
Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL

NEXT MEETING

January 13, 1986
at Arrowhead Golf Club, Wheaton
Robert Breen, Host

GCSAA PRAYER BREAKFAST

January 31, 1986
San Francisco Hilton Plaza Ballroom — 6:30 A.M.

This was done because it is the only job, from among all of the others that you do, that is totally unique from any other job in the world. The masthead was changed to give a more up-to-date look, and the cover is the same as we currently have. This will be the last of this style cover, for starting January 1996, "On Course", with a new masthead will emerge and, hopefully, take us into the 21st century.

The Bull Sheet will not be completely dropped, for in January, it will become what is now the "Midwest Breezes". So, what's constant? Why, it's change.

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Bruce Sering Eulogy

by Julius Albaugh, CGCS
Westmoreland Country Club

It is difficult to accept the loss of a friend at any time, but at 54 years of age — so young and so unexpected — it is nearly impossible. Bruce Sering was a true friend of my family; me, my wife and four children for 29 years. Being a neighbor, our friendship was especially close.



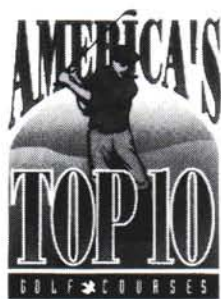
For a number of years, our families attended the same church. Through this association, Bruce and I team-taught Sunday School class together and along with our wives were active in our church bridge group. When our daughter Melissa was born, Bruce and Barbara were chosen to be her godparents. As years passed and our son Daniel decided to embark on a career as a golf course superintendent, Bruce took Danny under his wing and gave him an excellent apprenticeship in the greenkeeping profession. Bruce was like a second father to Danny. As a neighboring greenkeeper for 29 years, I often sought his advice on professional manners and we exchanged golf course equipment on numerous occasions.

Bruce Sering was a special person in many peoples' lives. Our family was only one he touched in a special way. His presence was felt in any gathering. That effervescent smile, his liveliness and his outgoing friendliness brightened everyone's hearts. My son was one of many young men Bruce guided and prepared for a career in greenkeeping. As a speaker he was one to command the respect of everyone, fellow superintendents and club officials alike. To many, he was their "HERO", the model to follow in the greenkeeping world.

Bruce was proud of his profession. An excellent Golf Course Superintendent, he preferred to be known as a greenkeeper. He provided Glen View Club with excellent playing conditions for 25 years. Immediately after hearing of Bruce's death, I drove to Glen View Club to offer my assistance. The flag was already flying at half mast, proof of the Club's heartfelt grief at the loss of a dedicated employee.

Yet Bruce had a higher priority; his family. To his wife Barbara he was a loving and devoted husband; to his daughters Kellie and Anne he was a caring and doting father; to his mother, Florence, a concerned and protective son. He strove to provide for his "girls" every need. We will all miss Bruce; his presence, his charisma, his smile. But our prayers and support must to those who will miss him most — his family.

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Pebble Beach, California |
| ✦ | 3. Augusta National Golf Club
Augusta, Georgia |
| ✦ | 4. Cypress Point Club
Pebble Beach, California |
| ✦ | 5. Shinnecock Hills Golf Course
Southampton, New York |
| ✦ | 6. Oakmont Country Club
Oakmont, Pennsylvania |
| ✦ | 7. Winged Foot Golf Course
Mamaroneck, New York |
| ✦ | 8. Shadow Creek Golf Club
North Las Vegas, Nevada |
| ✦ | 9. Muirfield Village Golf Course
Dublin, Ohio |
| ✦ | 10. Merion Golf Club (East)
Ardmore, Pennsylvania |

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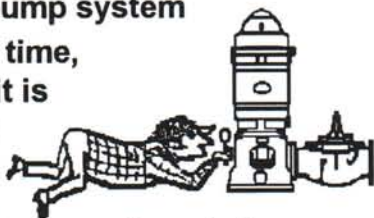
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Let's Rock

by Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MGC

Oh, really! What do you do in the winter?

How many times have you heard this same line of dialogue after you've just been introduced to someone and they ask what you do for a living? Surprisingly, many of my club's own members think that I take the winter months off. My standard answer used to be that we cut back our schedule to about 50 hours of work per week, but I've had to adjust that reply the last few years.

Our staff last few winters have been preoccupied with projects that extended the normal winter work week into the 60 to 70 hour per week range. One of these projects involved the dredging and shore treatment of Hinsdale Golf Club's existing lake. Let this be a warning to all of you, this is not the way you want to spend your winter "vacation".

The project began innocently enough as a way to clean up a small portion of the lake that had been added back in the 1950's, presumably to alleviate a drainage problem. We found that the lake had originally been excavated only four feet deep. Over the years two to three feet of muck (partially decomposed organic matter) had accumulated leaving only one to two feet of water. This caused an unsightly and malodorous problem, especially in the summer when the lake level is generally lower because of irrigation drawdown.

The theory was that soil generated by the lake over-dig would be used to build berms, and this would leave a hole large enough to scoop the unstable muck material into without having to haul it off-site.

Using our own staff with rented dump trucks and our excavator/shaper Bill Boyd of Timberline, we got started. The overdig and lake extension went well, and we then began scooping the muck into the hole. Unfortunately, the hole wasn't big enough which necessitated the digging of several more holes in the already cleared portions of the lake bottom to deposit the remaining muck material.

While this was going on, the membership of the club decided to expand the scope of the project from a small portion of the lake to include dredging along the edges of the remainder of the three acre lake, and incorporate a boulder treatment along all of the lake edges. This extended the length of the project which began near the end of October, 1994 all the way into April of 1995. With the exception of a handful of days, the grounds staff and the excavator worked outside every day last winter, often seven days a week, hauling dirt, pumping water (a constant problem as snow melted, and because of the fact that several city storm sewers feed into the lake), and setting



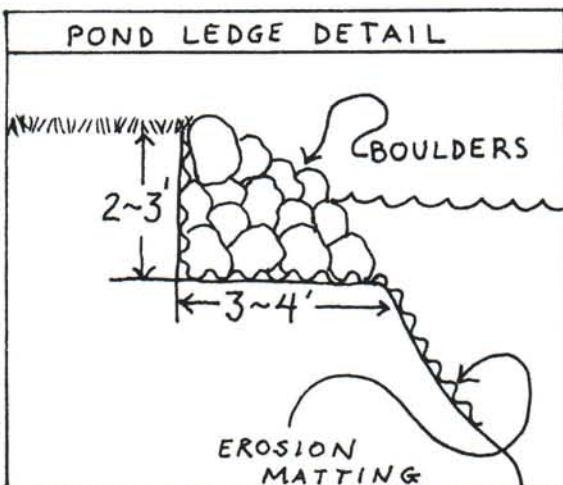
The plan was to drain down the lake, remove the muck, and lower the depth of the lake for increased reservoir capacity. One of the problems was that we had no place to put the muck. Since it can't be stacked (it has the consistency of pudding, and looks like lava), we couldn't use it for building berms or other golf course features. It was decided, on the advice of our golf course architects, Lohmann Golf Design, to slightly enlarge the existing lake and dig the lake extension very deep (approximately 30-40 feet).



(continued page 28)

(Let's Rock continued)

boulders along the lake edge. When we finally finished we were left with a lake that, where dredged, is approximately seven feet deep, with boulder



treatment along the edge that required thirty semi-loads of boulders, approximately 1.4 million pounds, **every one of them set in place by hand.** Approximately 20,000 to 25,000 cubic yards of material were moved during the dredging process.

I would recommend to anyone that is considering doing this type of work that you make sure that you have a dedicated staff and contractor to work with, along with an understanding membership. I was lucky to have all of these. It would also help to have a winter when the ground stayed frozen for much of the time. Unfortunately, last winter was very mild, and we were left with a significant amount of renovation work along the trucking routes. All things considered, it was a successful project which achieved its objectives of enhancing the aesthetic and functional qualities of the existing water feature.



The "Editors Award" was presented to Gregory Martin for his three articles, "Golf and the Fight for Discretionary Dollars, Part I, II & III".



John Meyer, representing Cannon Turf, presenting a \$1200 check to Joel Purpur, President, MAGCS for the Scholarship & Research Fund.



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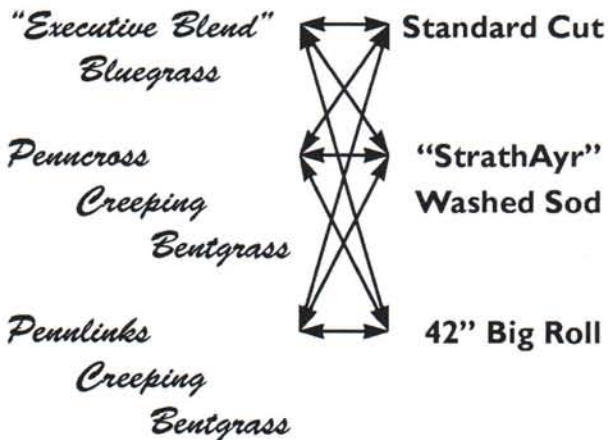


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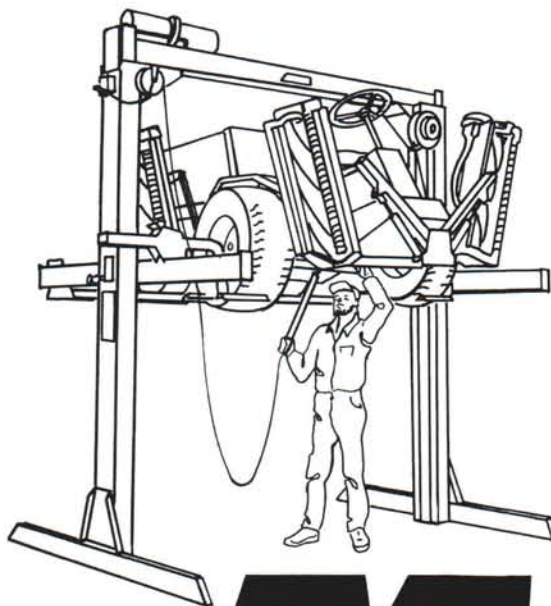
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43rd MAGCS Clinic

by Editor

The 43rd Annual Midwest Clinic was once again a success. Don Ferreri and his Education Committee did an outstanding job in getting speakers. A synopsis of the speakers follows:

Jerry Taft, Meteorologist WLS-TV — “No Such Thing As A Long Range Forecast.” Stated that 1995 was a once in a century summer. He has seen more extremes in the weather in the past 20 years. Chicago recorded a 105 degrees with a dew point of 84 back in July, an extremely unusual combination.

Dr. Tom Green, Western Illinois University — Dutch Elm disease can move 3' per day once the tree is infected. Get that limb removed immediately — not in a couple of days, now. Can be treated with chemicals to save tree. Plant Apple Scab resistant crabapples and forget to spray unless it is a number 1 priority tree. Oak Wilt, red oak family will die in a year if infected. Need to root prune to sever root grafts if among other oaks. Pine Wilt Disease, don't plant Scotch Pine, Austrian Pine also susceptible — White Pine okay to plant.

The Rookie Review:

Tony Kalina, Prairie Landing G.C. — Biggest concern was Dollar Spot. Did not spray preventative for Pythium, only curative.

Jim Keith, St. Charles C.C. — Watered greens only 8 times with the sprinklers, all other times by hand. Was glad his assistant came from the St. Louis area where this summer was not unusual for him and he was a great help.

Scott Witte, Cantigny Golf Course — Scott speaks very softly and the microphone was not working. But I did hear that he did not spend enough time with his new bride and wanted to correct that problem.

Bill Kennedy, Cress Creek C.C. — Had success with 110 ton of sand topdressing for his greens and thought that clipping removal from his fairways helped in his disease control. Clippings were dumped into the deep rough and raked in to dispose of them.

Tom Paciorek, Chicago White Sox Broadcaster — spoke on “Teamwork” and was very humorous in his talk on how to be successful in getting the most out of your crew. It seemed that our own Ed Braunsky was the brunt of some of Tom's jokes.

Rory Bancroft, Glenwood C.C. — Suggested that we all take a fresh look at a problem from a different perspective. In his own case, he showed where a \$60 plane ride helped solve a drainage problem and 10 million gallons of water.

Scott Grundberg, On Course Innovations L.L.C. — Described what is now available for speeding up play on the courses by the use of a interactive screen that is on the golf cart that can leave messages and instructions that generate out of the clubhouse. His “Golf Cart 2000” will be seen on many courses in the future.



Photos by John Meyer