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(Time for a Change continued)

Next, I tapped into our greatest wealth of information — **the golf professional**. Just kidding! I called my fellow superintendents that have completed fairway conversions. Many thanks to all these outstanding gentlemen for their generous sharing of experiences, and their - "if I had to do it over agains". These men were Jerry Machs, Don Cross, Jim Evans, Joel Purpur, Oscar Miles, and Dave Schlagetter. Also Dr. Randy Kane offered his expertise on seed selection. They helped me form my plan listed below.

A to Z Bentgrass Conversion Plan

- A) Seed selection and reserve quantity. (1/3 PennEagle, 1/3 SR 1019, and 1/3 SR 1020).
- B) Soil testing and nutrient adjustments.
- C) Irrigation testing - performance and coverage.
- D) Contouring - architect assistance.
- E) Tree moving - in relation to new contours.
- F) Soil leveling - fill depressions, drain line, etc.
- G) Equipment acquisition - beg, borrow, steal extra seeders and tractors. Thanks Craig J, Jerry M. and Kevin C.
- H) Maintain normal soil moisture.
- I) Aerate with 5/8" tines. Leave approach areas undisturbed.
- J) Drill seed in three directions - .5 lb/M each direction.
- K) Roll fairways.
- L) Drag fairways.
- M) Blow fairways and sweep-up debris from rough.
- N) Stake and rope fairways entirely leaving only the approach.
- O) Apply Round-Up after the last players of the day - 11 p.m.
- P) Wash off Round-Up with heavy irrigation and injecting Aqua-Gro. before first players - 5 a.m.
- Q) Apply starter fertilizer - .5lb/N - .75 lb/P.
- R) **KEEP SEED MOIST!!**
- S) 2-3 days after seeding - Spray Subdue - 1.5 oz/M.
- T) 1st mowing within seven days.
- U) Observe how well you sprayed the Round-Up in the dark.
- V) Soluble fertilizer and fungicide application (20-20-20, Fore)
- W) Mowing 5/8" alternate days.
- X) Soil and seed weak, thin areas.
- Z) **EXPLAIN! UPDATE! NOTIFY! INFORM!** (PR skills will be needed beyond your wildest dreams.)

We allowed play at all times on the fairways, but no cart traffic until sufficient grow-in. With such a terrific growing season we were able to take down the ropes and allow traffic by Oct. 15, only 10 weeks after seeding. Our players were impressed by the quality of the work and the speed of the recovery, but complained anyways.

This successful program has us looking forward to the second phase in 1995 with very little adjustments to this plan.

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Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

CDGA — Superintendents Friend or Foe?

by Joel Purpur, CGCS
President, MAGCS

Spring is just around the corner and winter losing its icy grip. New thoughts are focusing toward another season of golf and golf course management. During the past few months, most Superintendents have been involved in many meetings, learning and planning for the 1995 season.

In late January, I attended the CDGA Director Workshop held at Drury Lane. Although this event is really for Club Directors, my new Green Chairman and Club President asked me to accompany them. After a general introduction, the attendees broke into smaller groups for house, greens, membership, and finance committees. Historically, the CDGA had invited a local Superintendent each year to participate on the panel for answering questions in our area of expertise. Previously I had been a panelist and I must say it was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience, and I was really surprised this year when they introduced a local General Manager as their club employee Greens panelist.

Many thoughts went through my head, mostly skeptical. OK, maybe he does have a turf background like Mike Nass or Joe Williamson. Even though he, like many others, seemed to be unbiased, this was clearly not the case. This

should be interesting, I thought. It was no real surprise when the first subject out for discussion was "the value and importance of the General Manager". What is the CDGA trying to do to we Superintendents and our profession? We were quickly getting put in the management back seat with no prior warning. I had to say something, but it had to be carefully worded because I was a minority in this gathering and had not been invited to speak on the behalf of Superintendents or our profession.

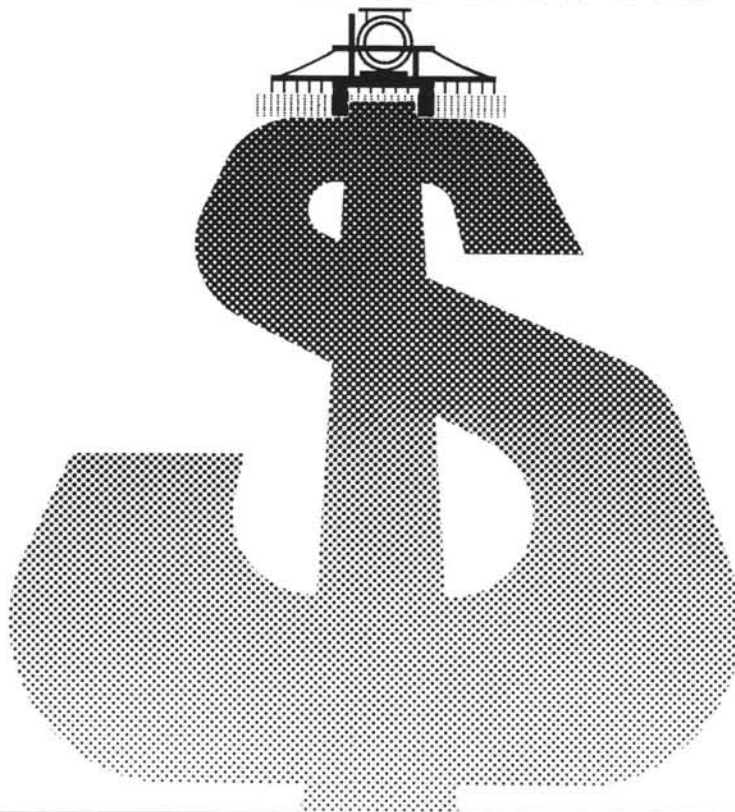
Fortunately, a Green Chairman from a prominent club expressed his views before I spoke up. He said that his club had gone back and forth, with and without a General Manager through recent years. As he referred to the General Manager concept, the Green Chairman said, "I think it is just a lot of lip service". Many in the audience chuckled and seemed to respond positively in our favor to his comment. The General Manager Panelist did say his role is mostly as a communication liaison and not for professional turf management guidance. Fortunately, the group was soon off to the next subject. Most of what followed was not damaging, other than when the General Manager Panelist was energetically promoting more employees and less overtime. This was tough for me to hear because I, like many Superintendents, continue to battle with my clubs' Board each year to keep funding overtime because the grounds staff needs every dollar they can earn. Many of these people are essential and without these additional dollars I am sure that I would lose them to better paying jobs or clubs. They barely support their families and

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survive now, even with the overtime because of the wages we are forced to offer. I brought this point to the floor and it was a consensus that little or no overtime would have a negative effect on employee morale and turnover. We know that training costs money and personal, mechanical, and ergonomic mishaps are more likely to happen. Mistakes of this nature may last for a considerable length of time and involve significant recovery and rehabilitation costs.

Dr. Randy Kane and Joe Williamson were also on the panel and contributed some useful information. Because they are associated with the CDGA, I feel they had to remain somewhat neutral.

I don't intend to make waves or stir up emotions, but our industry has struggled too long to give up any progress toward advancement of our profession. We cannot allow our own CDGA to help place us in the back of the management bus, whether intentional or not.

We simply must make continuous changes and advancements for the good of our profession. The MAGCS has always been known to be professionally progressive with a considerable amount of management talent, expertise, and education in our area. We cannot allow that to be diminished or taken away.

Lastly, the golf course management industry and Superintendents must expand our public relations efforts to let the uninformed know what we truly are all about.



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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

March 16 — CDGA Green Seminar at Drury Lane, Oak Brook. Topic, Aerification and Spikeless Golf Shoes.

March 28 — GCSAA Spray Technician Training: Calibration & Safety, Oak Brook, IL

March 29 — MAGCS meeting at Oak Brook Hills Resort

April 24 — MAGCS meeting at Mt. Prospect G.C.

May 5 — MAGCS Past Presidents Golf Outing at Geneva G.C.

May 8 — Joint Association meeting at Eagle Ridge Resort.

June 19 — MAGCS meeting at River Forest G.C.

July 11 — Steeplechase G.C.

August 5 — MAGCS Family Picnic and ball game, Kane County Cougars.

August 21 — MAGCS meeting at Hughes Creek G.C.

September 25 — MAGCS meeting at Prairie Landing G.C.

October 12 — MAGCS meeting at Sportsman G.C.

November — MAGCS Clinic & Annual Meeting at Medinah C.C.

November 27-29 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

NECROLOGY

It is with a deep sense of loss that we announce the death of the father of Tom Savage of Pine Meadows, who passed away on January 28, 1995.

Bill Kraft Passed Away February 14, 1995.

Bill was a long time loyal and faithful member of the MAGCS. Here was a member who seldom missed a golfing meeting and made many of our other meetings as well. Remember too that Bill traveled from Valparaiso, Indiana to attend these meetings that were held all over the Chicagoland area. Bill's booming and rasping voice greeting will be missed by many. Bill donated many old newsletters that were missing from our files, just this past summer. With his donation, he filled many gaps in our history. Bill, may turf be green, your drives long and true, and your putts are few.



For Sale: 2 Toro Triplex and 3 Trucksters. Call Tony Rzadzki at Cantigny G.C., 708/260-8179.

Carillon Golf Club will be renamed "The Links Carillon" after an additional 9 holes are built. The new 9 will be combined with the current South Course, generating a 7,000 yard championship "links" course. This new facility will feature 6 holes (9-15) dubbed "The Gauntlet" that will tempt and tame area golf enthusiasts.

White Eagle Club will host a Celebrity Golf Association event on June 9, 10, & 11. White Eagle was the site of the LPGA Chicago Challenge for the past three years.

Congratulations to Amy & Steve Cummins, of Lake Barrington Shores on the birth of their second child, Andrew, 8 lb. 13 oz., born on February 1, 1995.

Brian Moore is the new Superintendent at Fox Lake C.C. Brian was the assistant to Ray Kearney for the past few years and has worked at Fox Lake for 20 years. Welcome, Brian and congratulations.

Jennie and Vince Dodge of Naperbrook G.C. are the proud parents of baby daughter, Kelsey, born in early February, Kelsey weighed in at 6 pounds, 10 ounces. Congratulations!

Scott Thorn at Hilldale G.C. is looking for an assistant. Please call 708/884-6868.

Mike Conley, Sales Rep. for Turf Products, was finally caught by Kim on January 28, 1995. Congratulations to the newly weds.

Correction in last month's notes: Bob Lively is looking for a mechanic at Glendale G.C. (not Glendale Lakes). Call Bob at 708/529-6264.

Tom Jauch, GreenVisions, had a serious neck operation in late January to correct some disc problems. He was shocked when he was told the operation took six hours. But at the present Tom is doing just fine and can once again lift a cup of coffee. Speedy recovery, Tom.

Newly Certified: Dan Anderson of Fox Valley C.C. received his GCSAA Certification in January. Dan has been the Superintendent at Fox Valley since 1990.

For Sale: 1988 and 1989 Gxt EZ-GO's, 1985, 84" National Triplex with electric start, Roseman 7 gang rough mowers with 4 blade reels, and 2-15' booms with fieldjet nozzles on each end setup for FMC 300 gallon sprayer. Call Kurt at Exmoor, 708/433-1177.

When writing out checks to the association for meetings, clothing, golf, etc., write the checks payable to the MAGCS only.

(continued page 19)

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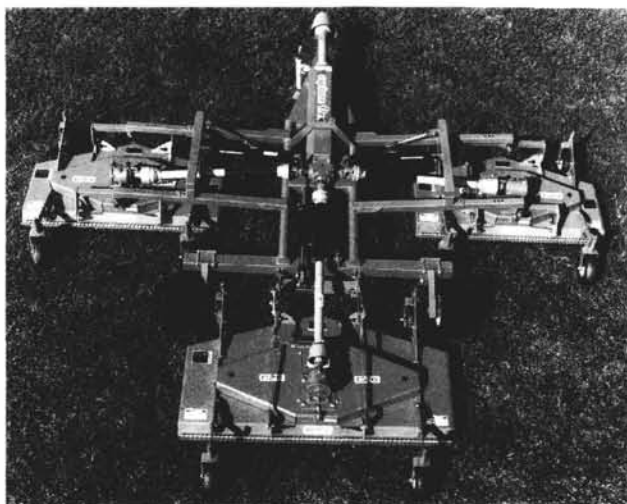
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(Midwest Breezes continued)

Wanted to Buy: Used Cushman Dumpster. Call Ron Aidikonis, 708/398-0620.

Bill E. Ahlstedt, a recent graduate from Southern Illinois University, with a B.S. degree specializing in Turfgrass Management, is looking for an assistant's position. Call 708/359-2139.

Wanted: Good set of used Fairway frames for Jacobsen Fairway mowers. Call Jim or Jerry at 708/234-6788.

Wanted: Par Aide Ballwashers in usable condition and a Jacobsen gang mower for parts, any condition. Call Jerry Berkholtz at 414/244-7538.

Welcome to the Midwest area our new USGA Green Section representative — Paul Vermeulem. Paul is replacing Jim Latham who retired to Texas and Bob Vavrek who has a new territory.

The 1995 Golf Committee is as follows: Kevin Czerkies, Chairman; Luke Strojney, Stephanie Gotberg, Jim McNair, John Meyer, John Otis, Phil Taylor, and Lynn Wesson.

The 1995 Arrangements Committee is: Brian Bossert, Chairman; Fred Behnke, Kerry Blatteau, Don Ferreri, Dan Anderson, Mike Mumper, and Larry Flament.

It has been brought to my attention in a recent article concerning lightning protection that there is always more than one game in town so to speak. Chicago Turf and Irrigation was listed as the only source for this protection, which is not true. Hager Lightning Protection, Inc. has also been protecting many golf courses, buildings and homes for years.

John Turner, Sales Representative for AgrEvo USA Company, presented Gary Myers and Ryan Baldwin two \$500.00 scholarships from Purdue University. Both students were recognized at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference held in Indianapolis on January 18, 1995. The annual scholarship assists turfgrass students in meeting their educational needs and professed interests in turfgrass management.

Golf and turf mechanic wanted. Please call John Buck for interview. J. W. Turf, Inc., 708/683-4653.

For Sale: '75 Toro Sand Pro, 14 h.p. Kohler gas engine, low hours, \$700 or best offer. Call Mike Siefken at Woodstock C.C., 815/338-4320.

For Sale: Used 7½ h.p. Berkeley Centrifugal pump, 1 new, 7½ Centrifugal Pump motor, and 1 used, 1000 gallon diaphragm pressure tank. Call Larry Evers at Wolfcreek G.C., 815/584-1400.

Education Committee members for 1995 are: Don Ferreri, Chairman; Bob Maibusch, Tim Anderson, Len Conley, and Brian Bossert.

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U of M Update

By
Bradley Pedersen
University of Minnesota



Ornamental Grasses for Golf Courses

Mary Hockenberry Meyer
University of Minnesota

This month's feature article was contributed by Mary Hockenberry Meyer. Mary has just completed her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor and Extension Horticulturist at the University Landscape Arboretum. Mary's specialties are ornamental grasses, native grasses, and alternative grasses for lawn and commercial turf.

All of the grass on your golf course is ornamental isn't it? Of course, but the grasses referred to in this article don't require mowing, vary in height from 6" to 10" at maturity and are grown for their overall form, attractive flowers, or foliage.

There are hundreds of grasses to choose from; some can offer an exotic look to a water hazard, others can turn the edge of a rough into a natural prairie, and still others combine well with perennials in flower beds.

The most common concern for our area is, will these grasses survive the winter? Eighty-five grasses and hedges survived for six winters, from 1987-1993 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in a collection of 165 species and cultivars. Some of these are native to the Midwest or Minnesota, others are exotics from Asia, Europe or Australia, etc. The grasses highlighted in this article are hardy perennials for Minnesota that have these attractive features:

- Very few insect or disease problems
- Low nutrient requirement
- Low maintenance (except spring cutback)
- Provide more than one season of interest; flowering in spring, summer or fall, with beauty and color lasting into winter
- Fast growing; almost all species reach their mature size by the second year for large plants this means a 5-8' plant
- Provide texture variation, from fine fescues to coarse giant miscanthus
- Offer foliage colors of blue, yellow, bronze, red as well as variegated white and yellow
- Movement with the wind provides sound and motion as well as interest and beauty

Although there are many possible uses for these ornamentals on your golf course, three areas will be covered in this article 1) grasses for use near water 2) native grasses which can be grown as a naturalized area or prairie and 3) grasses for use with other bedding plants.

(continued page 22)

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