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A Personal Friend

by Les Rutan, Beverly C.C.

I'm going to relate a story about a close personal friend of mine who recently received some disturbing news from his family doctor. You see, my close personal friend worked outside virtually every day (being in the golf course management business), but he didn't particularly like to wear a hat or grease himself up with sunscreen before work each day. He never worried about the sun as a kid although his fair complexion lent itself to sunburn quite readily and he never really tanned completely despite repeated exposure during the summer months. When he entered the business some eighteen years ago, the sun was considered a friend and a benefit not only for his grass growing responsibilities but for luxury of spending his days outside basking in it's light. Sometimes, my close and personal friend wished that the sun would pop behind a big cloud bank so he wouldn't have to worry about wilting grass and syringing, but for the most part, he enjoyed seeing the sun come up and go back down on a daily basis. Thrived on it actually.

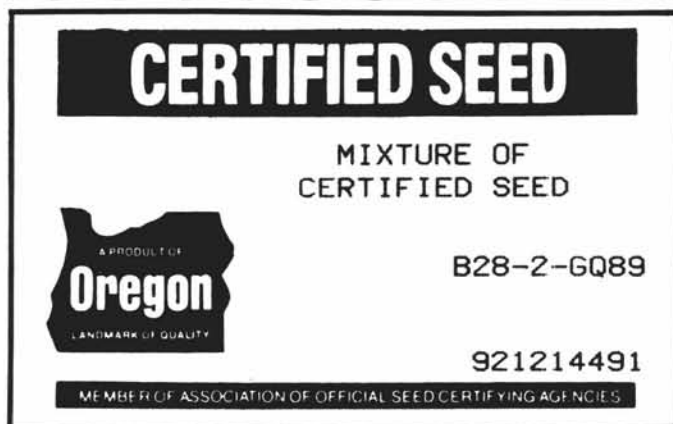
About five years ago, my close and personal friend noticed a small spot on his face between his nose and eye and dismissed it as a pimple or something along those lines. About twice a year, he noticed that this spot would bleed a little and then return to being just a little spot. Now you would think that most people would figure out that something wasn't right and all the public service announcements listing warning signs for skin cancer and such would ring a bell in my close and personal friend's head. However, he was and still is a stubborn old jackass and he figured stuff like this happened to other people and not him, so why worry, it will go away. It didn't. Every year it got a little bigger and more noticeable until his cousin (an oncologist) told him it would be a good idea to have it looked at.

About five years ago, my close and personal friend noticed a small spot on his face between his nose and eye

Okay, my close and personal friend said, no big deal, I'll go to the doctor's office, have it scraped off and that will be the end of this non-painful nuisance. Not to be, my friend found out after the biopsy came back. Basal cell carcinoma, the report said. Skin cancer. Needs to be cut out because it grows more inward than it protrudes outward. No big deal, the reconstructive surgeon said, the surgical effects will only be noticeable for about six to twelve weeks. How will you know that you removed all the cancer, my close and personal friend said? We'll send a frozen tissue sample to the lab before we close you up to make sure. If it comes back positive, we'll just keep digging. Terrific, said my friend. Suddenly, my close and personal friend realized that all the years of vanity (hats make me look even dorkier than usual) and sun worship (don't I look good with this reddish bronze hue to my face and arms) had reached up and bit him on the butt. His life and his career could continue but changes would have to be made. Hats (the bigger the better) and sunscreen (grease or not — with a strap for his glasses to keep them from falling off his stubborn, moronic head) would become a part of

(continued page 15) 13

Save These Tags!



With the spring over-seeding and new projects being done, please remember to save the "Blue Tags" and turn them in to Mike Bavier or Dudley Smith. Those tags are cash for research funds. Let's make an effort to save them.

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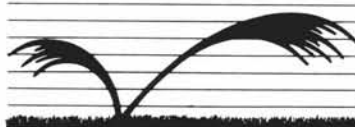
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(A Personal Friend continued)

his regular attire. My close and personal friend has resigned himself to the hat aspect, but continues to resist the sunscreen until "it gets a little hotter".

His wife, however, has warned that she will show up at work every day to make sure he's protected so I think he'll be lathering up sooner rather than later. His kids (all four of them) are also concerned and even bought him a hat to wear with #1 Dad emblazoned on the front. His eight year-old even went as far as to confide in her teacher at school and a classmate which promptly was misunderstood and word came back that my close and personal friend was on his last legs. The principal called his house to offer condolences and other parents stopped my friend's wife in the school parking lot to offer sympathy and prayers. My close and personal friend wishes that he just would have been smart enough to protect himself before any of this happened, not only for his own health, but to keep his family from worrying about him.

If there's a moral to this story, it would have to be that I, that is, my close and personal friend — have another chance to continue to live a relatively normal life and career if proper precautions are taken. **If you don't already, wear a hat and use sunscreen when necessary and resist the notion that you're immune from your own stupidity. I wasn't.**

Credit: "Verdue"

MAGCS, GCSAA, and Golf

Birdie: To GCSAA Director and MAGCS member Tommy D. Witt, CGCS for assuming the considerable mantle of responsibility for the organization of the yearly Superintendents Prayer Breakfast.

Birdie: To the MAGCS for organizing and arranging a very fine "Spanish Seminar" at Oakbrook Hills. And to Kerry Blatteau for hosting the seminar.

Birdie: To the CDGA for always striving to represent the very best for golf.

Birdie: To the MAGCS Education Committee for an outstanding educational offering at the March MAGCS meeting at Oakbrook Hills. You missed it — YOU LOSE!!

Birdie: To the golf courses of the Audubon Cooperative Bird Sanctuary Program.

Bogey: To Broadcaster Paul Harvey and his generally unfriendly attitude toward golf courses and the Superintendents who MANAGE them.

Bogey: To the seemingly prevailing attitude of General Managers that the Golf Course Superintendent is simply not of an equal caliber and must be summarily dominated. We know otherwise ...

Bogey: To divots, ballmarks, golf carts, geese, and well ... you get the picture.

Bogey: To club members and golf patrons wanting too much too soon too fast.

Bogey: To these threatening times; over regulated regulations and an under appreciative and intolerant golfing clientele.

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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

May 8 — Joint Association meeting at Eagle Ridge Resort

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

July 11 — Steeplechase G.C.

July 24 — John Deere Golf Tournament at Orchard Valley 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 9 — MAGCS Clinic & Annual meeting at Medinah C.C.

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

Assistants are needed at: Broken Arrow G.C. Call Dale Morrison at 708/927-4788. Also Dan Tully at the Illinois Center Golf, in downtown Chicago, is looking for an assistant. Call 312/616-1234.

Congratulations to Mark Stepen, the new Superintendent at Rob Roy Golf Club. Mark was the assistant at Poplar Creek G.C.

There are only three (3), count them, only 3 months left to enter an article for the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award". July 10th is the deadline for the last issue (August) to be counted for this year's award.

For Sale: Naiad Infector Pump. Never used, make an offer. Contact John Otis at 708/674-1510.

For Sale: Lely 2500 fertilizer spreader, Cushman Topdresser spreader, 25-808 Rainbird quick couple sprinkler heads, several Kohler 532 engines & parts and a set of 5-10 blade reels for a Jacobsen HF5. Call Dick Trevarthan at 815/469-5903.

The CDGA Green Seminar in March was once again excellent. The topic on "spikeless golf shoes" drew a lot of questions from the floor. That is always a good sign that the audience was interested and a very appropriate topic to discuss.

The March MAGCS Educational meeting was outstanding. Rich Rollins talk on "Aquascape Maintenance" is something that everyone needed who has any water on their course. His slides of the various weeds and algae that plague our ponds and lakes were very educational. Andrew Montoney, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave a very lively and informative talk on nuisance wildlife, mostly geese, that have taken up residence on most golf courses. He also had a very thorough handout package that covered his talk and forms to fill out to apply for a nuisance geese permit.

Dr. Jim Murphy, from Rutgers University, talk on aerification practices was also excellent when you consider the "mix" of the audience. Dr. Murphy stressed that the water injection machine was just another tool and was not the whole answer as some golfers may want to believe.

Congratulations to Scott Witte who is the new Superintendent at Cantigny Golf Club. Scott has been the assistant to Mark Bobb at Barrington Hills C.C.

Ted Fist is the new assistant to Tommy Witt at Wynstone Golf Club. Ted comes from Lexington, Kentucky.

Lucille J. Adank, mother of the late Jerry Adank passed away on March 17th in Valparaiso, Indiana at the age of 95.

Jerry, the very popular, long time Illinois Lawn Equipment representative, was well known for stopping to visit his customers on weekends and evenings. He often took his mother along these visits and many of his customers got to know and like her.

Position Announcement

Golf Course Superintendent — Midlothian Country Club. Available January 1, 1996, possibly earlier. Private, 18 hole facility. Requirements: Prefer Bachelor's Degree in agronomy or horticulture with at least five years experience as Golf Course Superintendent or Assistant of a midwestern golf club. Holding designation of CGCS is a positive. Responsible to General Manager. Send resume ASAP to: John E. Barry, Midlothian Country Club, Midlothian, IL 60445.

NOTICE: At the last Board of Directors meeting they have passed a motion to send all future copies of our newsletter, **The Bull Sheet** by Third Class mail. This will save our newsletter costs upwards of \$425 per month. All future MAGCS meeting announcements will be sent out separately by First Class mail.

WANTED: Jacobsen G-10 Tractors; Jacobsen Fairway Mowers & Frames. Call Ron at 815/468-3438.

(continued page 18)

Job Description Staff Newsletter Writer

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3. Self-motivated, eager; positive attitude.

Responsibilities:

1. Directly responsible to Newsletter Editor.
2. Must provide a minimum of six (6) interviews/articles per year.
3. Provide photographs/graphics to accompany articles when appropriate.
4. Provide monthly items for the "Midwest Breezes" page.
5. Must provide and/or assist in photography of MAGCS events, speakers, and functions; and any other material pertinent to same as deemed necessary by Editor.
6. Will assist in editing, layout, solicitation of advertisers, and facilitation of efficient, timely publications of the newsletter.

The position of Staff Writer should be someone who is familiar with the golf course industry. We would like to have this person take an active part in our association. This will be a paid position, per article written. Applicants should send their resume to: Fred Opperman, Editor, **The Bull Sheet**, 810 Greenwood Avenue, Carpentersville, IL 60110.

Distributor of the Year — 1994

Sprinkler Irrigation Co. of East Peoria, IL was awarded Distributor of the Year for 1994 by Rain Bird Golf Sales of Glendora, CA during award ceremonies held in San Francisco on February 23, 1995. Rain Bird distributors nationally and internationally were gathered together to attend the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show.

Also awarded to Sprinkler Irrigation, for the 8th year in a row was Rain Bird's TOP FLIGHT Award based on commitment to Golf Sales. These commitments included such items as inventory, number of sales and service personnel, and training seminars.

Sprinkler Irrigation is the Rain Bird Golf Distributor for the Central and Northern Illinois, Eastern Iowa and 3 counties in Indiana. Sprinkler Irrigation is also proudly celebrating its 40th anniversary in 1995.

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Don Ferreri, Superintendent at Seven Bridges Golf Club got a nice write up as a feature article in the April 1995 issue of "Turf Central". Good "PR" for Don and all Superintendents.

Where is he now? Marty Baumann is now the owner of "The Enchanted Florist" on Northwest Highway, in Fox River Grove. He and his wife, Toni, opened the business in December of 1993. Marty wrote many articles on safety for our newsletter when he was a Superintendent. His phone number is 708/516-3600.

James A. Burge is looking for an assistants position. Call him at 708/232-2841 (home). Or call the Editor and he will Fax his resume to you. 708/428-5009.

The Johnson's Take First Place

by Dave Schlagetter

The Johnson's, our local Superintendent Ice Hockey Team, has completed another successful season by finishing with a 13-1-1 record and taking first place at the Seven Bridges Ice Arena. The Seven Bridges Arena is a new facility in Woodridge. Don Ferreri had the ice rolling at 10'6" every evening, but what about all those spike marks?

Superintendents and assistants involved this season include: Dave Blomquist (Naperville C.C.), Kevin Deroo (Bartlett Hills G.C.), John Gurke (Aurora C.C.), John Otis (Skokie Park District), Joel Purpur (River Forest G.C.), Dave Schlagetter (Indian Hill), Matt Springer (Sunset Ridge G.C.). Missing in Action award goes to Jim Evans who is still trying to get into shape.

Season long the Superintendents overwhelmed the opposition. Even going so far as to reschedule a game to attend a now famous bachelor party and then drubbing the cooperating team, after midnight on a Tuesday evening. Newly acquired free agent John Otis was lured out of retirement after ten years off the ice. Let us see if Michael Jordan can retire and then play in the same shoes ten years later, but John makes his high school equipment look good. Matt Springer led the league for the fourth straight season at overskating the puck. John Gurke finally learned how to clear his nostrils "with no hands", next time he'll try it without falling on his rear. Joel Purpur became familiar with the phrase "HELP"! as Dave Blomquist yelled it several times a game, trying to get back to his defensive partner. Kevin Deroo led the team in style points for falling down after goals. Dave Schlagetter was last seen going back to San Francisco, because "I was much faster before all that food and drink at the Show".

We would all like to thank Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts and Layne Western for their generosity in supporting our late night escapades, or was it ice capades. The next time someone tries to get your business, ask them if they support our associations and activities. Also, the next time Joel Johnson stops by, ask him about his son Eric. Eric walked onto the University of New Hampshire Hockey Team last year and is now one of the top four defensemen on the sixth best collegiate team in the nation. Joel is quite the proud father.

"Leaf Problems Showing Up Now"

by Kathleen Gass, Horticulturist
U of I Coop. Extension Service

Are the leaves of your crabapple falling to the ground?

Flowering crabapples are infected with a disease called apple scab. The initial infection takes place in early spring on the newly emerging leaves. Now you will be noticing olive colored velvety spots 1/4 inch in diameter on the upper leaf surface. Tissue surrounding the lesions will turn yellow and pucker slightly. Eventually the leaves will fall to the ground.

Control measures need to be taken in the spring when infection takes place. Spray a fungicide such as maneb or zineb on the tree as leaf buds begin to open. Repeat every 10-14 days, spraying the tree 2-4 times. Nothing can be done for the trees at this time. Rake up infected leaves. If left on the ground the old leaves will produce fungus spores, move back to the tree and infect healthy leaves next spring.

Another foliar disease that is quite common this year has been anthracnose. Much like apple scab, anthracnose infection takes place in the spring. Anthracnose infects maples, ash, oak, and sycamore. Damage appears as irregular, light brown areas of dead tissue. Severely affected leaves may drop prematurely. Occurrence of this disease is more wide spread during wet springs. Again, prevention of this disease must be taken in spring, as leaves are half grown. Spray with fungicides such as benomyl, mancozeb, or zineb twice at 10 day intervals.

Leaf scorch is another disorder this year. This is a noninfectious condition that is a direct result of last year's drought.

During the drought and heat of last year, root systems of many plants were damaged. Fine roots were killed and unable to pick up water to supply the tree canopy. With restricted root systems this year, many trees cannot provide enough water to leaf surfaces. The tree reduces the area from which transportation of water vapor takes place. Ultimately parts of the leaves die out protecting the plant from excess moisture loss.

You need not be concerned that this condition will spread to other trees. Each tree responds to its own peculiar situation. Trees that suffered root damage eventually will produce new roots. Be sure they have adequate water during dry times, that they aren't drowned in wet periods, and that adequate fertilizer is provided if needed.

Some trees with root damage may lose branches. Prune these out as they appear.

With a return to a more normal rainfall pattern and moderate temperature, many of the plant problems we see now will repair themselves.

Control Tent Caterpillars Now

by James A. Fizzell

Those triangular webs now appearing in trees are the homes of Eastern tent caterpillars. Tent caterpillars are insects that eat the leaves off of crabapple and other trees in the spring. They have just hatched and now is the time to control them before major damage occurs.

Eastern tent caterpillars, *Malacosoma americana*, hatch early in the spring as the new leaves emerge. They form silken tents in the twig crotches where the colony of two or three hundred caterpillars stay during the night and on cloudy, rainy days.

On sunny days, they climb all over the tree and eat the young leaves. Depending on the number of caterpillars present, these insects are capable of eating all of the leaves off of the tree. The tree will put out new leaves, but this use of stored food reserves in leaf production weakens it, making it more likely to be attacked by borers and diseases.

Infestations are most common on crabapple, apple, and cherry; although ash, willow, maple, oak, poplar, hawthorne and plum are also attacked.

The caterpillars or larvae are black when young, but soon develop a yellow stripe down the back that turns whitish with age. By the end of May, they are 2-3 inches long and come out of the tree to look for a place to form their cocoons.

A couple of weeks later they emerge as brown moths. After mating, the females lay 150-300 eggs in dark brown 1/2 inch long masses around small twigs. These eggs hatch until the following spring.

Clipping out the caterpillar-filled silk tents at night or on a rainy day is the easiest control method. Sometimes the tent can be rolled up onto a stick and the caterpillars squashed. Or strip the mass of caterpillars off by hand wearing a cotton glove. Dispose in the trash or run through a shredder into the compost heap.

Spraying the trees with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, Thuricide), malathion, or carbaryl (Sevin) is also effective. If the tree is in bloom, do not use malathion or carbaryl to keep from harming honey bees visiting the flowers.

Rubbing the egg masses off of the branches between June and March will eliminate next spring's infestation.

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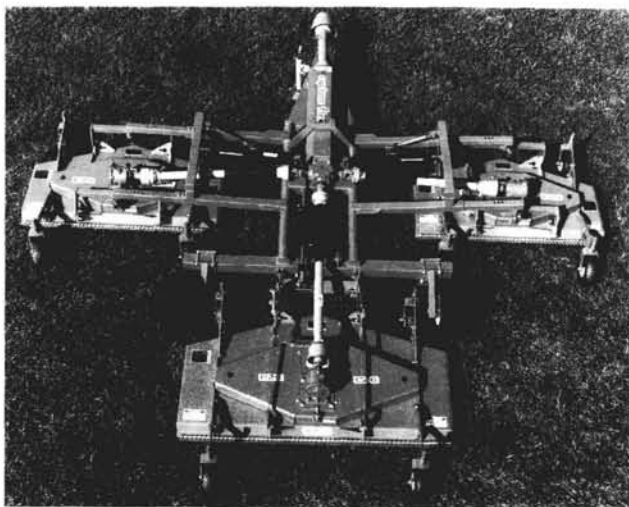
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