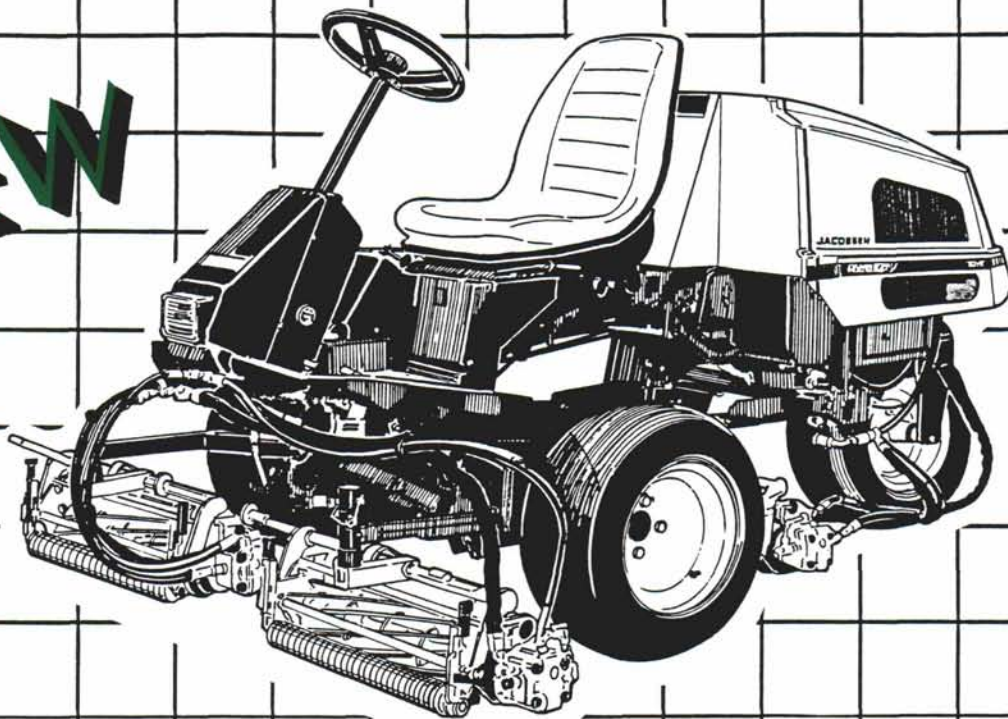


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On Course is published monthly. All articles are required by

the 1st of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is

sold by the column inch, quarter page, half page and full

page.

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is a professional organization founded in 1927 whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS (Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents) member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.



Don Cross
President, MAGCS

As I begin this column, it is a bright and clear day in late February; and in spite of the single digit temperature, the radiant sunshine is a welcome sight. After a winter of widely fluctuating conditions and records on both ends of the scale, it's pleasing to know that by the time you receive this, climactic conditions will have moderated (at least I'm optimistic), and we will be beginning another busy golf season. Time to put the plans, efforts, and education of the past few months and the knowledge of last year's experiences into effect. I wish the entire Midwest membership the best in all of your activities and endeavors in this new season.

I hope one of your educational opportunities of the past winter season included attendance at the GCSAA Conference and Show. My speculation in last month's column was on target, but the outcome of certain events and the overall success of the conference bears repeating. From the golf tournament, seminars, and the opening session, to the environmental general session, concurrent sessions, the trade show, and everything in between, all was truly conducted in a first-class manner. The efforts of the entire GCSAA staff and the officers and directors are to be commended. Experiencing this event can only make one proud to be in this profession and associated with our national organization.

Pride for the MAGCS membership was ever-present. From the Midwest field of over 40 golf tournament competitors, approximately 25 percent received individual

awards. Well done, fellas! At the environmental general session, Tim Kelly received, for the second year in a row, the National Environmental Stewardship Award. An outstanding achievement once, extraordinary twice! Also at this session, Peter Leuzinger (a regional Environmental Stewardship Award winner) joined several panelists in a lively debate regarding the impact of golf courses on the environment. His comments had to help the environmental extremist panelists gain better insight into the many benefits our golf courses provide. Al Fierst gave a very professional and informative presentation on image and received some favorable press in the following day "Showtime" newspaper. And lastly, as you all probably know by now, Bruce Williams was elected to the GCSAA presidency. Our national association is unquestionably in good hands! Congratulations to all of you (and others I may have missed) and thank you for giving the entire MAGCS membership an elevated sense of pride and accomplishment.

To digress back to the environmental general session, I believe a valuable lesson was learned during the panel discussion. Those of you who attended will remember a certain environmental advocate (whose appearance could have easily discredited him) and a product manufacturer's representative (who clearly knew many of the actual facts of research results). As the debate continued, the manufacturer's rep became rather defensive while the advocate calmly stated his opinions. As the discussion progressed further, I found myself becoming more inclined to listen to the advocate's viewpoint rather than the harsh, adversarial viewpoint of the manufacturer's rep. The representative obviously knew the real story of the minimal impact that plant protectants have on our environment, when used in a conscientious man-

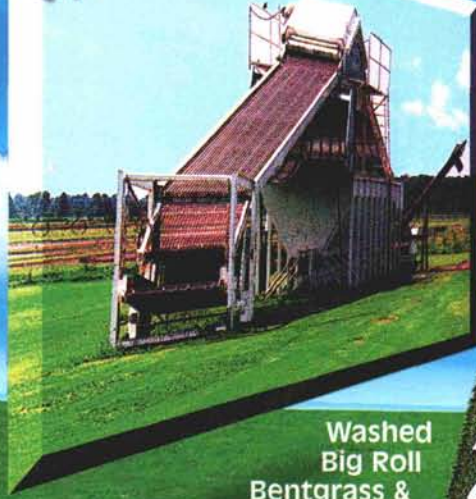
ner according to label guidelines, and had the perfect opportunity to make these points known. Had he responded differently, the advocate may not have come across as convincingly as he did. The take-home lesson here is obvious. When confronted by an irrational, strongly opinionated party, we must maintain our composure and calmly state the facts to the best of our knowledge rather than becoming confrontational. Listening to other's concerns and working together to reach a mutually beneficial result will go much farther than building barriers. Our livelihood may depend on it!

At the GCSAA Annual Meeting, the bylaws were overwhelmingly passed providing for the Chapter Affiliation process. Your MAGCS Board of Directors has already begun to organize the necessary documents to submit to GCSAA. We want to be at the forefront in acquiring the Affiliated status and are working toward this goal. I'll keep you posted as to our progress.

As spring unfolds, be sure to take time to enjoy the warming sunshine, the floral display of the spring bulbs, and the pleasant notes of the returning songbirds. Enjoy while you can because summer, with all its unpredictability and inevitable challenges, will be here before we know it. Hopefully, it will not be a repeat of last year.

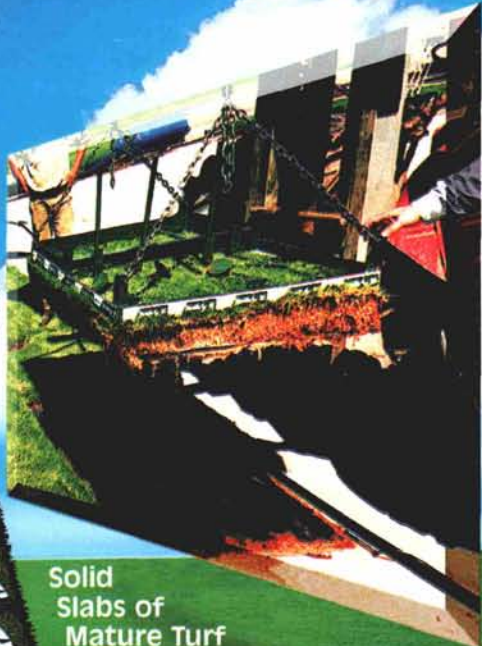
Dust off those sticks and join us this month at Klein Creek for the first event of the 1996 MAGCS golf season.

Donald A. Cross, CGCS
President, MAGCS



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Managing Summer Pests in Turf



Henry T. Wilkinson, Professor
Dept. of Plant Pathology and Agronomy
University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign, IL

Summer pests in turf include diseases, nematodes and insects. The intention of this article is not to give you specific directions for each disease, nematode or insect but instead to give you some general, but very useful, directions for dealing with disease problems. All turf managers should appreciate the subtle difference between controlling pests and managing pests. Pest control, to me, refers to reducing the population of a

particular pest. For example, reducing the population of white grubs by treating them with an insecticide is a form of control. On the other hand, producing strong turf and reducing turf stress through proper fertilization, watering, and the use of insecticides when white grub populations exceed their damage threshold, collectively, are how to manage white grubs so their damage does not become severe. In brief, managing pests does not mean that you try to eliminate them; it means you try to keep them in balance or check. An excellent example of this is the

fungi that degrade thatch. These fungi are beneficial, but these same fungi also can cause fairy rings, yellow ring and other diseases of turf.

If you eliminate them, thatch will increase, and you will have other problems. The key to managing these fungi is not to allow your turf to grow too fast and encourage the fungi to rapidly destroy the thatch that is produced.

(continued on page 18)



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Brad Johnsen and Klein Creek



John Meyer

Later this month, we, the members of the Midwest, are going to have the opportunity of playing Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield Illinois. Klein Creek, one of the newer golf courses here in the Chicagoland area, is a Dick Nugent-designed course that is certainly a challenge for every golf enthusiast. Course superintendent

Brad Johnsen said, "Nugent did a great job with a flat piece of farm land." I had the pleasure to sit down with Brad last month to pick his brain about Klein Creek and a little about himself.

Brad has been with Klein Creek since June of 1993, but as many of us know, he is no newcomer to the Chicagoland area. Brad grew up at Ridgemoor

Country Club in Chicago. There he did "everything." "I did everything from working in the bag room, to caddying, to helping out in the kitchen. My grandfather was superintendent at Ridgemoor for 40 years, and I basically grew up there," Brad recalled.

Johnsen received his formal education at Western Illinois University. His 1973 degree in

(continued on page 20)

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Turfgrass Tissue Analysis!

Brian A. Bossert, CGCS

This is the first installment of a new monthly feature which will be penned by members of the MAGCS Educational Committee. Quite frankly, the idea for the new column came from the Turf Twister section of the USGA Green Section Record and from the informative twist John Gurke has lent several of the articles in the Chicagoland Verdure. It is our hope that the reading will be light, yet practical, informative and most of all, useful.

The general idea is that each month, we will explore a topic and seek information from three of four "experts." I suppose these will generally be superintendents but perhaps could include golf professionals, green chairmen, equipment distributors, general managers and the like. OK, so proba-

bly not general managers, but anyone else related to the golf industry. I'm sure you'll get the picture.

I should add that we are not implying these opinions are gospel or that the following paragraphs are the official opinion of the MAGCS. We are certainly not attempting to make anyone look foolish either. We are trying to accurately pass along the experiences of other professionals. As previously stated, hopefully, this information will be something you can use in improving your operation and/or yourself.

This month's topic is turfgrass tissue analysis. While it appears that few people are doing this regularly, this method is fast becoming popular. For anyone not familiar with tissue analysis, this method is used

to determine the internal nutrient status of the grass plant. I was able to get some interesting opinions from local superintendents.

Oscar Miles at The Merit Club has his own Karsten Model 591 Turfgrass Analyzer and beginning in mid-May, ran ten complete tests on three greens last year. It would be extremely time-consuming to test all of the greens, so Oscar tested one very healthy green, one vulnerable green with potential problems and one green that caused him trouble. However, they tested the same three greens all year long. He stressed that tissue testing is another tool and that it should be used in conjunction with regular soil and irrigation water testing.

(continued on page 22)

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Jim McNair

As you read this, you are probably very busy making the final preparations for the 1996 golf season. Hopefully, the 1996 season will bring more moderate conditions for us to do our work. Last year was very difficult for most of us, but let's put it to rest. It's over. We've heard all the causes, whys, and wherefores. Let's be done with it.

This is the fourth issue of *On Course*, our new color enhanced monthly magazine. There, it's been said, a magazine. The term "newsletter" has a connotation of being directed towards a small group. The *Bull Sheet* did that in its inception. However, over the years, the readership has grown past a small group of superintendents. It is now read by club officials, univer-

sity educators, golf professionals, sales personnel and others in the industry. We solicit advertising. We reprint articles from other publications. We hope that this new look will help to promote and enhance our image as Golf Course Superintendents to the world outside of our industry. The

On Course
The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

green chairmen and park district directors that will read these pages are part of the broader horizon of individuals to peruse these pages. It's time to call *On Course* what it is, a magazine. Let's utilize these pages to the optimum.

The change from the *Bull Sheet* to *On Course* was the result of a year-long endeavor of the

Editorial Committee. Past President Joel Purpur provided the direction. Special recognition should go to Dave Blomquist. As last year's Editorial Committee Chairman, Dave spent innumerable hours and dedicated effort to bring *On Course* to reality. Dave's perseverance is evident by what you hold before you.

At the same time that *On Course* was being created, the deadlines for the *Bull Sheet* had to be met. Fred Opperman, our editor, spent extensive extra hours putting the *Bull Sheet* to press on time and yet found the hours to provide guidance for the transition to *On Course*. The financial success of our publication is the direct result of Fred's dedicated effort in soliciting advertising. Without Fred's effort and the support of our

(continued on page 28)

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