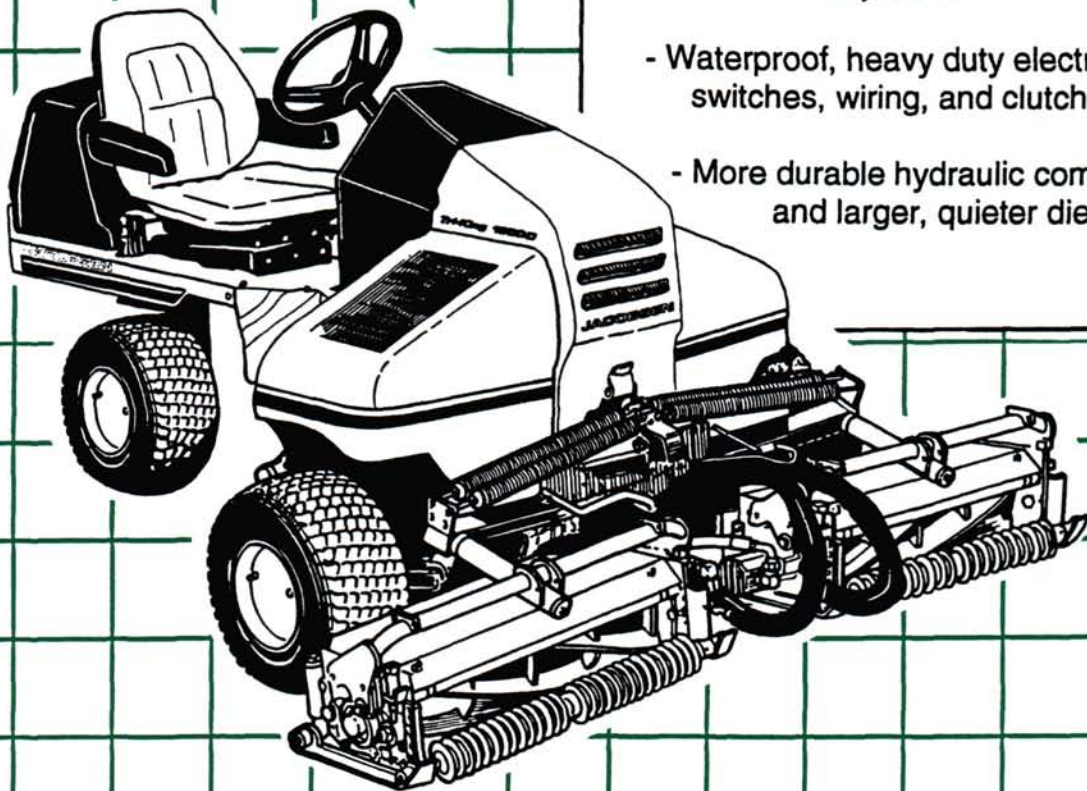


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## Cover Photo Credit

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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

**A**s I write this, it is the first of June, and Chicagoland has just experienced the second wettest May on record. Many northern area courses (though not exclusive), having been hard hit by significant winter injury, were dealt another blow with an inundation of rainfall. All those well-conceived plans and schedules, such as aerification, topdressing, plant protectant applications, flower and landscape plantings, construction projects, and on and on, have long been altered, revised, and/or abandoned. Now that we have repaired broken irrigation lines, snapped swing joints, and cracked valves, we're hesitant to turn on heads to check them for fear of someone seeing us and thinking that we've completely lost our minds. Those winter-damaged spots and new construction areas, seeded a varying number of times, continue to have the seed floated or washed away or sealed over by the pass of the mower as it squishes its way throughout the course in an attempt to prevent having to rent baling equipment. Newly-sodded areas certainly haven't needed the

typical irrigation maintenance, but they have been too soft to mow and are quickly being designated "no-mow" or "naturalized" areas. I could continue to list our woes, but suffice to say, the past few months have been unusually challenging and downright difficult. However, we are not alone.

The adverse impact of these weather conditions to clubs and courses throughout the area has been far-reaching. Regular play, guest play, cart usage, food and beverage sales, outings, and more have all been affected, and revenues have suffered. Others who derive much of their income from a steady flow of customers – the golf professionals, wait staff, locker room attendants, caddies, and others – have all had a hard time. I guess we'll all have to endure it together for now; then in about a month or so (about the time you read this) when the temperature and humidity climbs and the diseases flourish, when play increases, outings run, carts roll, divots and ball marks increase, and traffic wear starts to show, we'll have to revert to enduring it alone. Keep your chin up guys; one of these years we'll have normal weather!

While we have all been busy trying to cope, and it has been difficult to get the entire Board of Directors together, we did manage to meet in the last week of May to carry on the business at hand. Overall, our progress is proceeding well. The various committees are actively completing plans and making arrangements for the remaining activities this year. The Education and the Arrangements

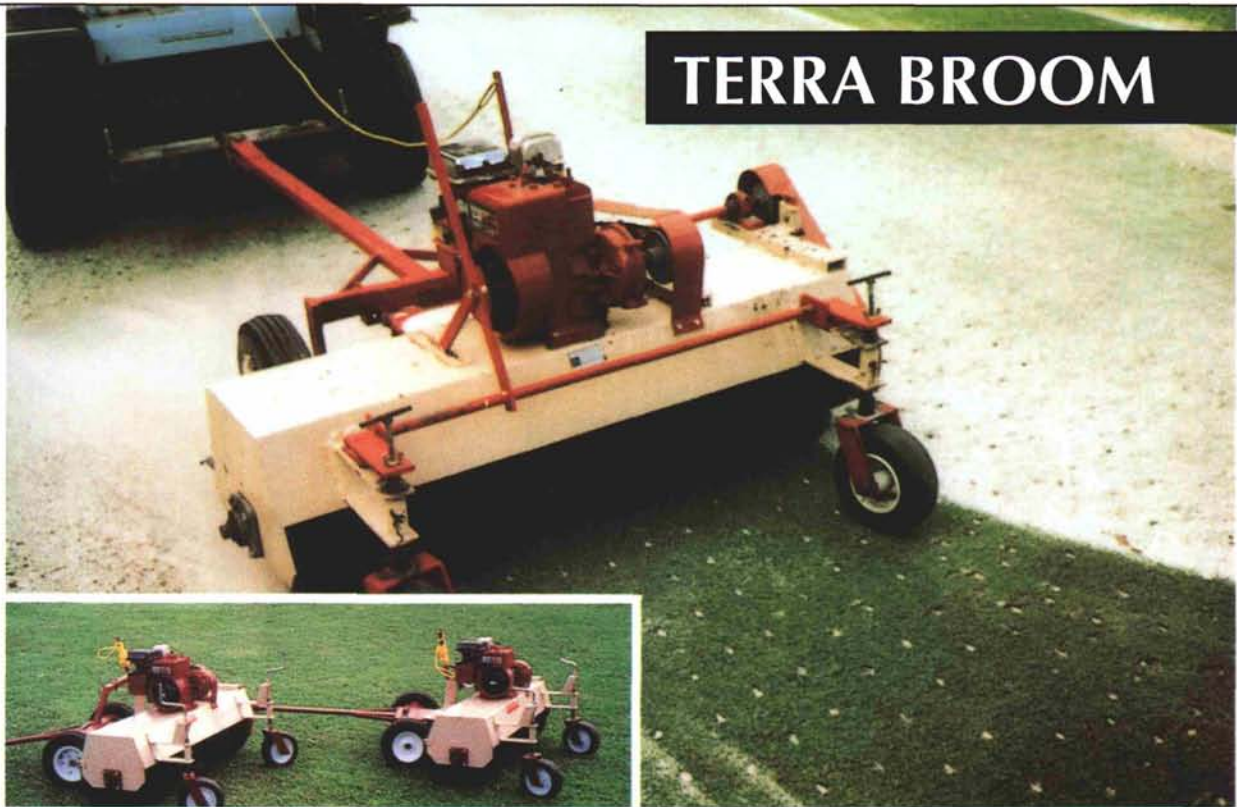
Committees are working on plans for the Midwest Clinic, Public Relations is continuing to pursue various avenues for positive press information, the Executive Committee is finalizing the gathering of documents for chapter affiliation, and the Editorial Committee continues to "fine tune" our *On Course* magazine.

Financially, we are quite solid, but we are watching the expense-to-revenue ratio of *On Course*. Our projected budget assumed a greater interest in color advertising which would help offset the increased costs of publishing. At this time, we are falling below our anticipated revenue. Perhaps the interest in these ads will increase in the summer months. If you are a regular advertiser, please consider color. I can assure you our new publication is kept on hand much longer and the color ads are highly noticed. Thank you for your support!

This month's meeting will be held at Heritage Bluffs on July 16. Hope you find time to take a well-deserved day off (or at least most of a day off) to join your fellow Midwest members. See you there.

Donald A. Cross, CGCS  
President, MAGCS

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# Gary Mulvihill -N- Heritage Bluffs G.C.

*Dave Blomquist, Naperville C.C.*

In the small village of Channahon, just outside of Joliet, area golfers have found “the best deal around”! That is what best describes the site of the July meeting of the MAGCS. Certified Superintendent Gary Mulvihill has been at H.B.G.C. from the beginning, and what appeals to him the most about the layout is the many different looks architect Dick Nugent provided from hole to hole. “We have several holes cut out of dense woodlands, some surrounding environment-friendly wetlands; and part of the course resembles a seaside links-type routing.”

When the course opened to the public in August of 1993, the park district envisioned maybe 20,000 rounds; the first three

months of operation alone brought in 27,000! They knew they had a gem, but upon receiving accolades from Golf Digest, and finishing on top of several golfer satisfaction polls, it became obvious that their new project was something special. Area golfers refer to it as the best deal around

because the green fees are reasonable and the conditions rival the high-priced competition.

Gary’s previous experience at Forest Hills C.C. in Rockford and Kenosha C.C. fit right in with the expectations of the park district when he was  
*(continued on page 30)*



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# The Wilkinson-Kane Report: What's Rotting the Turf?

Each year golf and other turfs experience problems, including disease, wear from use, insect damage, and environmental stress (drought, heat, compaction, suffocation, etc.). While the severity of these problems will vary from season to season, they can generally be expected to develop annually. In the case of diseases, which will include nematodes, fungi and bacteria, there are over 100 different types that could reduce the quality of your turf during any given season. Between the two of us, we have spent 24 years studying the diseases that affect your turf, and we have the dubious privilege of discovering eight new turf diseases.

Turf pathology is the study of turf diseases, and it is not a stagnant field by any means. Changes in management, construction techniques and materials, weather patterns, grass cultivars, pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and so on, collectively keep turf managers and scientists from having the answers to all the problems. For this very reason, it is important to keep a careful eye out each season for what is developing in your turf. By determining which problems are increasing in frequency and severity, and which are declining, we can effectively direct our resources and research time to minimize the impact of problems and better prepare you to manage turf diseases when they do develop.

We spend considerable time collecting information about what diseases are present each year, where they are observed, and what controls have worked or failed.

This information is collected through visits to courses, discussions with superintendents at meetings, discussions with other scientists at meetings, or on the

---

*Generally, disease conditions develop over large areas and move along with the prevailing weather patterns. For example, problems in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa are often a preview of what is coming to Illinois.*

---

phone. There is a lot of "buzzing" between turf pathologists during the season. This is very useful for predicting problems before they develop. Fortunately, diseases do not all of a sudden appear on one green or tee. Generally, disease conditions develop over large areas and move along with the prevailing weather patterns. For example,

problems in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa are often a preview of what is coming to Illinois. Likewise, northwest Illinois can be used to assist us in predicting diseases in the Chicago area. During the past two years, we have employed another technique to assess the types and intensities of diseases affecting superintendents in Illinois and other midwest states. At meetings in which we participate, we have attending superintendents fill out a survey card. The information from these cards is used in several ways.

By understanding which diseases are problems on golf courses in contiguous areas, we can alert Illinois superintendents of what to expect. We can rapidly diagnose what problems are developing in Illinois. Most importantly, we can prioritize our time and resources to address the most pressing turf disease needs. In particular, these data guide us in preparing lectures, short courses, and descriptive articles for superintendents. For example, these data are used to assist in the design and planning of the educational sessions at the NCTE. Another excellent use of these data are for directing and focusing our research activities. If managing summer patch is the most common problem for superintendents, then we need to understand this and direct a significant portion of our time and energy toward improving your ability to manage this disease.

What are the most important diseases that superintendents face? We have collected the information

*(continued on page 16)*

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# Kudos



Ed Braunsky, CGCS

Can you believe that it is already the 4th of July! We have had an interesting first six months of 1996. I often ask myself what I could have done to tick off the "Big Guy" upstairs. It has been a shame that we have not been able to provide the golfers of the Chicago area with the super conditions that they have come to expect from us. I know one thing for sure, MOTHER NATURE IS #1! Let's hope for a better end of the 1996 golf season.

Webster's dictionary defines "kudos" as a compliment, praise. Several people and organizations deserve to be complimented and praised at this time of the year.

Let's start out with **Bruce Williams**, president of the GCSAA and one of Midwest's own. What a massive assignment he is going through. Bruce is always helping to support his fellow superintendents. Everyone needs to sit and listen to Bruce give a presentation. He is always right on the money. The GCSAA provides its membership with a wealth of information, and Bruce is a big part of that info. Kudos, Bruce!

**Fred Opperman**, *On Course* editor. Super job with our new magazine, Fred!

**George Minnis**, MAGCS executive secretary. Not enough

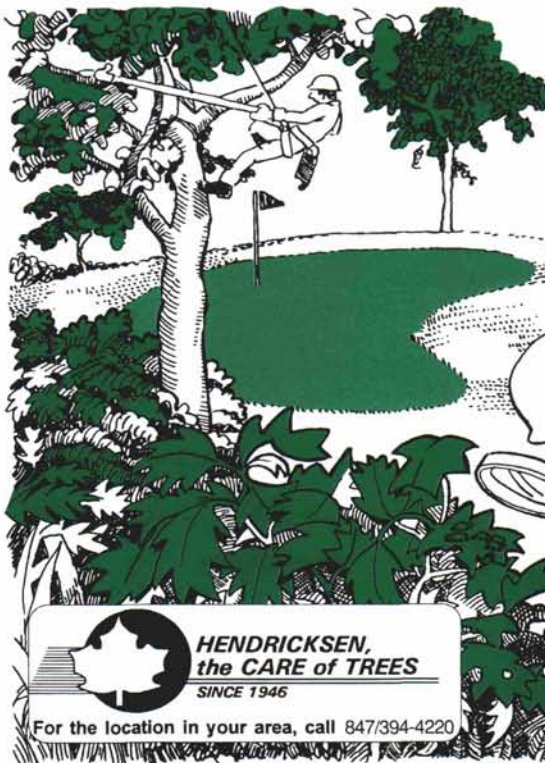
room in this article to talk about the fantastic effort George puts forth. (It's funny how the complaint calls are way down.)

**Kevin Czerkies**. Kev, I love you, man. You now know the time and work it takes to fulfill your duties as secretary/treasurer of the MAGCS.

**Don Cross**. Only four months to go, Don! Keep up the good work. The challenge is mine soon! Eagle Ridge will be the sight for my first Board of Directors meeting. (Just kidding.)

**Sister Elizabeth**, my fourth-grade teacher. Sister, you said I would not amount to much. Sorry to prove you wrong!

Kudos also need to go to the following organizations: **The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation**  
*(continued on page 28)*



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