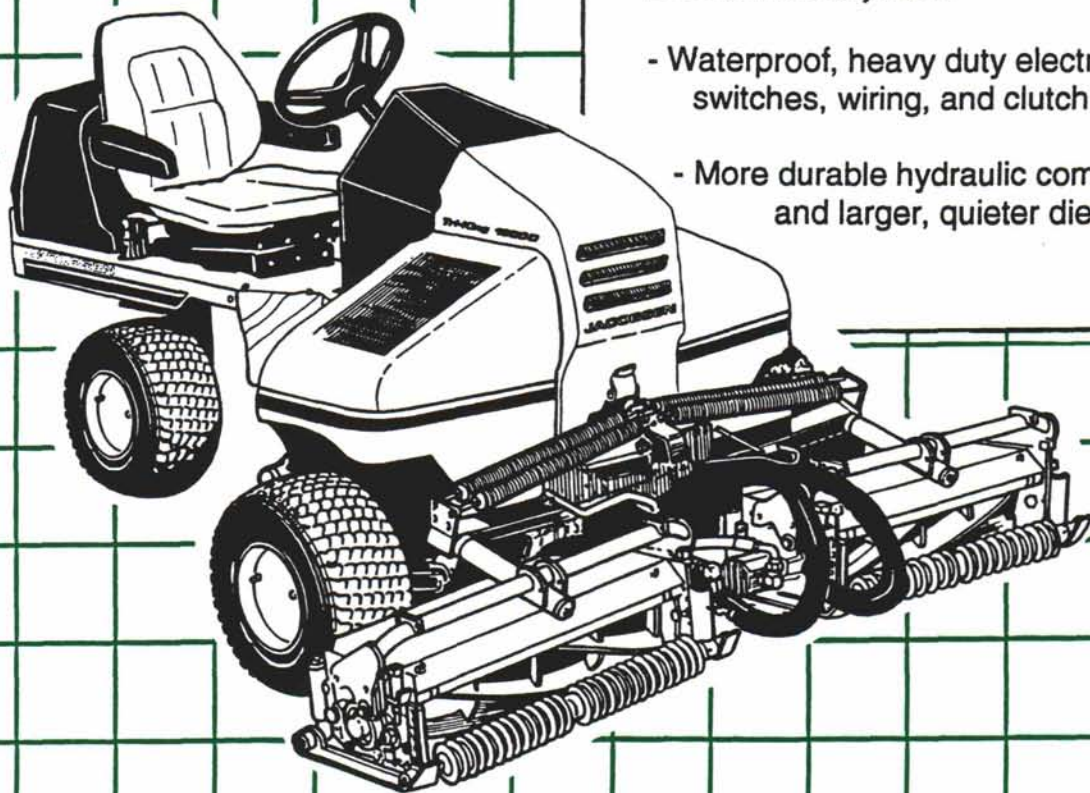


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Fred Opperman

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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.



**A**h, October—a time of pleasant change. The shorter days trigger the spectacular annual leaf color display. The cooler temperatures provide a renewed invigoration of our turfgrasses. The longer nights allow for a bit more needed and deserved rest. It is certainly a welcomed change for most of us.

It is a time for a change of pace. A time of desirable variation from the daily, hurried routines of mowing, trimming, raking, irrigating, and on and on, to a slightly more relaxed, more controlled pace. It is a great time for new plantings, renovation, and reconstruction tasks, allowing us to use our imagination and skills in design, scheduling, and production. The doldrums of summer have passed.

As change occurs with the weather and our course efforts, so does change occur in our association activities. This month signals the end of our golf events and the beginning of more focus on educational opportunities in the months to come. In November, the MAGCS will hold its 44th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic, which is always an enjoyable event. In December, we will cooperate with several other

allied associations and the ITF in the NCTE and in January, co-host, along with GCSAA, two one-day educational seminars.

October is also the final month before a change in the administration of the MAGCS. At the Annual Meeting held during the Midwest Clinic, a new Executive Committee will be elected to carry forth the tasks at hand. New ideas of change will likely be brought to the board via some newly-elected board members. While all of the above are favorable and beneficial changes for ourselves, our employment, and our association, a less pleasant change for our association has recently occurred. I say less pleasant not because his successor cannot fulfill his duties for the Midwest; on the contrary, I say this because he has given so much to our association, and we will, indeed, miss him. I refer, of course, to Roger Stewart.

As most of you know, Roger has accepted a new position at a TPC course in New Jersey; and while we all wish him the very best, we are sorry to see him leave. For twenty-one years, Roger has been an active, concerned, and dedicated member of the MAGCS. He has served on most of the committees, was president in 1984, and most recently, has been involved as our chapter voting delegate to GCSAA. His genuine interest, leadership, and advice over the years has helped make the MAGCS what we are today and brought respect and admiration from other chapters throughout the country. We all appreciate everything you have done for us, Roger. We wish you well in your new position and look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas!

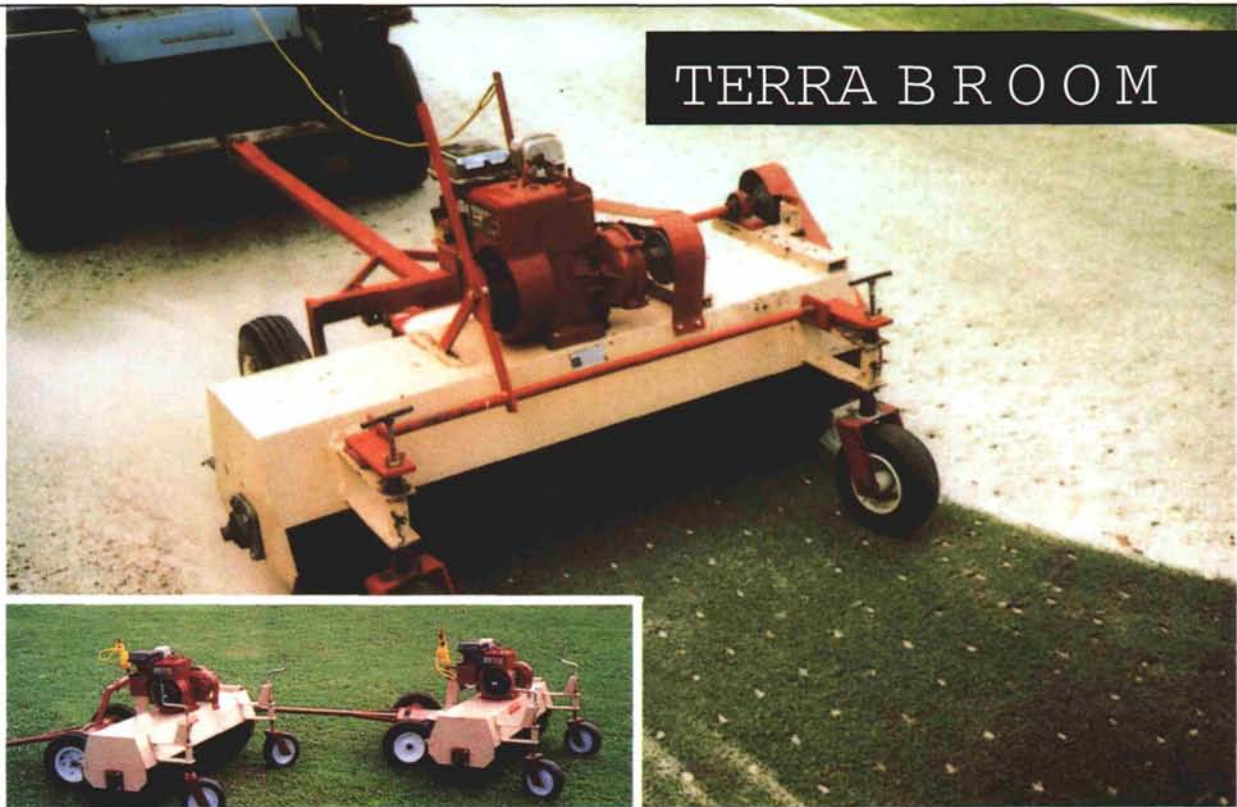
With Roger stepping down as delegate, the position will be filled by former alternate delegate, Bob Maibusch. Bob has been involved for several years, is quite knowledgeable of the process, and is fully capable of performing the responsibilities ahead. The Board of Directors, relying heavily on recommendations from Roger and Bob, will be appointing an alternate at the next board meeting on September 5. I will notify you of the selection.

Change is inevitable in any profession and in any association. It is healthy and essential. The Midwest has always tried to prepare for these changes, whether it be educational topics, association operations or publications. We will have to proceed with change if we are to continue to enhance our member services, our association's presence, our reputation in the industry, and, in general, our outstanding profession.

Enjoy the changing seasons and opportunities ahead. I hope you can join us (for a change, if it applies) at our next regular meeting on October 8 at Bryn Mawr Country Club.

Donald A. Cross, CGCS  
President, MAGCS

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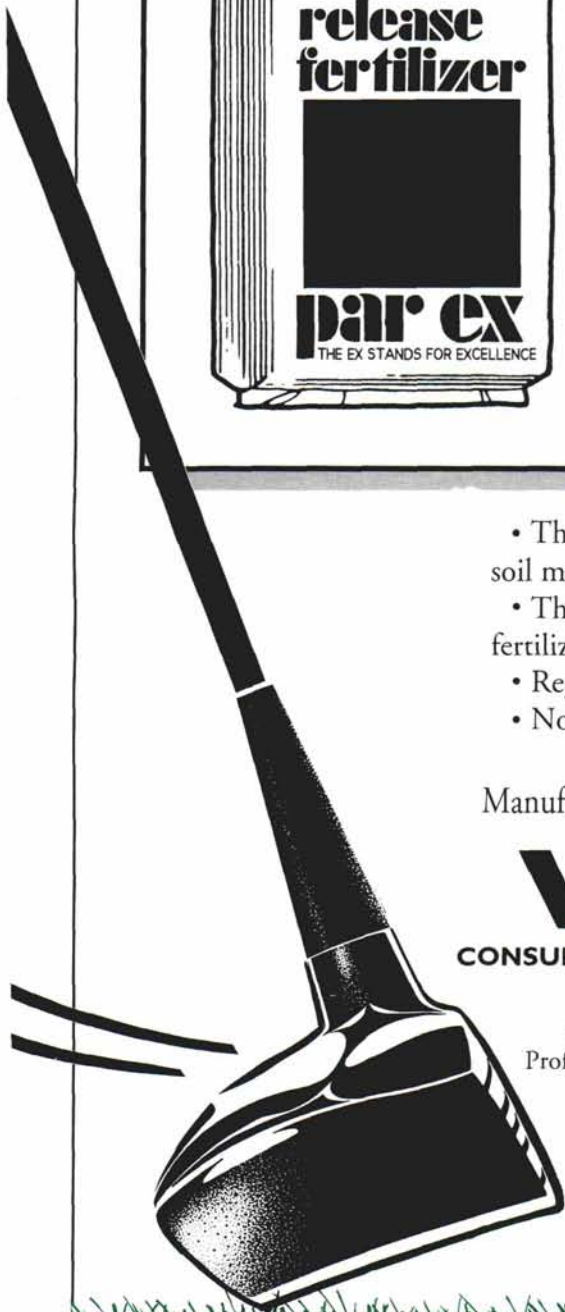
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# The Next Step in Golf

Paul Vermeulen  
USGA Green Section

As an apology for having devastated courses from July 1995 through May 1996, Mother Nature has been almost kind during the past several months. Given such favorable weather conditions, superintendents have been able to produce excellent putting conditions that, if not for the cumulative effects of steel-spiked shoes worn by many golfers, would last from sunup to sundown. As any golfer who has played in the afternoon realizes, it is only the first eight to ten groups of the day that enjoy the flawless conditions left by the maintenance staff.

While some are content with the negative effects of steel-spiked shoes, literally hundreds of courses, both public and private, have proven that the use of spikeless

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shoes eliminates the damage caused by golfers as they walk across the putting surface. These findings are supported by several research projects funded by the United States Golf Association which unequivocally demonstrate that the use of spikeless spikes, which do not penetrate the turf canopy, improves putting quality by eliminating spike marks and improves turf quality by eliminating the mechanical destruction of the turf canopy. For those that have not yet seen spikeless spikes, they are hard plastic replacements for steel spikes that are designed such that they: (1) eliminate spike marks, (2) improve turf performance by reducing the physical

abrasion of pedestrian traffic, and (3) improve golf shoe comfort.

Despite the hundreds of courses which have proven that the use of spikeless spikes by each and every player improves putting quality and reduces turf wear, there are still many golfers that believe the responsibility of excellent putting conditions rests solely on the shoulders of the superintendent. These individuals assume that a regular regimen of vertical mowing, topdressing, judicious irrigation, close mowing, etc., can somehow create a smooth, firm putting surface that is resistant to the negative effects of steel spikes. Furthermore, some even believe that steel spikes actually improve the health of the turf by aerating the soil! If this were all true, why do golfers demand that the location of the hole be changed on a daily basis so that they can putt on fresh turf?

Having had the opportunity to visit with superintendents that have encouraged their governing course officials to adopt a steel spike ban, I am confident that the responsibility for the condition of the greens in the late afternoon rests on both the shoulders of the superintendent and the golfers. With the cooperation of each and every golfer, the condition of the

*(continued on page 24)*



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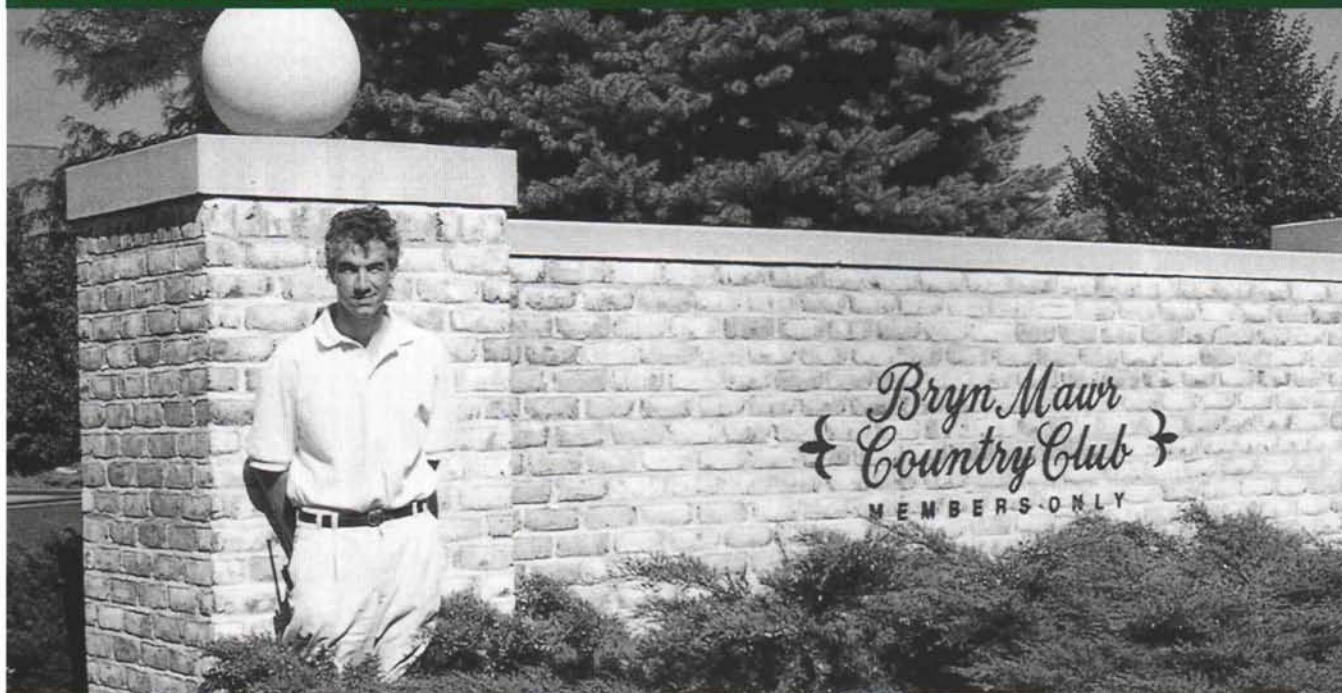
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## Brian Bossert -N- Bryn Mawr Country Club

*John Meyer*

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by, and the College Golf Championship is already upon us. This year's tournament is slated for October 8 at Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood.

Brian Bossert, CGCS, graduate of Danville Area Community College, is our host. The event will be a two-man scramble with a minimum two-team entry. According to Brian, "Danville has the 'Home Field' advantage (second time in three years—Oak Brook Hills, 1994, Kerry Blateau). We need all the help we can get," Brian noted.

Bryn Mawr is an old course built in 1919 by Langford (architect) and Moreau (construction). The 6,400-yard track demands a premium on accuracy. Brian said, "Bryn Mawr is not a 'knock-down-drag-out'

Medinah No. 3, but a flat, heavily treed, membership-friendly golf course."

Brian can compare his course to Medinah No. 3 because that is where he previously worked. After graduating from Danville, Brian was "lucky enough to be hired on at Medinah as 'lead grunt' on Course No. 1." Brian did that for a couple of years and then went on to work for John Ebel at Barrington Hills Country Club for a year before being "asked back to Medinah by then Superintendent Pete Wilson."

Bossert came back to Medinah as superintendent on Course No. 2 where he stayed for three years. In the winter of 1989/90, Dan Quast promoted Brian to Course No. 3, site of the 1990 U.S. Open. Although Brian and I did not talk too much about it, I am sure it was his experience on Course No. 3 that helped him land the Bryn Mawr job.

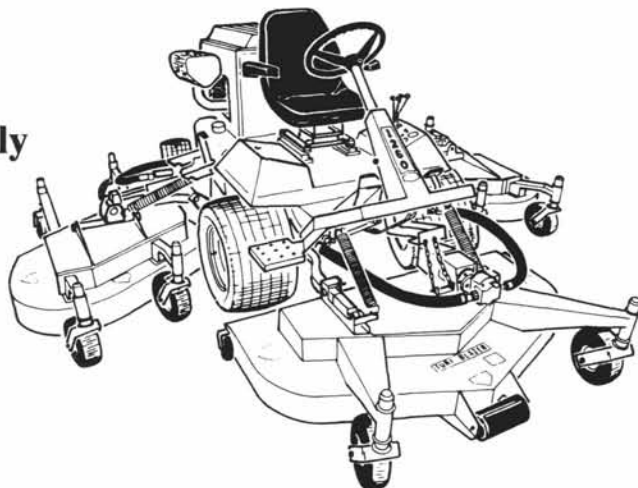
Bossert's been at Bryn Mawr now for six years. The biggest challenges since coming from Medinah were "calling the shots without a DQ (Dan Quast) or Pete Wilson to bounce ideas off of. I had to prove to myself I could do the job," Brian recalled.

"I wasn't used to politicking with the members and relating directly with the Board of Directors and the members," Brian continued. The Bryn Mawr membership is a very service-oriented one. The 240 members play roughly 15,000 rounds in June, July and August. Like many private clubs, quite a few members "head south" for the winter.

Having played Bryn Mawr a couple of years ago, I do recall not a lot of water but lots and lots of trees. Leave your orange and yellow balls at home for this tournament, remember this is October. ■

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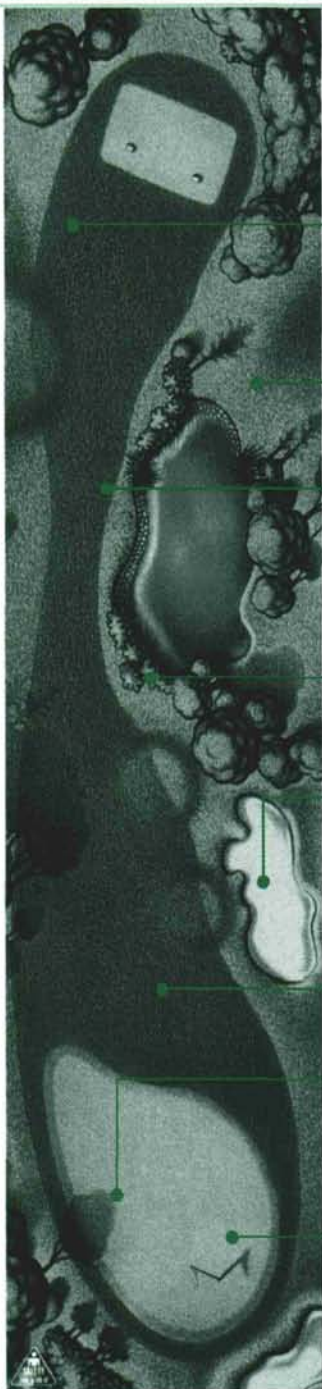
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