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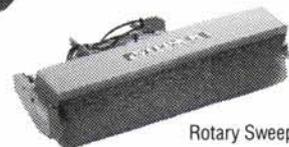
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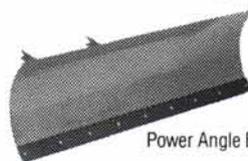
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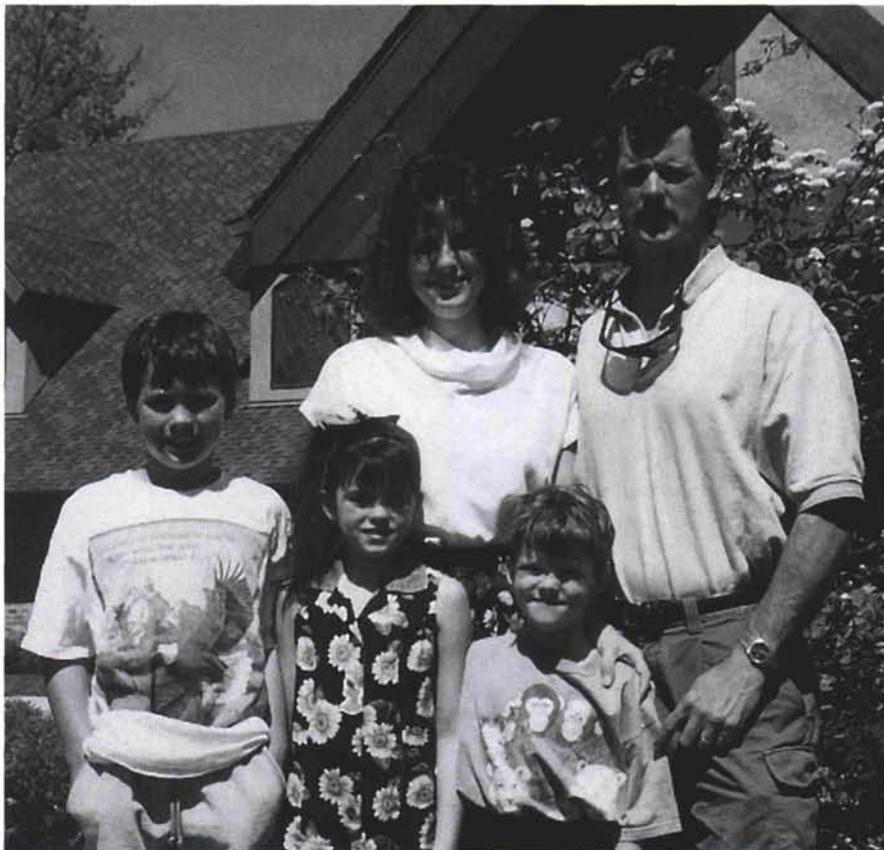
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Kevin DeRoo -N- Bartlett Hills Golf Club



Christopher, Kayce, Kyle, Cheryl and Kevin DeRoo.

*John Gurke, CGCS
Aurora C.C.*

The August MAGCS meeting will be held at Bartlett Hills Golf Club in Bartlett, with Kevin DeRoo serving as our generous and courageous host. Agreeing to host an August meeting sounds like a great idea in March when snow is still flying and the arrangements chairman is buying you drinks, as Kevin will attest; however, we all know what a Midwest summer can bring us, which makes Kevin DeRoo a brave superintendent indeed.

Kevin's been a Bartlett boy his whole life—he grew up a stone's throw from the course along with his eight—yes, eight—siblings. While in high school, Kevin went to work for Ed Joerns at Villa

Olivia, which began his career in the golf business. Kevin attended Harper College where he received his degree in 1984.

From '83 to '88, he worked with Joel Purpur at Bartlett Hills during an extensive course improvement operation. A new manual irrigation system was installed in-house along with the rebuilding of several holes. In 1988, Joel went to River Forest, leaving the course to ME, of all people. Having worked with enough seasoned veterans like Joel and myself, Kevin decided to go to work as assistant to the no-name, up-and-coming youngster at Inverness named Mike Bavier, a move Kevin calls, and I quote, "The single most important move I've ever made in securing a good future for myself in this



business. But don't take it personally, John."

By fall of 1990, I had done all the damage one guy could possibly do to Bartlett Hills, so I gracefully snuck away in the night, leaving the door open for Kevin. The reconstruction was—and still is—in progress, and Kevin has been doing it ever since. Building greens, tees, bunkers, flower boxes, a driving range, and a new clubhouse are just a few of the projects which have kept Kevin busy since his arrival. The latest project approved was a new automatic irrigation system slated for this fall.

On the homefront, Kevin, 35, has been married to his beautiful wife Cheryl (a truly fine cook and landlord, from my own experience) for 13 years. They have three great kids—Christopher, 9; Kayce, 8; and Kyle, 5. Kevin is an avid family man, considering them his main hobby along with hockey and an occasional game of golf. For those of you who have not been to Bartlett Hills Golf Club recently, be ready for something special. From the gorgeous new clubhouse (no silo, however) to the vastly-improved golf course, it'll be a great day. We thank Kevin DeRoo and Bartlett Hills in advance for hosting the August meeting. See you there! ■

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Keep Them Greens a Rolling...
(continued from page 10)

rollers. Steve Van Acker has had his rollers for three years now, and it seems like he is using them more this year than before. Tom Lively has 6 USGA-type greens and 12 native soil greens with heavy topdressing material and uses his rollers more on the native soil greens.

In summary, there are some advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are increased green speed, smoothness, consistency, dew removal, and gaining speed without changing height of cut. The disadvantages are soil compaction on native soil greens (if rolled more than three times per week), some turf injury from wear, and impeded air and water soil infiltration.

These six superintendents didn't see any compaction or thinning of the turf; the quality of the

turf wasn't sacrificed, and bulk density might be too early to tell since they only started to roll their greens in the last two to three years.

*The advantages
are increased
green speed,
smoothness,
consistency,
dew removal, and
gaining speed
without changing
height of cut.*

I would like to say thank you to these superintendents who took their time with me answering my questions. I really appreciate

it. Talk with these guys if you have any question, and I can tell you that there are more than six superintendents in the Chicagoland area that are using some type of roller in their maintenance program for their putting greens. ■

Editor's note: In June of 1988, I was, I believe, the first to introduce the green roller to the Chicago area. While in Australia, I saw a roller being used on bowling greens and thought it would work on putting greens. A couple of phone calls later, and a green roller was in the Chicago area along with the inventor. Chicago Turf and Irrigation was kind enough to take it around to some courses. The gentleman who invented it never obtained a U.S. patent, and the idea was picked up by others—the rest is history. For extra reading, see the June 1988 Bull Sheet.

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Impressions of the Medalist America Field Day

*Tom Voigt
Extension Turfgrass Specialist
University of Illinois*

In June, I joined more than 200 individuals interested in turf seed development and use at the Medalist America Field Day in Post Falls, Idaho. It was a high-quality event; we spent a day touring research labs and greenhouses, viewing seed production and storage facilities, and studying hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of turf plots. I came away from the day with several impressions.

First, the seed business is huge and getting bigger. We viewed seed cleaning equipment and storage facilities with a capacity of more than 20,000,000 pounds of cleaned seed. As I understand it, that's approximately a year's crop for Medalist. Emerging markets for turf seed in Asia and Eastern Europe are expanding the demand for the U.S. product.

Second, if you're a fan of Kentucky bluegrass fairways and lament their passing, there is hope. It appears as though there is great interest in Kentucky bluegrasses for golf course fairway use throughout the U.S. We viewed many plots of 1/2-inch tall bluegrasses, several of which show great promise. Will Kentucky bluegrasses become more widely used in the future? Probably not at 1/2 inch in Illinois, but high-quality Kentucky bluegrass fairways of 3/4 to 1 inch appear very realistic.

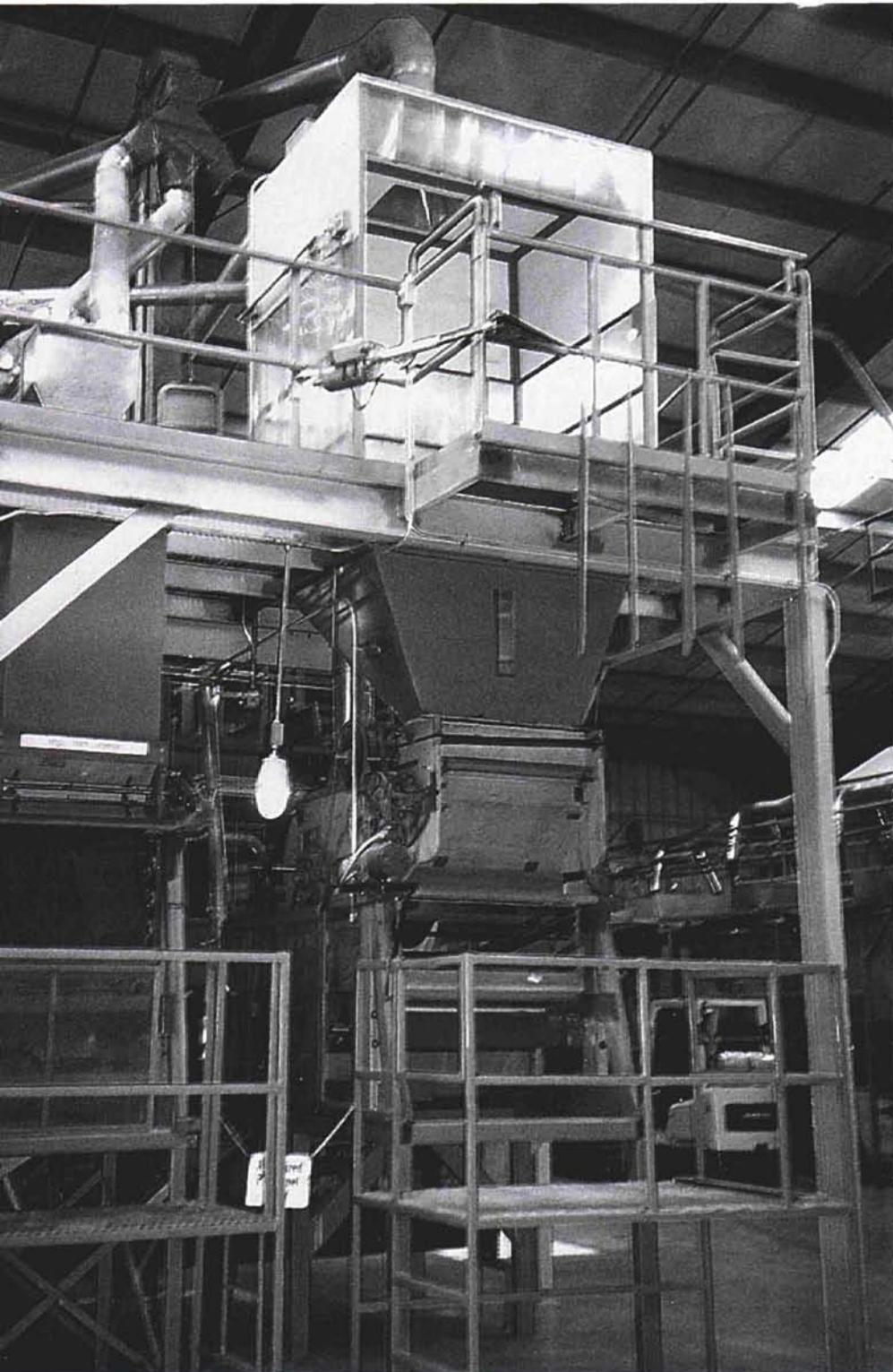


Photo by Fred Opperman

Seed cleaning/processing machine.

(continued on page 18)

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Impressions of the Medalist...

(continued from page 16)

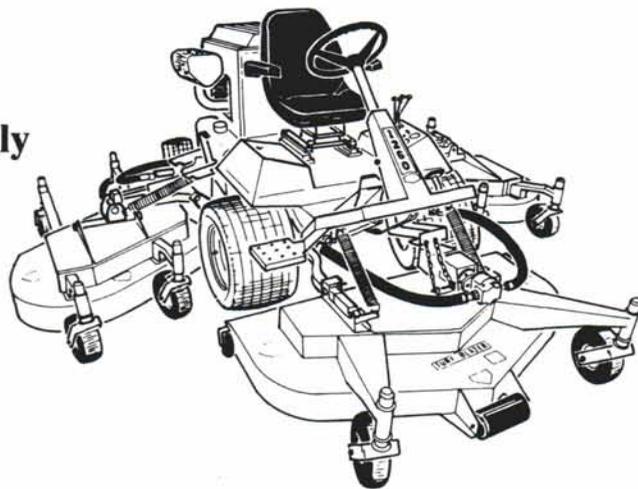
Finally, endophytic creeping bentgrasses and Kentucky bluegrasses may become a reality. For a number of years, endophytic fescues and ryegrasses have been available so that users can take advantage of the insect resistances, and perhaps the environmental stress tolerance that these species enjoy. At the field day, we saw endophytic creeping bentgrasses growing in the field and endophytic Kentucky bluegrasses in the lab. It remains to be seen if researchers can develop endophytic strains of these species that have desirable turf quality, but current work certainly shows potential.

*At the field day,
we saw endophytic
creeping bentgrasses
growing in the field
and endophytic
Kentucky bluegrasses
in the lab.*

Over the past fifty years, the turf industry has made great strides in developing new pest control products and equipment that has allowed steady improvement in turf quality over that time. However, neither of these industries have surpassed the accomplishments of the turf seed industry. Currently available turfgrasses are probably the best ever marketed. With the research and development work of turf companies like Medalist America, the movement towards better and better quality turf appears as though it will continue. ■

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Don't Burn in My Backyard



Breeder blocks to check number of pounds of seed per acre.

Photos by LeAnn Scott

Fred Opperman
Editor

In mid June, I toured the Rathdrum Prairie area in northern Idaho. This area is located just west of Spokane, Washington, and presently supports more than 25 seed companies on 15,000 acres. About 10,000 of these acres are being used to grow proprietary bluegrasses.

So, where does "Don't Burn in My Backyard" come in? Well, it seems everytime that California shakes, rattles and rolls, there is an exodus that sends the population looking for safer ground. Many of these people leaving California are buying property in the seed-producing areas of the country, mainly Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The new neighbors, when looking for property, love the looks of the green fields with the grass blowing in the breezes. Property like this doesn't have the dust and pollution of where they just left! It sure doesn't—until field burning time. Then the new neighbors start howling and complaining of the smoke and air pollution in their newly purchased homes.

All of this complaining has brought about laws in the major three seed-producing states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho concerning the burning of seed fields. Washington and Oregon already have laws enacted on field burning, and Idaho will have some form of law in 1998.

Seed growers have been burning their fields since the beginning. It has always been a standard practice to cleanse the field after harvest by burning.

Seed growers have been burning their fields since the beginning. It has always been a standard practice to cleanse the field after harvest by burning. This kills off many weed seeds and the chafe left behind. The field

then can grow another crop of the same variety the next year from the rhizomes and roots left in the ground unaffected by the burning. The yields are greater when the fields have been burned off.

What does this mean to you the end user? Without burning the fields, the farmers will have to plow them to control the grassy weeds. Seed yields will not be as great if the fields have to be plowed, and the purity will go down. Farmers will have to plant a crop other than grass in that field for a few years. That will drive up the price of the seed for the first year or so. With the prices up, more farmers will then want to plant grass seed; and with the added acreage in seed production, there will be more yield, and the price will go down in a year or two. Thus, we will have a cyclical market even more so than we presently have today.

Going back to the "Don't Burn in My Backyard," it has been proven that plowing and exposing the bare ground over the winter or spring creates 20 times more

(continued on page 22)