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OVERSIGHT: Photo credits to Andrew Young for the January *On Course* issue front cover and the individual Board of Directors pictures to be used throughout 1997.

Our apologies, Andrew! Nice job!

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) 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 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.



Viva Las Vegas! The holidays are over, and exciting times are on the horizon. February 6-12 marks the time for the GCSAA's 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. The "Super Bowl" of turfgrass conferences has always been the GCSAA convention.

This year's convention promises to be a great one! Over 78 seminars will be offered to help enhance your knowledge of turfgrass and its management. Several other seminars will focus on personal growth potential. Still others will help you manage your employees and manage the precious environment we live and work in.

Each year one of the most educational parts of GCSAA's convention has to be the trade show. Shopping all day at your local mall pales to the workout one receives touring the show. Many show veterans will tell you to wear comfortable shoes at this event. The time given to see the show never seems to be enough. The new equipment and products show proof that many people work very hard to offer the golf industry the very best in

turfgrass management tools.

While walking around the show, you are able to meet and greet the many friends and associates that you know in our great industry. This brings me to my favorite highlight of convention time. There is no better place to exchange ideas and solve problems than at the annual convention. Golf course superintendents are one big fraternity. If I fly away home with a least one single idea or problem solved, I feel great about the time spent at the GCSAA convention.

The MAGCS offers another venue to see people and exchange ideas. Each year at the GCSAA convention, the Midwest presents its hospitality room. This year the room will be at Bally's Las Vegas. It will be held on the nights of February 9 and February 10. The future title of this event may need to be changed to the MAGCS hospitality ballroom. Our very own Brian Bossert was able to secure a ballroom for this year's event at Bally's. The growing numbers at this event prompted a change in room size. A big thank you needs to go Brian's way for all the work he puts into arranging this event.

The Midwest would not be able to present this gala without the generous support of the many commercial members of the MAGCS. Last year over \$11,000 was contributed to the cause. We again cannot thank the commercial members enough for all of their support. Giving a little (or a lot) of business to the commercial members will show your thanks.

As you plan for the upcoming convention, remember to plan ahead to see all that makes this event so great. We are so fortunate to be able to experience such a grand conference. Thank you GCSAA for providing everyone with such a dynamic convention. Here's hoping that a fun and safe time is had by all! I am off to pack my Elvis outfit.

Ed Braunsky, CGCS
President, MAGCS



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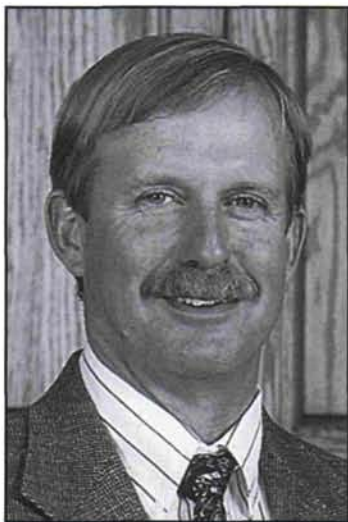
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Jim McNair
Orchard Valley G.C.

As chairman of the Editorial Committee, I've had the pleasure to see *On Course* become a success. Our mission for 1997 is to continue to improve the overall quality of the magazine while publishing it in a most cost-efficient manner.

One of the tasks that the committee will undertake in 1997 will be to develop a policy to equitably meet the demand for advertising space. We have a new problem to face this year that was brought about due to the success of the magazine. There is more demand for color ad space on the back cover than what we can satisfy. Last August, we had two companies that each wanted to buy the back cover color ad for the entire 1997 season. As a result, we thought that the fairest thing to do at the time was to give each advertiser six issues. We hadn't even begun to solicit ads for 1997 and already had the back cover sold! Great job, right? Wrong! Once we began soliciting ads for '97, we found that there were several other advertisers wanting that back cover. And that's where we

are at now. Full-color back cover ads for 1997 are sold out. So during the next several months, the Editorial Committee will develop a policy to equitably sell the back cover color ad as well as other key advertising space in *On Course*.

A new feature each month in *On Course* for 1997 will be to honor golf courses that are celebrating a special anniversary (50, 75, or 100 years) this year. Please call Fred Opperman to let him know if your course is celebrating such an occasion.

We plan to continue with the new format for *On Course* which has been so well received. You have told us that the color in the cover photos, ads and pictures in the context of the magazine is the thing that you like most. We'll try to give you more

whenever possible. We have also heard positive feedback on the "Super-N-Site Profile," "Ask the Expert," and "the Bull Sheet" segments. But it all comes down to you, the superintendent, to provide the input. With your photographic and editorial contributions, we can continue to improve the content of *On Course*. ■

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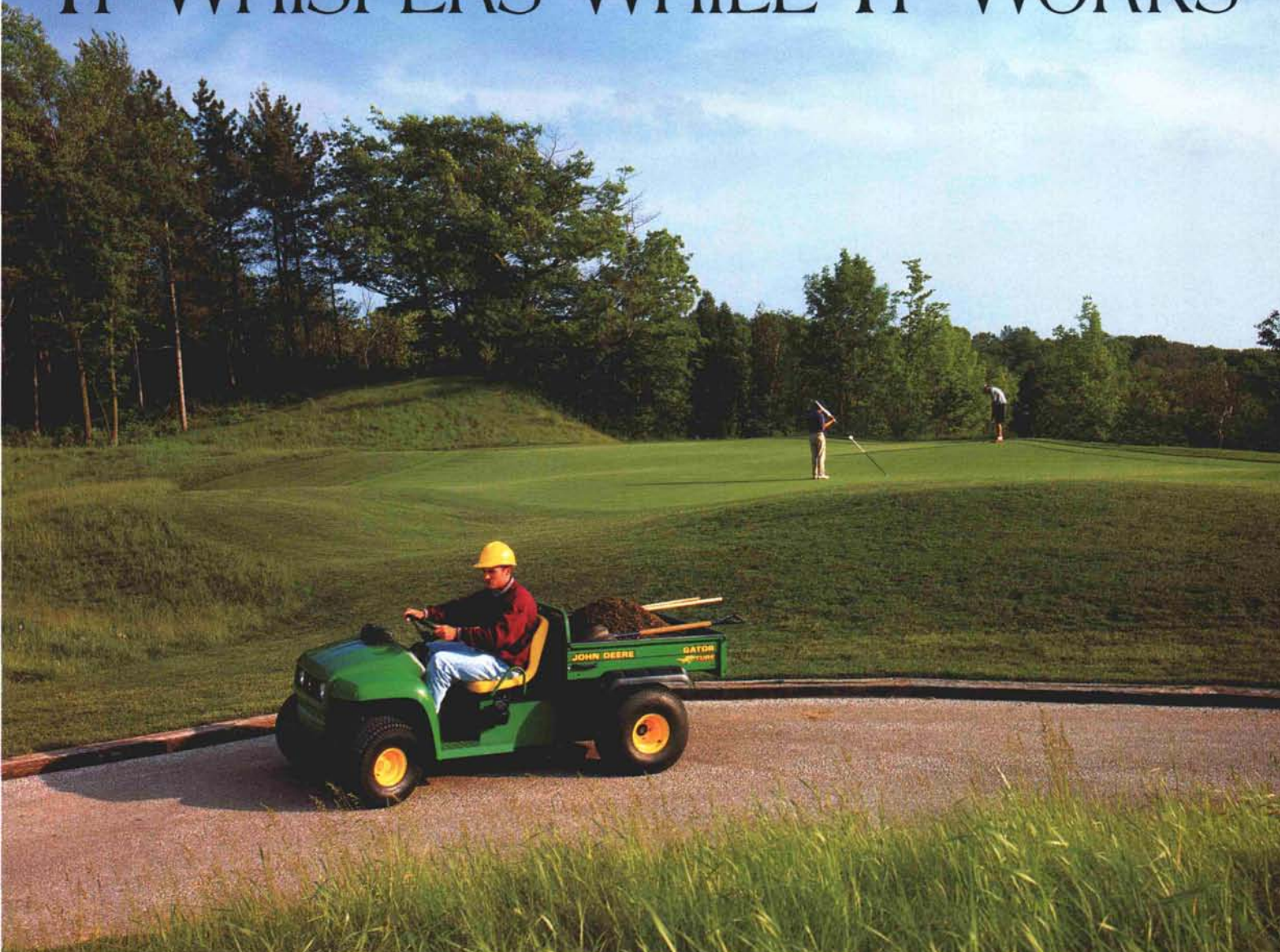
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Doug Quiram -N- Kemper Lakes Golf Club

Fred Opperman

Doug Quiram is Kemper Lakes G. C. for he started in 1976 when the course wasn't yet opened for play. Construction started in the fall of 1975, and the front nine was opened in 1978 and the back nine in 1979.

Kemper Lakes G.C.'s 18th hole is pictured on the front cover this month due to its hosting its second Ameritech Open May 30—June 1, 1997. The club has been the past home of the Illinois PGA from the early 1980s to 1993. In 1983, the PGA Championship was played here. It has had four PGA Grand Slam



events and the 1992 PGA National Amateur.

The course is tough; it plays 7,517 yards from the gold tees with par being 75.7! From the white tees, it is 6,265 yards and is a par 71.2. There are 60 acres of water that come into play on nine different holes.

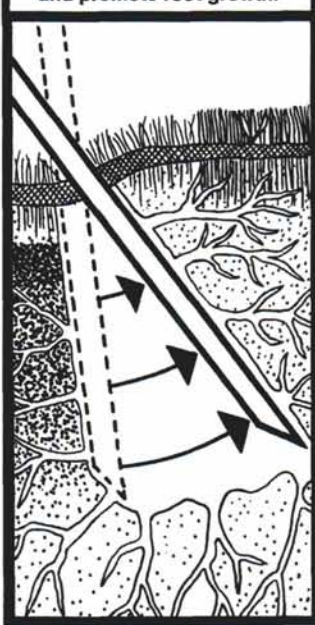
The course was originally seeded to Penncross throughout the greens, tees and fairways. However, in 1986, the greens were resodded in Penncross. In the monsoons of the spring of 1996, the club installed a Toro Osmac system. New sprinklers and controllers were installed, but they left the main lines in since they were still adequate and in good shape.

Doug was an assistant to Carl Grassl at Park Ridge C.C. for two years before he came to Kemper Lakes G.C. He and Marjorie have been married for 24 years. ■

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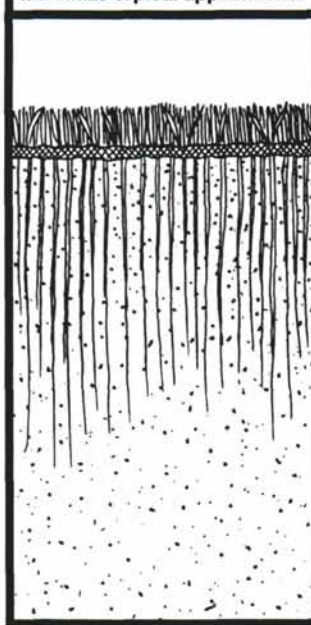
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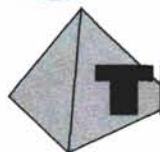
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Results of the Creeping Bentgrass Variety Trial at Cantigny Golf

Randy Kane
CDGA Turfgrass Advisor

Scott Witte, Cantigny G.C.

One-quarter of the 8,000 square foot research putting green at Cantigny is dedicated to evaluating the new bentgrass cultivars that are coming onto the market. Our trial includes 20 creeping bentgrasses, many of which are experimental or newly released varieties. In the past ten years, approximately 25 to 30 creeping bents have been developed for use on golf courses. Several of the newest varieties are noted for their fine leaf texture and high plant density at very low cutting heights. Selection for heat and drought tolerance has also been a target of several breeding programs.

Our 2,000 sq. ft. variety trial was seeded in mid September 1994, and several plots were treated with Roundup/Finale and reseeded during the summer of '95. Most of the '95 season was devoted to grow-in and maturation. Due to the extreme summer stress, fertility was kept fairly low, and cutting height was maintained at 3/16 in. (.188) throughout 1995. Early in 1996, the cutting height was dropped to 5/32 in. (.150), where it stayed for the remainder of the season. The cold and wet spring of '96 slowed greenup of the varieties, and 2.2 lbs. of N were applied between April 1 and June 20 to try to get things growing. Only another 2 lbs. of N was applied to the variety trial for the remainder

of '96. Once the grass took off in late June, we tried to keep the turf "lean and mean" for the rest of the summer. If nothing else, the low to moderate fertility regime encouraged some dollar spot, so we were able to get good data on

What makes a high-quality bentgrass for putting green turf? The main factors to look for are dark green color, fine leaf texture, and an upright growth habit from high shoot density.

dollar spot susceptibility for many of the new varieties.

Of the 20 varieties we included in the Cantigny green, 16 are also in the 1993 National Bentgrass Test administered by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (see the article on NTEP in the September '96 *On Course* by Fermanian and Voigt). NTEP evaluates new and existing cultivars of all types of turfgrasses at universities around the country. The closest sites to Chicago for comparative purposes are Urbana-Champaign (U of I), East Lansing

(MSU) and Madison (UW). Since the Chicago environment can be quite different from these areas, we wanted to have a NTEP-type evaluation in the Chicago metro area. Also, the maintenance and soils/rootzones of NTEP bentgrass test sites are quite variable and are often not consistent with the level of maintenance locally. It is interesting to note, as an aside, that the USGA, GCSAA and NTEP are cooperating to establish putting green variety evaluations at up to 15 golf courses around the country. This will further improve the evaluation of new and existing varieties since they will be placed under more intensive maintenance and traffic conditions.

Quality Ratings

What makes a high-quality bentgrass for putting green turf? The main factors to look for are dark green color, fine leaf texture, and an upright growth habit from high shoot density. Other traits to look for are tolerance to low cutting heights, disease and insect resistance, traffic tolerance and competitiveness against *Poa annua*. The quality ratings presented here for '96 are based primarily on four factors: color, texture, density, and disease resistance. The monthly numerical ratings were compiled by Randy Kane with input from Scott Witte and student assistants. Since one person did all of the ratings, hopefully some consistency was maintained. However, the rater's own biases were also reinforced.

(continued on page 12)