



**HALLORAN &  
YAUCH, INC.**

IRRIGATION  
SYSTEMS

2040 Lehigh Avenue  
Glenview, IL 60025  
Telephone 847.724.8660  
Fax 847.724.8659

- Irrigation Design & Installation
- Drainage Systems
- Pump Station Work & Consultation
- Irrigation Pipe & Supplies



## Washed Sod That Fits Your Course To A Tee!

- PENNCROSS™  
BENT SOD
- PENNEAGLE™  
BENT SOD
- PENNLINKS™  
BENT SOD
- XL-100 BLEND  
SOD™

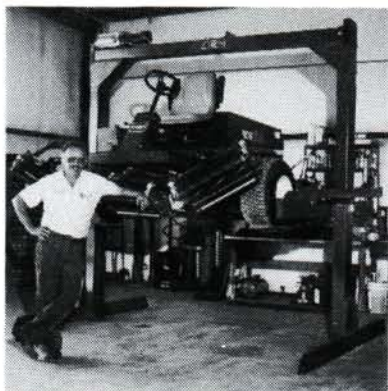
Available as H & E Hydro-cut™ Washed Sod  
or traditionally cut sod with soil.

"Single Source Convenience"



GENERAL OFFICES:  
3900 West 167th Street  
Markham, IL 60426  
Fax: 708-596-2481  
Phone: 708-596-7200

## "I never want to work without a TRION™ LIFT again!"



"Before, it was almost impossible to see what I was doing, let alone repair it. Now everything is right where I can see it . . . sitting down!"

"I can save an hour or more a day on maintenance time."

Ed Ward  
Head Mechanic, Highland  
Hills Municipal G.C.

### THE ONLY LIFT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

■ Several models available to lift all 3- and 4-wheel golf equipment up to 2,600 lbs.

(815) 469-8500  
(708) 301-8500



## Kubota T/L/B UNIT



**L35**

- A compact T/L/B diesel tractor
- 35 horsepower
- Designed for Loader/Landscape/Industrial use
- GST transmission, hydrostatic power steering and 4-wheel drive
- Slanted hard nose hood for better visibility and durability

**MARTIN IMPLEMENT SALES, INC.**  
16400 S. 104th Ave.  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
(708) 349-8430



# No Time Like the Present



Don Ferreri  
Seven Bridges G.C.

**I** assume everyone in our industry makes a list now and then. Some people even make lists of their lists. Usually this is done to keep track of job details to be performed by yourself or staff. Sometimes lists are a simple reminder of items to be accomplished or items to be prioritized to the importance of timing.

Many of you may have on your list the task of joining the Audubon Society of New York State. This should be done by every golf course in Chicagoland to show support of our environment. Currently, 2,253 golf courses are enrolled as members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (A.C.S.P.) throughout the country. This is a very easy item to cross off your list by simply filling out an application form and budgeting \$100 a year for dues. In return, you receive a membership poster suitable for framing and displaying to your club members and customers and also up-to-date newsletters with information and suggestions to improve environmental conditions on your course no matter where you are located.

Locally in Illinois, there are 120 golf courses enrolled in the A.C.S.P. at various stages of the program. Currently, 83 golf courses have been fully certified from coast to coast.

Upon joining the Audubon society as a member, you receive the A.C.S.P. resource inventory, the dreaded first step to becoming a certified site. Filling out the resource inventory becomes a fantastic item to put on our list of things to do. I know this because it has graced my list for a substantial length of time, even moving from list to list on occasion. It certainly sounds like a great idea, and I truly admire our peers who have accomplished this seemingly insurmountable chore. Why is this task so hard to pursue? In my case, it is flat out fear, fear that I will get started and not see it through to the finish, or that it will be more difficult than I expected. These are very weak excuses, to say the least. Actually, I have completed my resource inventory and promptly received my booklet of recommendations and suggestions for best completing the certification categories at my golf course. It is as easy as getting started. That seems to be very simple to say but at the same time extremely hard to do. So with this dilemma staring at me, I have asked the experts from our own association for their suggestions, as they all have fully completed the certification program for their golf courses.

Tod Hopphan, assistant superintendent at Eaglebrook Country Club in Geneva, Illinois, had completed the process while working at Evanston Golf Club in Skokie, Illinois. Tod offers the following list of comments and advice to those of us joining or becoming new members of the Audubon Society of New York State Cooperative Sanctuary:

1. Join (if you haven't already)! The \$100 membership fee will be the best \$100 you will ever spend.

2. Open your eyes. Take a look at what your course has to offer. You will be surprised at what you see.

3. Lose all misconceptions about the program. Boy Scout troops do not have to march up and down your fairways for you to belong!

4. Big or small, private or public, municipal or resort—it doesn't matter what class you are. We all have something to offer.

5. Start slow, take your time. Fill out your initial inventory questionnaire. Important! It seems that many members have not done this task.

6. Questions? Call the Audubon Society of New York State. They are very friendly and more than willing to help.

7. More questions? Call your neighbors, friends or other superintendents (or in this case, assistant). You could avoid some of the mistakes commonly made and make the process easier.

8. Set reasonable goals. Plan your work and then work your plan!

9. Make sure your course official, board of directors and green committee chairman, owners, and/or neighbors support your involvement. You would be surprised to know that not everyone is green-minded, and you may have opposition to your membership or proposed program and/or ideas.

10. Search out members, customers, or neighbors that could help you with your program (resource committee). Also, out-

(continued on page 30)

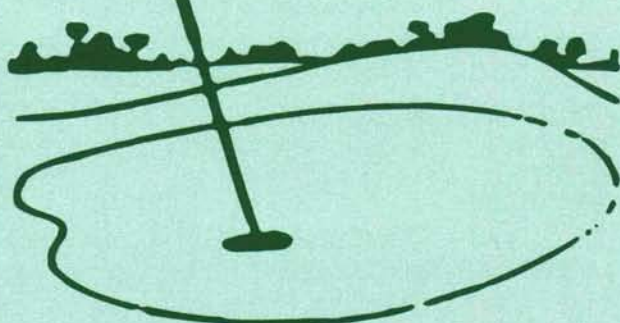


# Burdett's, Inc.

Distributors of:

**SOUTHERN GOLF  
MASTER of the LINKS  
FOX VALLEY SYSTEMS  
MARKERS INC.  
BAYCO**

& Course Maintenance Supplies



P.O. Box 1865 • Lombard, IL 60148-1865  
1-630-620-5558 • FAX #1-630-627-1104  
IL Toll Free 1-888-TURF-888

# par ex®

THE EX STANDS FOR EXCELLENCE

**The right sized IBDU fertilizer  
is here for you.**

- Greens grade\*
- Bentgrass fairway grade\*
- Bluegrass fairway grade\*
- Rough grade\*
- Spray grade

**\*Available in 50 and  
1000 pound sized bags**

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

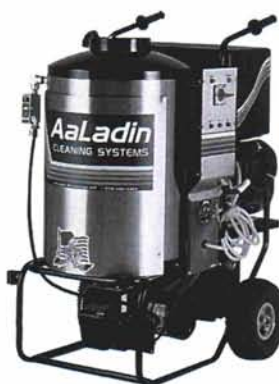
**Arthur Clesen, Inc**

543 Diens Drive Wheeling, IL 60090  
(847) 537-2177 FAX (847) 537-2210



**When the Pressure's on...  
WE SHINE!**

When you need a powerful pressure washer that's tough on clean-ups and easy on your budget, check out the AaLadin 1000 series washers. Filled with outstanding standard features, these units really put on the pressure and make things shine! Every AaLadin unit is built to highest quality specifications in the industry. Stop in today for a complete demonstration.



**HIGH PSI LTD.**

25 South Park Street, Roselle, IL 60172  
(630) 893-0777 Fax(630) 893-1045

**(800) 666-3900**



A Distributor of



CETA CERTIFIED

PH

# CONSERV FS

**PROFILE**  
POROUS CERAMIC  
SOIL AMENDMENT



Profile a porous ceramic soil modifier that enhances your soil modification program for top dressing and construction material... profile creates the ideal root zone for stronger and healthier roots by increasing...

...Oxygen Retention

...Nutrient Retention

...Increased Microbial Growth

...Buffers Soil Temperature

Call Us Today For Further Information

TINLEY PARK  
6730 South St.  
708-532-4723

WAUCONDA  
27310 W. Case  
847-526-0007

KANSASVILLE-WI.  
4304 S. Beumont  
414-878-2048



niche. The basic population interactions are antagonism, competition, predation, parasitism and pathogenicity. It is an understanding of these functions that enables us to harness their powers to favor turf ecology. Interrelationships occur throughout the plant, both above ground and below. Microorganisms, topography, climate and parent material of soil largely dictate what plant communities may thrive.

My overall management of plant health care has grown from turfgrass management to turfgrass bionomics. The goal is to enrich microbial activity, enhance resident antagonists and inoculation of antagonists to suppress disease.

Countless microorganisms exist, but few are commercially available. It is difficult to make generalizations or summarize microbial management. It is a dynamic science that I do not know enough about to make accurate broad statements. In the past, names like *Rhizoctonia*, *Fusarium*, and *Typhula* meant plant diseases. Now science has discovered that species of *Rhizotonia* control Brown Patch, *Fusarium* species control Dollar Spot and *Typhula phacorrhiza* controls plant pathogenic *Typhula*. The following is a list of organisms I have used: *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus licheniformes*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Pseudomonas aureofaceans*, *Pseudomonas cepacia*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Trichoderma harzianum*, three proprietary strains of endo-*Mycorrhiza* VAM, *Azospirillum brasilense*, *endophytes* and *Steinemema riobravus*. I have seen good results with some of these organisms, and others were difficult to quantify.

Scientifically, I can share some data collected. VAM *Mycorrhizal* inoculation increased our root colonization from 34% to 55%. Root depth increased from 6.7 cm to 10.3 cm. *Trichoderma harzianum* successfully colonized the turf's root system of 5x10 to the fifth colony forming units (CFUs).

Microorganisms are living organisms requiring specific needs. Those needs may not be met from one course to the next. Before subscribing to broad applications, small areas are tested for effectiveness. For organisms to be effective, thresholds must be overcome maintaining high enough populations. In soils, this is a difficult task, for competition with native populations is immense. Often frequent applications are needed to ensure high enough counts.

I have used an irrigation injection system for two seasons. It is a self-contained microbial fermentation device that delivers microorganisms each time we water. This approach overcomes many of the difficulties posed in the past. As this system is perfected, known antagonistic microorganisms inoculate the turf each night while irrigating. The system delivers live organisms (opposed to dormant) at high counts. The procedure is done at night, overcoming ultraviolet light degradation. Since the incorporation of this device, I now water early at night. Any free water on the plant is laced with antagonistic organisms preventing plant pathogens from developing. I have seen good results implementing this procedure. As the system improves multiplying high counts and as more microorganisms become available for use, I can see this becoming a very common practice.

My experiences with biologicals as a whole have been favorable. However, there are many more questions than answers at this time. Science is just now learning how to take apart the components of the ecosystem and understand the functions of the turfgrass community.

Greens, tees and often fairways are disturbed sites. I look forward to welcome the challenge as science moves from theory to function in restoring these sites for optimum turfgrass health that is in harmony with nature. Genetic modification of turfgrass cultivars teamed with management of favorable microbial populations is a long-term view of sustainable procedures in holistic plant health care.

### If golfers only knew!

*My experiences and practices are based on 20 years of experience at North Shore Country Club located 20 miles north of Chicago, Illinois. It is a temperate climate suited for cool-season grasses in hardness zone 5 (average annual minimum temperature of -20°F). Though it is an agronomically diverse region of over 145 different soil types, we basically have heavy clay loam soil. The golf course was designed by H. S. Colt and C. H. Alison and built in 1924. We maintain tees and fairways on virgin soils, and the greens are based on push-up construction utilizing virgin soil as the base with a modified high sand/peat layer approximately 3" deep via topdressing. Grasses on greens, tees and fairways are creeping bentgrass and Poa annua. ■*





## PAARLBERG'S INC.

GARDEN CENTER • LANDSCAPE • GOLF COURSE  
AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES

CHIPCO TURF PRODUCTS  
SHAW'S • LEBANON • PAREX  
ALL MAJOR TURF SUPPLIES

1840 E. 172ND STREET, SOUTH HOLLAND, IL 60473  
708-474-9900 815-469-6730

professional lawn and tree care



TREE CARE HYDROSEEDING PRAIRIE SEEDING

851 SETON COURT • WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090-5790  
(847) 215-2112 • (847) 215-9176 Fax



## DUNTEMAN

TURF FARMS

Growers of Quality Sod

**SERVICE!**  
LOCAL GROWING FOR  
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.  
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

**QUALITY!**  
FEATURING  
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,  
BENTGRASS SOD, AND  
TURF-TYPE FESCUE  
• LOWER MAINTENANCE  
• MORE DROUGHT  
& SHADE TOLERANT  
• BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE

**PRICE!**  
CALL FOR A QUOTE

**630-557-2900**

MAIN STREET  
11 MILES WEST  
OF BATAVIA, IL




Gregory E. Martin  
President

65 North River Lane  
Suite 201  
Geneva, Illinois 60134  
630-232-9977

Landscape  
Architecture  
Golf Course  
Architecture  
Land Planning

HOLLEMBEAK EXCAVATING  
& GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION  
INC.



MIKE HOLLEMBEAK  
630-556-3891

BOX 103 GRANART RD.  
BIG ROCK, IL 60511

## The Sod You Want The Way You Want It

"Executive Blend"  
Bluegrass

Penncross

Creeping

Bentgrass

Pennlinks

Creeping

Bentgrass

Standard Cut

"StrathAyr"  
Washed Sod

42" Big Roll



"We Grow To Please"



**HUBER RANCH SOD NURSERY, INC.**

23002 WICKER AVE., BOX 188, SCHNEIDER, IN 46376

1-800-553-0552 • (219)552-0552

(708)691-0552 Addison Sod Depot



# the Bull Sheet

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 16 — GCSAA Seminar, "Employee Safety Training," Oak Brook Hills Resort, 800-472-7878.

January 17 — GCSAA Seminar, "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent," Oak Brook Hills Resort, 800-472-7878.

January 20 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club.

January 20-23 — 67th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Lansing, MI. Call 517-321-1660.

January 21-23 — 1997 Midwest Turf Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. Call 317-494-8039.

February 6-12 — GCSAA Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

February 9 & 10 — MAGCS Hospitality Suite at Bally's in Las Vegas.

February 21-23 — Golf Illinois '97, Arlington Race Track.

February 25 — GCSAA and MAGCS will host a seminar on "Preventive Maintenance of Turf Equipment" in Woodridge. Call 800-472-7878.

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:** If your dues are not paid by January 31, 1997, you will be dropped as a member and must then submit another application to join.

This means your name may not be in the 1997 membership book, and you will not receive the magazine *On Course*. Check with your club to see that your membership has been paid. Due date was December 31, 1996.

The MAGCS is going to host a booth at the upcoming "Golf Illinois '97" and is looking for volunteers to staff the booth.

This will be held at the Arlington Park Race Track on February 21-23, 1997. Call Don Ferreri for information, 630-852-1746.

Congratulations to Henry Michna, Sr., superintendent at Winnetka Golf Club, on becoming a Certified Superintendent recently.

Mike Mumper is looking for an assistant at Ravisloe C.C. Call him at 708-957-6652 or fax resume to 708-957-6606.

Gary Schweber at Four Winds G.C. has been busy this winter having 14,000 feet of new cart paths installed and 14 new tees. This past spring, he installed a new irrigation system. Gary is presently looking for used walking greens mowers. Give him a call if you have any for sale at 847-566-8592.

Congratulations to Tim Anderson, the new superintendent at Prestwick C.C. Tim was the assistant at Naperville C.C.

The Rolling Green C.C. team competed in the tenth annual John Deere Team Championship Golf Tournament held November 15-17, 1996, on the Ocean & Links courses at the Pelican Hill Golf Club near Newport Beach, CA. The team members were: Larry Chirico, golf course superintendent; John Schickling, PGA professional; Eric Powell, club manager; Ben Trapani, club president; and John Buck, distributor representative. They competed against 32 teams from across the U. S. and Canada. Although they did not make the top ten, the team made a good showing in this spirited competition.

For Sale: Toro 223 with eight bladed reel and turf compensation kit, very good shape, 2,500 hours, \$5,000. Call Bill Kennedy, Cress Creek C.C., 630-355-5736.

Wanted: Runners who are attending the GCSAA conference in Las Vegas. There are a few of us who are running the half marathon on Sunday morning, February 9. The more, the merrier. Call Bryan Bossert at Bryn Mawr at 847-677-4112 if you are interested.

Congratulations to Marcy and Jeff Leuzinger on the birth of William Van born on November 17, 1996. William weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. This is their second son. Derek, their first son, is 18 months old.

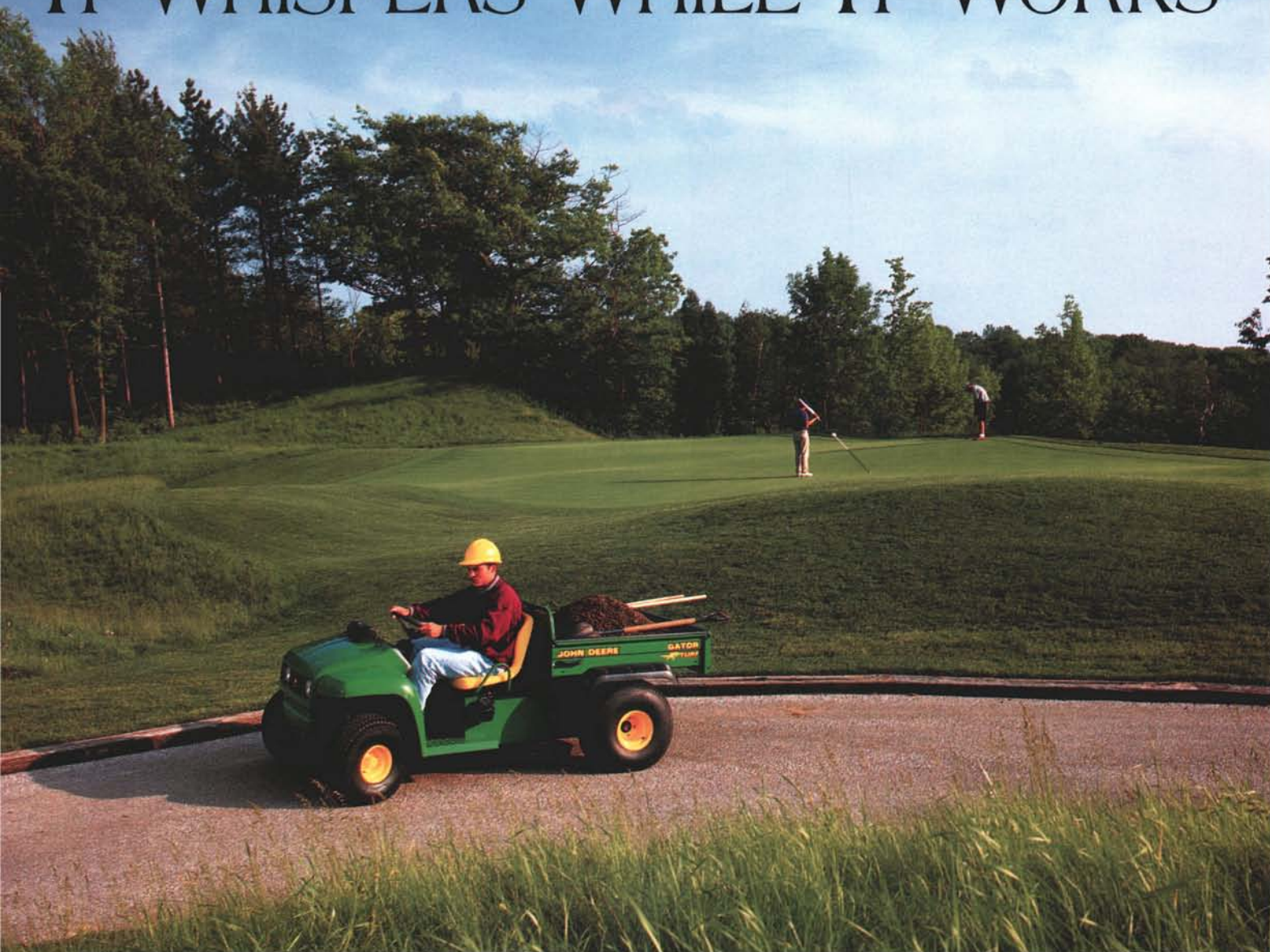
Ed Fischer at Old Elm replaced all of his fairways collars, a width of 84", in 9 days by using big roll sod. They were able to pick up with the big roll machine and lay down new sod within the hour. Quite a project that went very well.

Harper College in Palatine, IL, will offer bilingual classes (Spanish - English) to help Spanish-speaking people pass

(continued on page 28)



# IT WHISPERS WHILE IT WORKS



## Introducing the new John Deere Turf Gator®

Like its namesake, the new John Deere Turf Gator is perfectly adapted to its environment—the golf course. It's unique combination of toughness and quietness make the difference.

Turf Gator toughness comes from a unibody frame, one-piece forged rear axle and high-torque drivetrain.

Turf Gator quietness comes from an isolation-mounted engine, large volume muffler, and internal sound absorbing material—allowing you to easily work

without disturbing play. In addition, foot-pedal start means there's no turning a key every time you need to move the machine. Just like a golf car, you simply press a pedal to start and accelerate.

Add the Turf Gator's increased legroom and high-back seats and you can see why it's the natural selection for the golf course. Contact us today for more information.



Nothing Runs Like a Deere®



*Photographed at Blackwolf Run, Kohler, Wis.*

## J.W. Turf, Inc.

14N937 U.S. Hwy 20  
Phone: 847/683-4653



Hampshire, IL 60140  
Fax: 847/683-3978

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®



the Commercial Not-For-Hire Applicator and Operators License, Category: General Standards for the State of Illinois. The class will start on January 25 and run for ten Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The class will be taught by Fernando Fernandez. For more details please call 847-291-2232.

## NECROLOGY



Russ Reed was born May 17, 1918, in Putnam, Illinois. His family moved to Bensenville, Illinois, when he was a child. His dad farmed a piece of property on what is now O'Hare Airport. The Reed family got involved in the golf business when Russ's father rented teams of horses to golf courses seasonally for pulling mowers. Russ fondly recalled driving teams of horses to Medinah and called the maintenance facility there the "horse barns." His two older brothers, Harold and Chuck, worked on area courses and eventually became superintendents: Harold at Ridgemoor C.C. and Chuck at Hillcrest C.C., Chevy Chase C.C., and Highland Park C.C.

Russ started his longtime relationship with Toro after returning home from World War II and after a short stint with the Great Lakes Pipeline Company. He went to work for George A. Davis Co. in 1947 as a field serviceman. In 1954, upon the

death of Fred Halloran, Russ was promoted to Fred's sales position. Over a twenty-year period, he won many sales awards and made numerous lifelong friendships. He believed in servicing his customers beyond their expectations. He cared about his customers both professionally and personally and was respected by everyone in the business. He moved to Chicago Toro Turf & Irrigation when the Toro Company set up a factory-owned distributorship in 1971.

Russ retired from sales in 1974, and he stayed with the company as warehouse manager until 1979. In 1980 and 1981, he worked summers as a public relations salesman for the entire Chicago Toro sales territory. He finished his career in golf at the

Rolling Green C.C. working for Bob Kronn as a gardener.

Russ and Ruth, his wife of 54 years, spent the last 15 years wintering in Haines City, Florida, and enjoying retirement in the summer in Prospect Heights with their two children and seven grandchildren nearby. He knew his "Maker;" he loved his family, job, and country; and lived the life he dreamed of with no regrets. He died on Friday, November 15, 1996, five days after suffering a massive stroke.

Jim Reed

*Editor's Note: While talking with Jim, he told me that his children slipped a copy of On Course into the casket before burial along with other mementos of his life.*

## Knowledge, Accuracy, Timing... The Keys to Better Pest Management

### GroWeather™ ET Station – The Ultimate IPM Tool!



- Track leaf wetness duration – eliminate unnecessary spray applications
- Calculate Growing Degree Days – the factor that most influences crop growth, insect and weed pressures
- Conserve water resources with ET (evapotranspiration) function – irrigate only when needed!
- GroWeatherLink™ Windows Software
  - builds your own localized weather history
  - provides user-friendly charts for analyzing multiple weather factors



Complete System – \$1,495!  
Includes Windows software  
and station mounting package.

#### MEASURES

- Wind Speed and Direction
- Solar Radiation
- Air and Soil Temperature
- Humidity
- Rainfall
- Leaf Wetness
- Barometric Pressure

#### CALCULATES

- Growing Degree Days
- Evapotranspiration (ET)
- Heat-Stress
- Rate of Rainfall
- Wind Chill and Wind Run
- Leaf Wetness Hours
- Solar Energy
- Dew Point

**Call 1-800-248-8873 Today!**

23839 W. Andrew Rd. • Plainfield, IL 60544-9707 • Fax: (815) 436-4460 • e-mail: specmeters@aol.com

**Spectrum  
Technologies, Inc.**



## ACCURATE TANK TECHNOLOGIES

- Precision Tank Tightness Testing; without filling your tanks
- All Upgrades for 1998
- Install Underground Storage Tanks
- Install Aboveground Storage Tanks

**Your Complete, Professional, Tank Experts.**

Please contact us at:  
1-800-773-Tank, (630) 393-1998



**GREG OLTMAN**  
President

**HORTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Office 847-669-8658  
Fax 847-669-8662

14440 MARENGO ROAD  
UNION, ILLINOIS 60180

## LOHMANN GOLF DESIGNS, INC.

GOLF COURSE DESIGN,  
AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



MARENGO, IL

815-923-3400



360 Schaumburg Rd.  
Streamwood, IL 60107

(630) 830-7405

FAX (630) 830-9652

**CLAUSS  
BROTHERS, Inc.**  
GOLF COURSE  
CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION  
LARGE TREE MOVING

## KOELPER BROS.

**Golf Course Building and Remodeling**

444 E. Mors Avenue  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090  
FAX 847-541-4619

847-438-7881  
DANIEL I. KOELPER

847-541-9182  
VICTOR C. KOELPER

"Golf Course Work a Specialty"

## LEMONT PAVING CO.

Lemont, IL 60439

Jim, Tracy Murphy

(630) 257-6701

Terra Care Products, Inc.  
Terra Topper, Terra Broom,  
Terra Pick up Sweeper  
Terra Aerator

T.I.P., INC.  
Greens Spiker/Seeder

## JOHNSON AND ASSOCIATES

of Lombard, Inc.  
ROGER O. JOHNSON  
630-620-8198 - FAX 630-620-8119

109 E. Washington Blvd.  
Lombard, IL 60148-2637

Member  
MAGCS ITF

## Golf Course Chemical Storage Buildings

Carlisle Building Systems, Inc.

**Prefabricated Relocatable Steel Buildings**

### Featuring:

- Secondary spill containment which exceeds OSHA Codes. UL, FM approved.
- Heavy-duty locking mechanism for added security
- Forklift pockets for ease of relocation
- Constructed of 10 gauge steel to provide structural strength
- Optional ventilation, lighting, temperature control, Fire Suppression Systems
- No Building Permits required

### Other Products

- Secondary Containment Pallets and Sumps
- Rinsate Collection Pads

Contact: **Larry Sievertsen** - (847)426-0164 FAX (847)426-0070  
Fluid State Systems, Inc.  
35W753 Parsons Rd., W. Dundee, IL. 60118

## PEERLESS FENCE CO.

3N381 Powis Rd.  
West Chicago, IL

- Chain-Link Fencing
- Wood Fencing
- Special Gates
- Driving Range Fencing
- Tee Protection Fencing
- Wood & Steel Guard-Rails
- Golf Course Work Our Specialty

630/584-7710

Dean White



## Timberline

DBA Bill Boyd

**Golf Course Remodeling  
And Renovation**

At Timberline, we look upon each project as an opportunity to create, challenge and beautify your existing golf course layouts so that it will blend in with the surrounding environment and "stand the test of time."

1907 Darien Club Drive, Darien, IL 60561  
630/963-9088 □ Pager: 708/850-0159



side help such as co-op extension, nature groups, arboretum and botanical groups, and garden clubs could be potential sources for help and advice.

11. Finally, open your mind and get rid of any misconceptions you may have about this program. This program does not have to be consuming or expensive. Whatever you invest in this program will be well spent, and the rewards will far outweigh the cost.

If there was ever a time to be a part of a group serving a great cause, this is the one to join. As this program grows, our message will get across to those who oppose us, and we can hopefully show our community that we are assets and not detriments to the environment. With the Audubon Society of New York State Cooperative Sanctuary Program, we can convey our message better as a group than if we work alone. Good luck!

John Gurke, C.G.C.S. at Aurora Country Club, offers us some helpful tips in getting started. John has been one of our association's pioneers in this field.

1. Communication is key! Talk over/describe to your board or governing body what it is and how it will affect play (it shouldn't). At this point, stress the positives like buffers around water will keep shots in play, etc., and that the program will help save resources like fertilizer, labor, and pesticides. It can attract wildlife that may include predators for geese. It will be used as a positive PR tool.

2. Identify those out-of-play areas to be naturalized, and map them out.

3. Start writing things down; winter is a good time. Once ideas are on paper, organize and begin

the certification process.

4. Photograph areas before, during, and after conversion.

5. Important! There are no requirements set forth by N.Y.S.A.S., only recommendations. Be creative, and do only what your course will support.

Our third expert is Tim Kelly from the Village Links Golf Course in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Tim is at the head of the class when it comes to environmental concerns. The staff at Village Links has won two national environmental steward awards to go along with their fully certified Audubon sanctuary. Tim has been very instrumental in teaching his entire community how to help our environment.

Tim has prepared a quick outline of steps that may be taken by a MAGCS member to get a basic environmental program established at their golf course:

1. Get your golf facility or club registered with the USGA/New York Audubon Society-Cooperative Sanctuary Program. You will receive initial information after you have registered. This information is useful in starting your own environmental program and as you work to become certified in this program.

2. Set realistic, achievable goals on becoming certified (e.g., completing two out of the seven categories per year). The seven categories when I applied were: wildlife cover enhancement, wildlife food enhancement, water enhancement, water conservation, environmental planning, IPM, and public involvement.

3. Get help from other resources: existing staff, new staff (temporary?), and/or volunteers (e.g., nest box program).

4. Select and establish an effective resource committee.

5. Inform the local news media about the positive things that you and your golf course are doing to help the environment.

6. Apply for the GCSAA Environmental Steward Award. Apply for other local awards. The Village Links won the Brooks McCormick Environmental Award in 1996. It was sponsored by the Conservation Foundation of DuPage County.

7. Finally look at routine operations and make sure that they are done in way that will benefit the environment.

We have heard from three experts who have completed all the necessary projects to fully certify their golf courses. They are willing to help others get involved in the program if any questions arise once you get started. We should all do as much as we possibly can in this venue. The Audubon Society is not only the right thing to do for our environment, but the A.C.S.P. is one of the least expensive public relations you can provide to your golf course. Take the time now while we are in our "off season" to plan your attack on this project and cross it off your list!

Feel free to contact the following with questions concerning joining or complying with the New York State Audubon Society:

The Audubon Society of New York State  
46 Rarick Road  
Selkirk, NY 12158  
Contact: Marla Briggs  
(518)767-9051