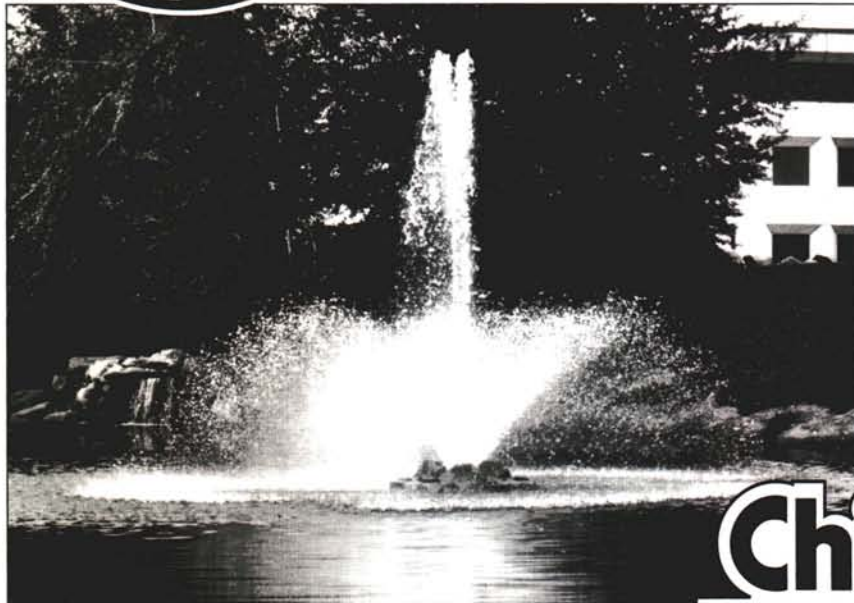




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On Course is published monthly. All articles, double-spaced, are required by the first of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, sixth page, quarter page, third page, half page and full page.

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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.



“Where are you going, Dad?” This question has been thrown at me several times over the past few years by my loving family. “I need to go to George’s!” On cue my kids will break into the “George of the Jungle” song: George, George, George of the jungle! Watch out for that tree!!! Such is the life of the president of the MAGCS. Nineteen ninety-seven has been a quick twelve months in which a lot of things have been accomplished.

At a recent long-range planning committee meeting, each area or committee was reviewed. We as an association have truly come a long way. As stated before, several areas we wished to improve on have already been taken of. Each committee chairman has done an outstanding job in 1997. A lot of time and energy was spent working on each given committee. I need to talk about a few.

Unless you have been the golf committee chairman of the Midwest, you cannot even imagine the time and effort that goes into setting up a monthly event. This is an area that will always be

difficult to try and put together simply because we still have many members that cannot get their you-know-what together. Please try harder, folks, in 1998! Everyone should give Luke Strojny a pat on the back. Along with setting up golf, we do need to eat. Greg Thalmann has “arranged” for us to have many fine meals over the past year. I wonder if Greg arranges his family’s meals this well? THANKS AGAIN, LUKE AND GREG!

You are reading one of the finest monthly superintendent’s magazines in the country. If you do not think so, we can meet anytime anywhere. Seriously, the leaps and bounds that *On Course* has made recently have been phenomenal. Many hours are put in by Fred Opperman each month. I still hear stories about how guys and gals rip open that large envelope each month to see what is going on in the Midwest.

One of the complaints (hey, I said no complaints!) that I do hear is that for one reason or another members are not getting their magazine. All of those situations are cleared up eventually. Jim McNair has also done a fantastic job working with Fred. Thanks a million, Fred and Jim. You both deserve a lot of credit for the tremendous shape of *On Course*.

All other committee chairmen deserve a lot of credit for a smooth year. Fred Behnke (the “rookie”) wants more to do in 1998. He’ll get it! Fred, great job. Don Ferreri as always turned in a super effort. Don, like Fred B., wants even more to do in 1998. What can you say about Brian Bossert? I’ll tell you a few things. Brian came through again to put on a super hospitality

room at the national conference. He has already made several arrangements for 1998 in Anaheim. He also planned several top-notch educational speakers. Brian, a big thank you goes your way. How about those Bull tics? John Meyer has come through with another super effort. Thanks, John, for all of your support with the Commercial Members Advisory Council. By the way, John, as of this writing, the “Pack” is not back!

No past president can talk about his tenure without mentioning his executive committee. Don Cross has been there to help guide me through this past year. For this, I appreciate all of his help. Bob Maibusch took it upon himself to do an outstanding job as secretary/treasurer. He can rest now for a year because we all know that the vice president does not do that much! Kevin Czerkies did plenty in 1997. One of the nice things about being on the Board of Directors is the fact that you not only take on a lot of new tasks but you also get the chance to make new friends. I consider Kevin a great new friend. No one needs to worry about the Midwest in 1998. It will be in fine hands. Thanks, Kev, for all you do!

I wish all of the members of the Midwest had a chance to work with George Minnis, our executive secretary. He has had a few setbacks this past year, but he has bounced back each time. George, along with his wife Karen, are that “main cog” in the big wheel of the MAGCS. My comment about not wanting any complaints this year rang true as far as George’s effort is

(continued on page 32)

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Past President's Message



*Don Cross, CGCS
Skokie C.C.*

It's been a long road since that Annual Meeting back eight years ago, but a short journey. Being elected to serve an association such as ours with

its professionalism, stature, and recognition has truly been an honor. It's been a real privilege to serve among a group of such accomplished members as we have in the MAGCS.

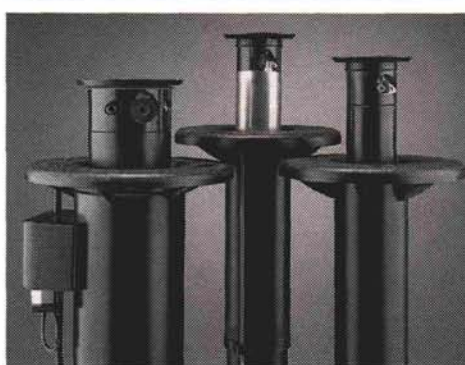
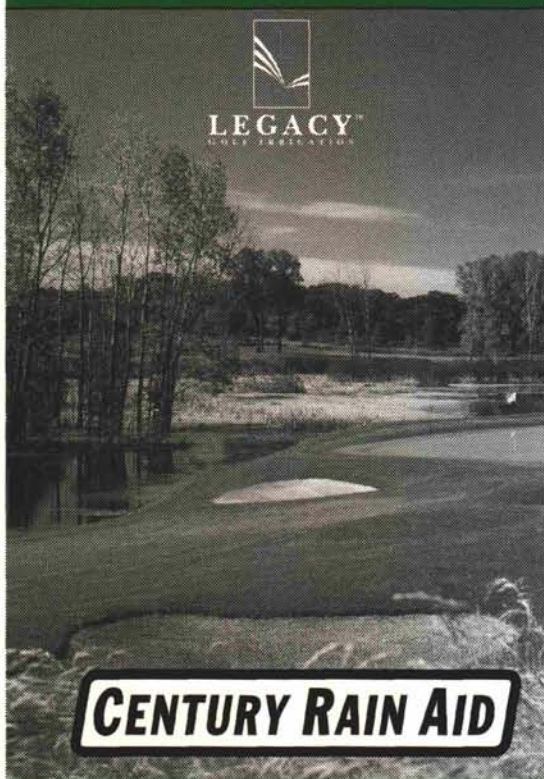
If you were to think about it for a minute, the achievements of many of your MAGCS members has indeed been impressive. From our ranks, we've had GCSAA presidents (and more to come), a USGA Distinguished Service Award recipient, Environmental Stewardship Award recipients, and certainly other awards of such national prestige that I've missed. We have a number of our members that serve on GCSAA committees, allied association committees, and other green industry

committees and boards. Our members' participation and involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program may be the largest of any single affiliated chapter. Our courses have been the venues of such national tournaments as the US Open, US Senior Open, the Western Open, US Amateur Championships, and more. And this list of accomplishments, achievements, and recognitions could go on and on.

Thinking about these things cannot help but make any member proud and privileged to belong to the group that ties us all together, the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

(continued on page 6)

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Past President's Message
(continued from page 4)

Over the last few years, we've seen a number of changes in our association that I believe have strengthened the MAGCS, and will continue to do so into the future. Sure, we've made some mistakes; it happens in all associations. But most would agree that the changes have been very positive.

Since joining the Board of Directors and acting on recommendations and planning of earlier boards (which continues today), the following list of improvements have been accomplished:

- Advanced registration (and now credit card option payment) to facilitate meeting planning and golf event scheduling.

- Varying golf events and improved quality and variety of merchandise.

- Quality educational topics with timely information, on occasion held at different times (before golf) to better accommodate members' schedules.

- Efforts to improve public relations, our presence and recognition (golf show, radio programs, articles).

- Dramatically enhanced monthly magazine *On Course* managed by our superb editor, Fred Opperman, and an informational publication about the MAGCS ("MAGCS Brochure").

- An improved commitment to funding of various research programs (GCSAA, U of I, Cantigny Research Green) made possible by

the voluntary Gold/Silver Contribution Program.

- Improved directory development and distribution, membership mailing notices, and database management made possible by the outstanding efforts of our executive secretary, George Minnis.

- A vastly improved hospitality room at the GCSAA Conference, made possible by the unwavering support of our commercial members.

Again, the list could go on.

We've come a long way, and the current Board of Directors is focused on continuing these advancements. There is always a lot of work to be done, and much goes on behind the

(continued on page 32)

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Tankmix options provide added flexibility

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This eliminates the need for another fungicide application to cover diseases such as dollar spot. Plus, it allows turf managers to use products they might already have on hand.

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During 1996, university trials with CHIPCO® ALIETTE® Signature™ were conducted in many areas of the country to study the products performance. Research showed that Signature™ tankmixes consistently out-performed ALIETTE®+Fore® not only for brown patch control, but also in terms of turf quality.

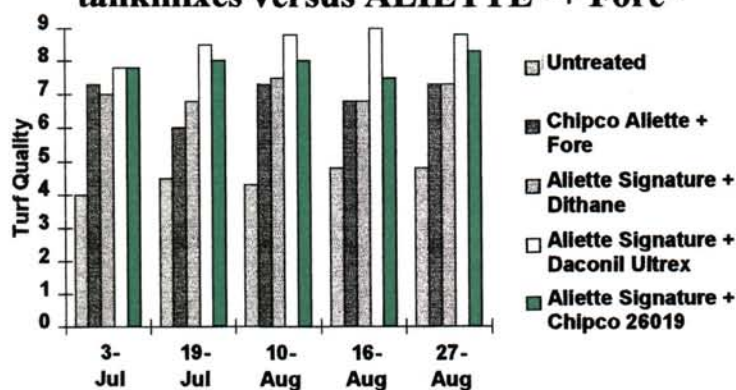
The unique patented formulation of CHIPCO® ALIETTE® Signature™ makes it the best product currently available for summer decline tankmixes. In Addition, many superintendents who used Signature™ in its introductory year found that it gave turf a more natural green color. Turf treated with Signature™ appeared to have a healthier color than turf treated with ALIETTE® + Fore®.

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The Rules of Golf and Your Golf Course Maintenance Staff

David Finney
Head Golf Course Superintendent
Lakeview Resort
Morgantown, West Virginia

Editor's Note: I first met Dave Finney in Anaheim at the editor's chapter publication seminar. At the time, Dave was the editor of Three Rivers Green. We had known of each other for quite some time since we are both from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He lived next door to close friends of our family. Every time I visited our friends, they spoke of their neighbor's son who was a superintendent in West Virginia. And, likewise, when Dave came back to visit his family, our friends spoke of me. Dave has since given up the editor's position and now officiates at many of the West Virginia Golf Association tournaments.

Are you ever concerned that the daily maintenance activities of your staff and crew might alter the outcome of a friendly match, or perhaps even affect the outcome of a tournament? What happens if one of your crew rakes a bunker that has a ball lying in it? What's the ruling if your fairway mower runs over and embeds a ball in play, or cuts up a ball in play? How do you respond to the golfers, and how do the golfers decide the outcome of a hole or the match if one of your crew has inadvertently interfered? Armed with the correct information on the Rules of Golf and how they are applied to everyday situations involving your maintenance crews and their equipment is something you need to know.

I've been a golf course superintendent for over ten years and a student of the Rules of Golf since 1992 when I began studying the rules in preparation for the GCSAA certification exam. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to attend several PGA/USGA four-day Rules Workshops and was successful in passing the

Armed with the correct information on the Rules of Golf and how they are applied to everyday situations involving your maintenance crews and their equipment is something you need to know.

PGA/USGA rules exam this past spring at the Bethesda Workshop. Although I am not on par with rules authorities such as Clyde Luther or Tom Meeks of the USGA, I have gathered some pertinent information on the rules of golf and how they affect golf course superintendents, our staffs and our daily maintenance operation.

The best piece of information I've ever come across is in the *Decisions on the Rules of Golf*

book. It is Decision 1-4/1 which basically states that "Distractions, are a common occurrence which players must accept." This is great; it is sort of a carte blanche for our maintenance operations. What it means is that the noise from a maintenance vehicle passing by a group of golfers, the engine noise from a mower, and even the noises associated with construction such as chain saws are no excuse for a bad shot. Of course, Decision 1-4/1 doesn't give us the right to throw the courtesy normally shown to golfers out the window, but it does say that the noise we make while working on the golf course cannot be used as an excuse for poor play, missed shots or lost matches.

For the most part, our maintenance crews and equipment are considered to be "Outside Agencies." An outside agency is anything that is not part of the match, or in stroke play, not part of the competitor's side. Whenever our crew members or equipment interfere with play of the ball, Rules 18-1 (Ball at Rest Moved by Outside Agency) and 19-1 (Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Outside Agency) will come into play.

Rule 18-1 simply says if a ball that is in play and at rest is moved by a mower, a utility vehicle or even a crew member (any outside agency), the ball is to be replaced before the player plays another stroke; and there is no penalty to the player.

Rule 19-1 gets a little trickier for the golfer and actually

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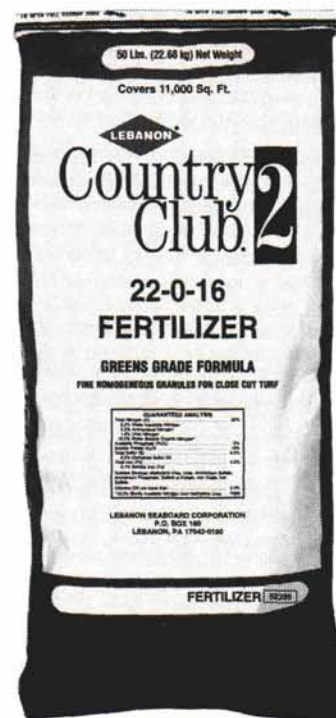
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The Rules of Golf

(continued from page 8)

introduces an element of luck into the game. Rule 19-1 says basically that there is no penalty if a ball in motion is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency, and the ball shall be played as it lies. This is referred to as "rub of the green." The term "rub of the green" can mean either good luck or bad luck for the golfer. For instance, if a ball in motion hits the mower while your operator is mowing fairways (in bounds) and is deflected out of bounds, then the ball is out of bounds. The golfer must proceed under Rule 27-1, take the stroke and distance penalty associated with the ball going out of bounds, and replay the shot from where the original ball was last played. On the other hand, if while mowing fairways your operator pulls over and is sitting out of bounds waiting for the players to go through, and a shot played from in bounds goes out of

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This is referred to as
"rub of the green."*

bounds, hits the mower and is deflected back in bounds, the ball is in bounds and playable.

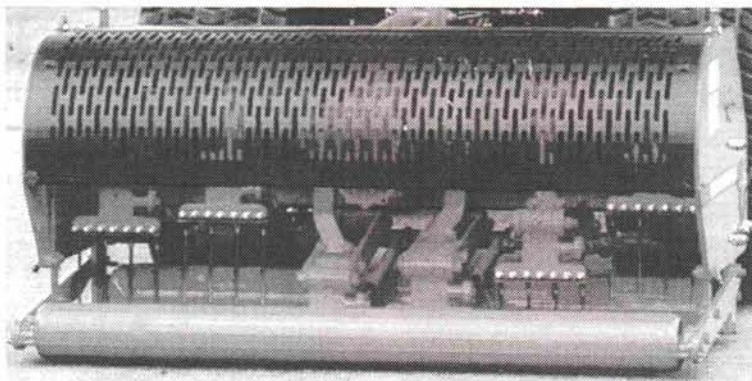
There are two unique exceptions to Rule 19-1, both dealing with a ball in motion landing in or on an outside agency. Rule 19-1(a) basically says that if a ball in motion after a stroke other than on the putting green comes to rest in or on a piece of maintenance equipment, the ball shall be dropped through the green (or placed on the putting green) as near as possible to the spot where the ball landed on the piece of equipment. Rule 19-1(b) says that if a ball in motion after a stroke on a putting green is deflected or stopped by, or comes to rest in or on a piece of maintenance equipment, the stroke shall be cancelled, the ball replaced and the stroke replayed. In either case, if the ball lands in or on a piece of

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