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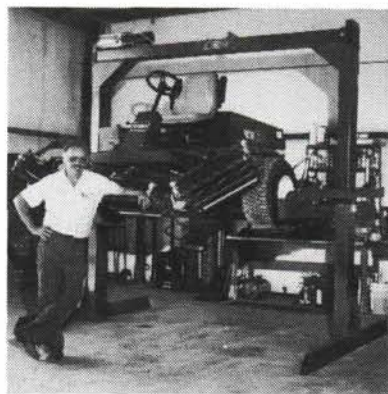
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The Naturalized Golf Course

(continued from page 20)

their Tye rangeland drill, tractor, and extensive manpower!

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So, in May of 1995, we proceeded with the naturalizing of Nettle Creek. Thus far, we have:

- Established about 25 acres of prairiegrasses utilizing a blend of Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Canadian wild rye, and a bit of wildflowers/forbs /prairie legumes, with a total of 10 lbs. seed/acre. These areas have been overseeded three times and were initially burned in spring of 1997. Mowing has happened, but I definitely prefer spring burning. We suffered some stunting back of both prairie and wildflower areas as a result of the mowing.

- Established about four acres of wildflower areas over the same two-year time period using a commercial blend of annuals and perennials. The flower areas were rototilled following the initial Roundup application, which created a great seedbed for the introduced seed and also for all of that

"lovely inherent weed seed" that we all learned about back in Agronomy 101!

- Used the naturalized areas for interesting framing of tees, appropriate boundary separation between fairways, and for nice

(continued on page 24)

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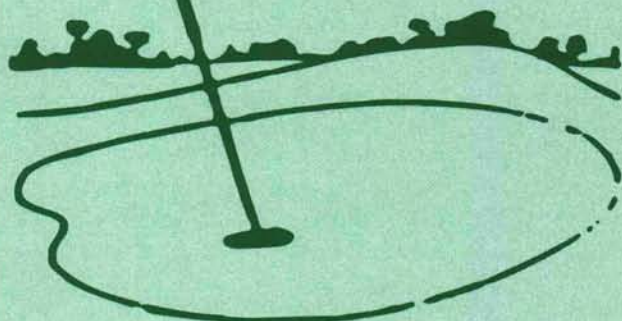
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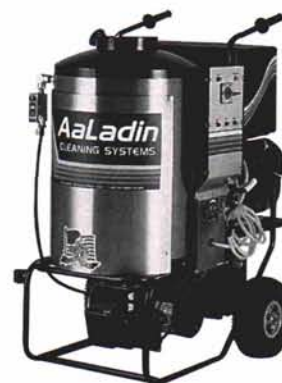
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The Naturalized Golf Course

(continued from page 22)

backdrops on greenside mounding.

- Utilized this same concept in establishing additional adjacent areas with "poor man's prairie," the simple outlining of bluegrass/ryegrass rough areas as "no-mow areas" permitting the turf-grasses to grow long, seed out, and add to the natural beauty.

- Gained a much heightened appreciation for alternative landscapes, including the presence of "weeds" such as red clover, milkweed, leafy spurge, numerous weedy grasses, and many others. About the only plants I really dislike are the lambsquarters, giant ragweeds, and other aggressive species that only serve to remind me that we never should have worked up the soil prior to seeding any of these areas.

- Realized that for our open golf course, nothing looks nicer than the contrast between the manicured and mowed golf course proper and the taller, more natural wildflower/prairiegrass areas.

In addition to the beauty, these areas all nicely fulfill our objectives of providing direction and definition for the public golfer who may otherwise be somewhat unfamiliar with the layout.

Since our program began, we have greatly changed the appearance, playability, and maintainability of our golf course. These natural areas have been instrumental in helping our golf course gain somewhat of a positive identity. Much has been accomplished in three growing seasons.

By no means, however, are these areas to be considered

"established prairie." We are totally hoping that these areas fully develop in the minimum three, but more likely five, years necessary for establishment. We have very limited labor resources for maintenance of these areas for such problems as weed infestation. Possibly, we are letting nature take its own course a bit too much!

Overall, though, we are very pleased with the progress to date. I cannot imagine this golf course without these natural areas.

They will hopefully still be here — fully developed prairies providing a home to many different species of plants and animals long after we are all dead and gone. ■



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Ray Gerber Editorial Award

Guidelines

1. Articles eligible for the award must be written by a member of the MAGCS who is currently a Golf Course Superintendent. All articles published in *On Course* meeting this requirement will be considered; however, the On Course With the President, Director's Column and the Super-N-Site articles will not be eligible.
2. Eligible articles include those published in the September through August editions of *On Course*.
3. Judging of the articles will be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Article provides useful technical data or information.
 - b. The article is clear and easy to read.
 - c. Illustrations, tables, photographs, charts, etc., help to explain or support the text and add to the article's value.
 - d. The article is timely (information is current and is presented at the appropriate time of the season).
 - e. The article is useful to the superintendent in the performance of his duties and responsibilities.
4. Articles originally published elsewhere and then published in *On Course* will not be considered for the award.
5. There must be at least six articles in a qualifying year (September through August) to be considered. If less than six articles qualify in any one year, those qualifying will be carried over to the next year(s) until there are six articles to be judged.
6. A panel of five judges will select the winning entry. The panel will consist of the MAGCS President, the CDGA pathologist, a staff member from the University of Illinois, a retired superintendent and the Editor.

Editors note: See this year's award contestants on page 28.

Director's Column

(continued from page 4)

member who thinks he knows as much about turf maintenance and equipment as we do.

In the public sector, we are often compared to the conditions of private clubs. My park district officials sometime get the opportunity to play private country clubs. They often wonder why our golf course is not maintained to such conditions as the Knollwood, Skokie, or Ivanhoe type of courses are. Simply put, the public golf courses have to be maintained to handle 50,000 rounds in a year. This means having your greens stimp at 7 to 8 feet, instead of 10 feet plus. When the golfers are pushed off the first tee every eight

to nine minutes from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, it is very difficult to get tasks done. At Sportsman's, we do the majority of our pesticide applications at night. I don't feel comfortable doing it at night because of not being able to see if I have a clogged nozzle or if the sprayer has a problem; but with the amount of play that we receive, we are left with little choice of when to spray. Another maintenance practice that is hard to get accomplished with so many golfers is topdressing greens. Kiln dried sand has helped with that challenge.

Superintendents at every golf course, be it public or private, are faced with challenges in the field of greenkeeping. It is imperative

that you stay attuned to what's happening out there. That doesn't mean just going to educational seminars in the winter. You have to get out to other golf courses during the season. After all, you are being compared to the other clubs, so take advantage of opportunities to play and visit other clubs. You may just pick up an idea or two on how to solve some of the challenges that you are faced with. ■

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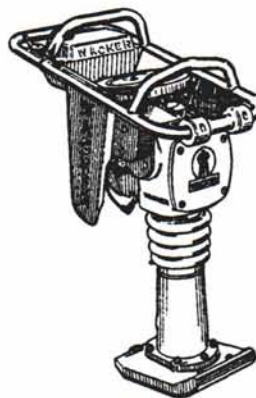


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Ray Gerber Editorial Award Contestants 1996-1997

Fred Opperman
Editor

The Ray Gerber Editorial Award was not presented in 1995/1996 since only four superintendents wrote articles.

Article 5 of the Guidelines for the award state:

There must be at least six articles in a qualifying year (September through August) to be considered. If less than six articles qualify in any one year, those qualifying will be carried over to the next year(s) until there are six articles to be judged.

This past year, the Editorial Committee made a slight change on who qualifies. Starting this year, we will now accept assigned articles. Not to be included are the On Course With the President, the Director's Column and the Super-N-Site articles.

All of the articles (to the right) will be judged by a panel of five judges, and only one will be picked as the winner for this time period. ■

THOSE QUALIFYING FOR THE AWARD IN 1995/1996 ARE:

MONTH/YEAR	ARTICLE	AUTHOR
1995		
September	None	
October	I Quit Wearing My Boots Today	Tony Rzadzki
November	None	
December	Let's Rock	Bob Maibusch
1996		
January	On the Cutting Edge With Bob Williams	Dave Blomquist
February	A Fireside Chat With Bruce Williams	John Gurke /Dave Blomquist
	A Summer to Remember	Ray Schmitz
March	Boo! Nite Lite	Gary Hearn
	Free Labor	Fred Behnke
April	Turfgrass Tissue Analysis	Brian Bossert
	Why 18 Holes	John Mac Leod
May	Recovering From "The Summer of '95"	Dave Blomquist
June	Golf Course Architecture	John Mac Leod
July	Effective Time Management Strategies	Bruce Williams
August	Hiring an Irrigation Consultant	Gary Hearn

THOSE QUALIFYING FOR THE AWARD IN 1996/1997 ARE:

MONTH/YEAR	ARTICLE	AUTHOR
1996		
September	None	
October	None	
November	None	
December	IPM Leading to Holistic Plant Health Care	Dan Dinelli
1997		
January	Holistic Plant Health Care - Part 2	Dan Dinelli
	Stepping to Spikeless Public Golf	Luke Cella
	No Time Like the Present	Don Ferreri
February	Tribute to Trevarthan	Dudley Smith
March	Chronology of Olympia Fields C.C.:	
	A Work in Progress	Dave Ward
April	Putting It All in Perspective	Brian Bossert
	I Feel Fortunate	Glen Bereiter
	A Real Success Story:	
	The Sunset Ridge Plan	Carl Hopphan
	How to Get on the Internet	Nick Hongisto
May	A Century of Greenkeeping at Glen View	Jeff Leuzinger
	How to Get on the Internet, Part 2	Nick Hongisto
	Computer Stuff	Dan Dinelli
	Goose Control	Kerry Blatteau
	Making of a Chemical Storage Building	Dale Morrison
June	An Unexpected Gift	Glen Bereiter
	Membership Has Its Price	Tod Hopphan
July	Heat Stress	Luke Cella
	A UST Undertaking	Ed Fischer
	Ozone Action Days in	
	Golf Course Management	Robert McCallum
August	Keep Them Greens a Rolling, Rolling, Rolling	Gary Hearn

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the Bull Sheet

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 22 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Ruffled Feathers G.C.

September 29 — ITF Northern Golf Day at Glen View Club.

October 6 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Eagle Brook G.C.

November 4-6 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference, State College, PA. For information, call 814-863-1017.

Congratulations to Julius Albaugh and Kerry Blatteau on their recent renewal of being certified. All CGCS have to renew their certification every 5 years to stay current. They do this by attending the various seminars and education sessions put on by the GCSAA where they earn CEU's.

For sale: Ford 60" rotary mower, PTO, model 980, excellent condition, \$450. Call 815-485-0538 after 7 p.m.

If you have not already returned your Environmental Survey, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a new one, call Don Ferreri at 630-852-1746. We would like a large number of responses for our public relations needs.

Congratulations to Cheryl and Mike Neuroth, superintendent at Buffalo Grove G.C., on the birth of their first child, Bradley Michael, who was born on July 14.

Did you know that one of your Board of Directors is a dedicated runner? Brian Bossert has joined "Team in Training" and is committed to train for and complete a 26.2 mile marathon in Dublin, Ireland, on October 27! "Team in Training" is associated with the Leukemia Society of America. Brian will be running in honor of a local leukemia patient, 5-year-old Bobby Haines of suburban Villa Park. Brian has committed to raising \$10,000 by asking for donations to the Leukemia Society of America. All donations are tax deductible. Give Brian a call at 847-677-4112 for more details.

North Shore C.C., with superintendent Dan Dinelli, CGCS, has been selected as one of the sites for the national cultivar trials. This research project is being supported by the GCSAA Foundation, the USGA and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Plus, I must add that North Shore C.C. is a large supporter both in money and space for this green. Feltes Sand and Gravel Company is supplying the sand for this research project.

The green will be 8,400 square feet, of which the USGA will have 3,000 square feet to test their varieties of 20 bents. The rest of the green will be used for testing various root zone amendments, blends of bents, etc.

One never knows what one will find on the golf course on any given day. Jeff Smith of Spring Brook G.C. in Naperville, Illinois (I just want to emphasize

Illinois), found an alligator in one of his ponds in July. They had quite a time catching it.

Format guidelines for articles submitted for publication in *On Course*:

- Articles are required by the first of the month.
- Double-spaced.
- Font size 12 preferable.
- If faxing copy, please use fine resolution, if possible, since it will be refaxed to the graphic artist.
- If submitting by disk (in a PC, not a Mac format), send it to Fred for proofing.
- Please do not submit a second "revised" copy.
- Take into account the release date of the monthly issue. If an event will have already occurred when the issue is mailed, write in past tense.
- Identify on the back of all photos what is pictured. Use a permanent marker or a felt-tip marker, not a ball-point pen, to mark the pictures. Be sure the ink is dry before stacking photos.

The GCSAA has announced the 1997 Legacy Award winners. James C. Matchen, son of Sue and Mike Matchen of Wilmette G.C., has been chosen as one of ten for this award. The program awards \$1,500 scholarship to each student. It is administered by the GCSAA Foundation in partnership with Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products. The winners are selected by an independent panel of judges on the basis of academic excellence, extracurricular activities and an essay describing their parents' or grandparents' involvement with the golf course management profession. James is majoring in psychology at Illinois State University.

(continued on page 32)