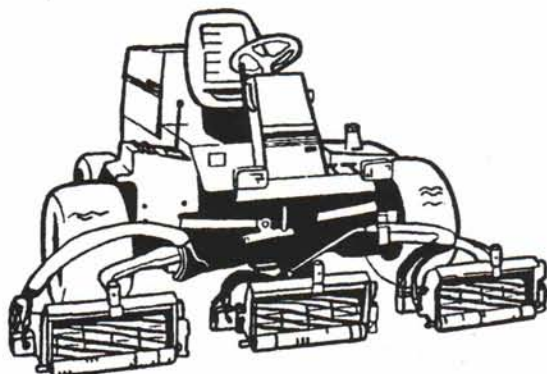


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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

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.



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
Sportsman's C.C.

I would like to start off by giving my wife a huge thank you for writing last month's president's message. I hope you all enjoyed her article. Many hours of thought, time, and effort went into putting her article together. It's nice to hear what our spouses are thinking. Don't expect my messages to be as long as hers though. She had one month to say what she wanted to say. I've got the other eleven. I offered her another month, but for the sake of our marriage, she kindly refused. She got mad when I got out the red pen after each draft.

I would also like to wish Wally Fuchs a long and happy retirement. If anyone deserves it, it's Wally. After many years of building Turf Products into a successful business, Wally sold the company. Turf Products was one of the biggest supporters of MAGCS events, from sponsoring monthly meetings and hospitality rooms to advertising in this magazine.

Back in June, Brad Anderson, superintendent at Midlane Country Club, put together a retirement party for Wally. It was a fun evening with many of Wally's closest friends roasting the hon-

oree. The highlight of the event came when Wally was presented with a painting of the 18th hole at Glen View Club. The magnificent painting was done by Peter Leuzinger. Thanks, Peter!

Every year, GCSAA chapters are asked if they know of someone deserving of their Distinguished Service Award. In the years since I've been on this board, we have never nominated anyone. Until now, that is. I am proud to say that the MAGCS board has decided to submit the name of Paul Voykin, superintendent, Briarwood Country Club, for that honor. If chosen by GCSAA, Paul would receive the award at the 1999 conference in Orlando next February.

While compiling information for his nomination, I took a couple of hours and visited Paul at his club. I learned more about Paul in that short amount of time than I've ever known about him. Paul has been at Briarwood for 38 years and has no plans of retiring. He has written two books that have sold over 50,000 copies. He has also written six articles for *Golf Digest*. But what makes Paul unique is that he was the first superintendent to plant wildflowers and ornamental grasses on a golf course. He gave a speech about his plantings at one of the conferences many years ago, and everyone thought he was nuts for incorporating such plants into the golf landscape. Well, now look; everyone is doing it.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to someone who has been around awhile and has done something to promote the profession of the superintendent. I believe that Paul is worthy of this honor and wish him luck during the GCSAA selection process. If you ever get a chance, ask Paul

to show off his golf course and numerous wildflower beds. You'll be in for a treat.

In addition to Paul, there are many MAGCS members that should someday be nominated for this award. I encourage the future MAGCS Board of Directors to get into the practice of submitting someone's name every year. We have a lot of great leaders in this association, so let's start showing our colors on a national level.

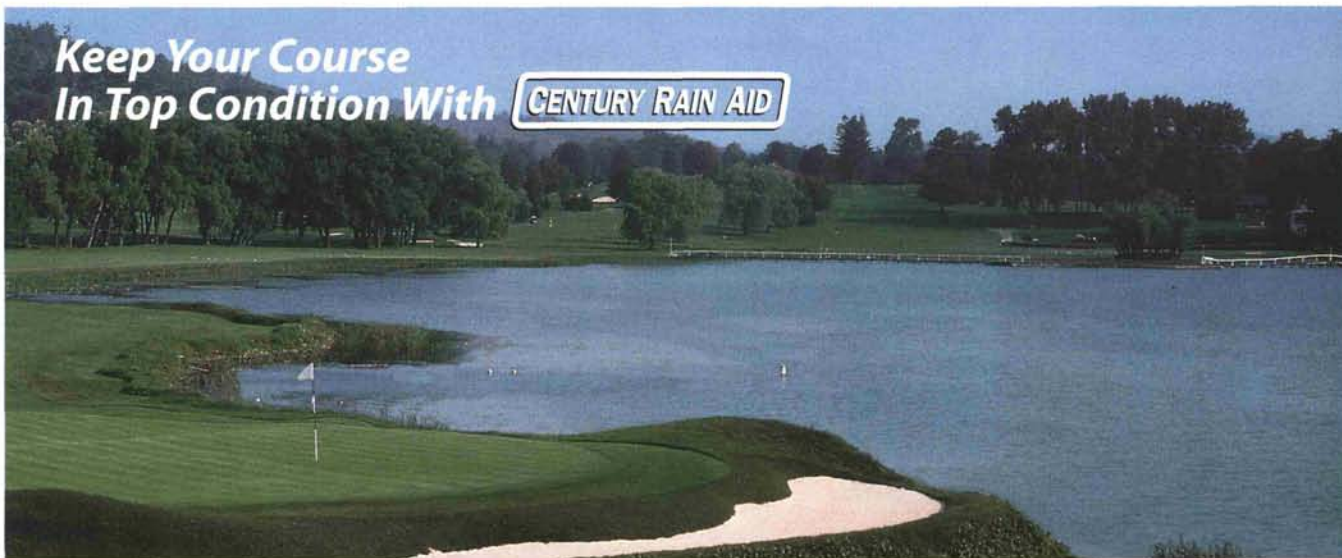
It seems like the season is just getting under way, but this month, GCSAA is mailing out the Early Bird registration packet for the conference in Orlando. I encourage you to make your plans early for this one. Orlando is the most popular of all the conference sites and will, no doubt, set new attendance records next year.

Now that we are in the home stretch of summer, I hope many of you are not suffering from personal burnout. As the season winds down in the next couple of months, plan now to treat your staff to a well-deserved luncheon and/or golf outing. We are only as good as our employees. So don't forget to do something special for them before they leave at the end of the season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Czerkies".

Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
President, MAGCS

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*Kevin DeRoo
Bartlett Hills G.C.*

As you all know, this is my first year serving on the MAGCS Board of Directors. It seems just like yesterday when I was approached to run for a one-year term on the board. After much thought, I am happy to say I volunteered to run and was selected by my peers, an honor I hope to never relinquish.

Being the proverbial "rookie" on this year's board, I have to say I still have a lot to learn. The amount of behind-the-scenes work that the MAGCS board is involved in can be a bit overwhelming at times—all for the betterment of our association and for you the membership. By now, you are all quite aware that I have been "volunteered" to be chairman of the Education Committee, a challenge I graciously accepted (what choice did I have?) What you all may not be aware of are the members who have volunteered their time as well and are assisting me with my committee. These individuals are Dan Albaugh, Dan Anderson, Tim Anderson, Darin Ayers, Brian Bossert, Gary Hearn, Nick Hongisto, Dr. Randy Kane, Tim Keating, Mike Mumper, and Joel Purpur. Without these people dedicating their time and energy, I would be, and I think our association also would be, lost. If I can take one thing away from my brief

tenure experience so far, I would have to say involvement is the key to a successful venture . . . in anything.

The challenge for my committee, of course, is to continue to provide quality education for our membership. It is to our advantage that our profession needs us to be knowledgeable in such a wide variety of different areas, everything from the ever-popular environmental issues to irrigation pump maintainance. The variety of subject matter that today's superintendent has to at least familiarize himself with is a bit mind-boggling, to say the least. It is the job of the Education Committee to, hopefully, provide you with at least some of this information. Staying current and up to date can be challenging as well. Speakers for our monthly meetings are booked sometimes one

year in advance. Forecasting the future is something only weathermen can do, and they are only correct half of the time, that is, if they are good. So, if a particular subject matter or topic seems a little outdated or you think we should be covering something else, please take this under consideration. And please, by all means, if there is a subject you think MAGCS should cover, let me or a member of my committee or a board director know. We will do everything in our power to provide it. After all, we are here to serve you the membership.

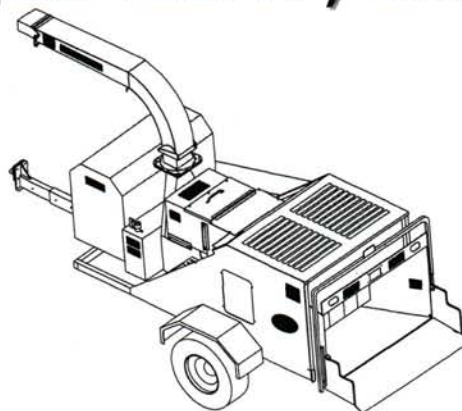
The only favor the Education Committee would ask of our membership is to please give each and everyone of our guest speakers your undivided attention while they are sharing their information with you. Believe me, it is not

(continued on page 32)

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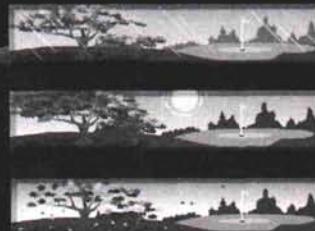
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Gypsy moth feeding damage.



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Adult female gypsy moth.

Recognizing and Living With the Gypsy Moth

*Fredric Miller, Ph.D.
Regional Specialist in Entomology
Countryside Extension Center
Countryside, IL*

When you think about all the possible insect pests that affect our shade trees, the gypsy moth is probably one of the most destructive. Feeding by gypsy moth larvae results in complete defoliation of preferred tree species; and when populations are high, the sheer number of caterpillars are a major nuisance and even pose potential public health problems. The hairs that cover the caterpillar's body can cause skin, eye, and respiratory problems for people, and the heavy "rain" of fecal pellets make outdoor events less desirable. In spite of the extensive defoliation experienced in the northeastern United States, so far Illinois has been spared the ravages of the gypsy moth. Thanks to the extensive and dedicated efforts of the Illinois Department of Agriculture

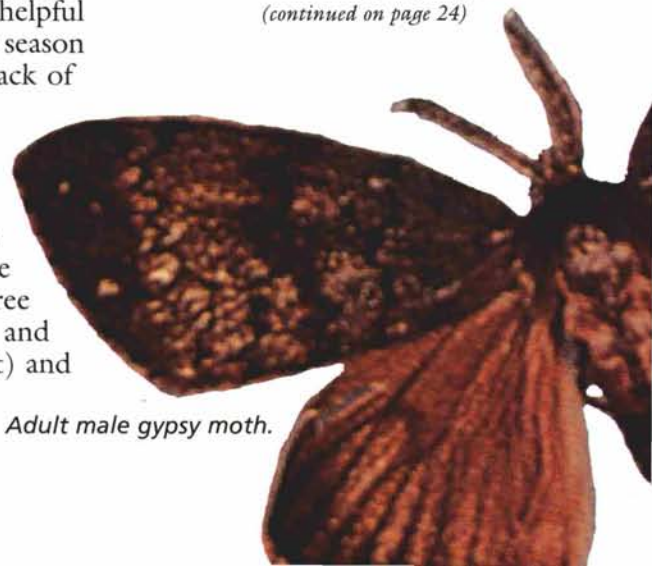
(IDA), USDA APHIS, and the USDA Forest Service (USDAFS), the gypsy moth has been kept under control. However, the next five to ten years will tell the real story. With surrounding states heavily infested, it will be very difficult to keep the gypsy moth out of Illinois.

Understandably, people confuse the eastern tent caterpillar, fall webworm, cankerworm, and other leaf-eating caterpillars. How does an arborist or golf course manager really know if they have the beginnings of a gypsy moth infestation? Some helpful tips include the time of the season when feeding occurs, the lack of a web or nest, and the type of feeding damage. Gypsy moths overwinter as eggs that hatch in the spring, usually mid-May in northern Illinois. The young caterpillars feed on tree foliage throughout May and early June (usually at night) and

spend the daylight hours clustered together on the trunks and branches of trees. In late June, the fully grown larvae migrate to protected areas to pupate.

In early July, adult moths emerge and mate. The male moth is attracted to a strong sex pheromone emitted by the female moth. After mating, the female moth lays her egg mass under loose bark, in woodpiles, on outdoor furniture, or in any other concealed location. The eggs overwinter and do not hatch until the following spring.

(continued on page 24)



Adult male gypsy moth.



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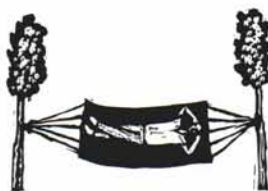
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Brad Helms -N- Palatine Hills Golf Club

Pat Norton
Nettle Creek G.C.

For Brad Helms, it was an early, an easy, and an almost classical choice. There is something about this business, this golf course management business, that really gets deeply into the blood.

For Brad, it all began sixteen years ago when his father introduced him to Frank Krueger at Palatine Hills. Krueger hired the sixteen-year-old on for summer help. Like so many of us, the hook was set very deeply into this young man. "After one summer," as Brad says, "I knew that the golf course industry was my bag."

Since those early days, the overriding constant in Brad's life has been Palatine Hills. He continued working there after high school while earning his degree at William Rainey Harper College. He continued on at Palatine Hills until Frank Krueger's retirement in 1991, when he was named to the position of golf course superintendent.

Since 1991, Brad has been a very busy man at Palatine Hills. He has been involved in numerous capital improvement projects over the years, which when viewed as a list look pretty darn impressive—and labor intensive too! Here they are:

- 1991 Rebuilt green surrounds and bunkers on five holes. Constructed a 21-stall driving range.
- 1992 Toro LTC double-row system installed. Installation



of steel piling along 16th green/17th and 18th pond.

- 1993 Parking lot paving project.
- 1994 Supervised "in house" installation of over one mile of drain tile (sounds like tons of fun, doesn't it?).
- 1997 Supervised construction of 1.5 miles of paved cart paths.
- 1998 Currently working on construction of pond on No. 7, which will be their signature hole. About 960 feet of steel piling was installed this past winter on this project. (Actually,

(continued on page 22)

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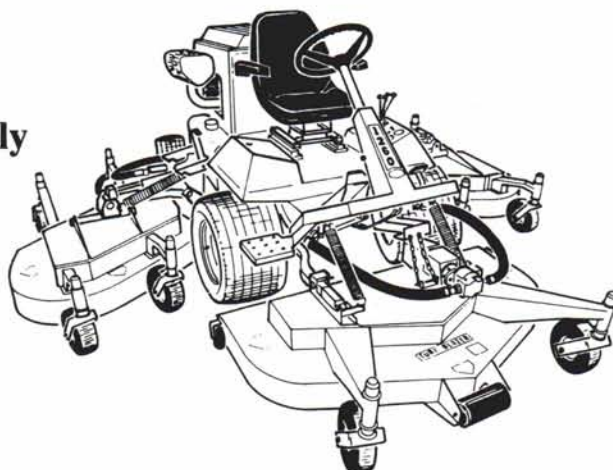
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Results of 1997 Field Studies, Part 1:

Bent Variety Trial and PGRs for Greenspeed

Randy Kane
GDGA Turfgrass Advisor

Now that another so-called "winter" has passed, let's take a look back at the '97 season. More specifically, I want to review some results and observations from my field studies of last year. Major projects from '97 that I will report on in this and later articles include: 1) the green-height bentgrass trial at Cantigny Golf, 2) PGRs and their purported effects on greenspeeds, 3) wetting agents for reduction of localized dry spots, and 4) suppression of take-all patch with fungicides. This article will focus on the variety trial and the PGR study.

Bentgrass Variety Trial

To review, the bent variety trial consists of 20 "entries" grown on 4-by 6-foot plots replicated three times on approximately 2,000 square feet of the experimental green at Cantigny. Varieties in the test include Pennlinks, Providence, four of the Penn A & G series and Lofts L-93. Pennncross is not in the trial, but a large block of Pennncross is on the green adjacent to the variety trial. The green receives the same care and management as that of other greens on the course, only there is no traffic from golfers. Fertility levels on the green in '97 were moderate, consisting of about 4 lbs. N for the season from slow release organic sources (e.g., Nature Safe 8-3-5, Scotts 18-9-18) or from spoon-feeding with solubles. The

green was mowed daily with walkers at .140 to .150 inches. The green was aerified and top-dressed June 9 and received three additional sand topdressings through the season. The green usually

Varieties in the test include Pennlinks, Providence, four of the Penn A & G series and Lofts L-93. Pennncross is not in the trial, but a large block of Pennncross is on the green adjacent to the variety trial.

stimps at between 8 and 9 feet, but more about that later.

Spring Ratings

Spring of '97 got off to an early start, then settled in cloudy and cool for most of May. The newer bent varieties green up pretty well in early spring but can be set back by late spring frosts and cool, cloudy days. Spring of '96 wasn't much better than '97 temperature-wise, so I have two years of data for spring color and turf quality that are worth a look (Table 1). The April ratings are

for spring green-up only (not including texture and density), while the early June ratings are for color, texture, and density. The June ratings give an indication of how the varieties reacted to the late cold periods of May '96 and May '97.

The April and June ratings are combined in Table 1 to give an overall "early season ranking," or ESR, for each variety. You will note that most of the varieties in the top ten for ESR are also top ranked for the entire season (Table 2). You will also see some variability in ratings from one year to the next, especially in the April color ratings. April of '97 ratings are, in general, much lower, probably because of the crappy weather. Varieties that seem to handle Chicago winters and spring weather pretty well include the Penn series, L-93, Century and Imperial. Although Pennncross is not in the variety trial, it is apparent that most of the 20 newer varieties tested here have much better spring color than Pennncross.

Summer Ratings

Perhaps of more interest are the summer ratings, taken once plant growth (and the weather) are out of the spring doldrums. In Table 2, the varieties are ranked according to their performance over the three summer ratings of late June, mid-August, and early September of '97. The new Penn State releases and L-93 from Lofts head the rankings, as they did last

(continued on page 12)