



Irrigation by Rain Bird®

From the beginning, Rain Bird® golf irrigation has been focused first on the needs of the golf industry and then on developing products that meet these needs. Perhaps that's why you'll see Rain Bird products in use on world-class tournament courses, local country-club courses and municipal courses across the country and throughout the world.



The Rain Bird commitment to product innovation, after-sales service and the wise management of nature's resources allows us to better meet the irrigation needs of the golf world.

Call your Rain Bird distributor to find out why so many golf courses choose irrigation by Rain Bird.

RAIN BIRD
GOLF IRRIGATION



(800) 373-4120

3105 N. MAIN
EAST PEORIA, IL 61611
PHONE: (309) 699-4120
FAX: (309) 694-1009

1600 SHORE RD., UNIT A
NAPERVILLE, IL 60563
PHONE: (630) 637-9029
FAX: (630) 637-9409

27225 150TH AVE.
LONG GROVE, IA 52756
PHONE: (319) 285-5808
FAX: (319) 285-5809



1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Kevin Czerkies (Peggy)

Sportsman's C.C.

Home: 847-949-7074, Office: 847-291-2352

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Maibusch (Cheryl)

Hinsdale G.C.

Home: 630-789-1651, Office: 630-986-1323

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Donald Ferreri (Geri)

Seven Bridges G.C.

Home: 630-357-7964, Office: 630-852-1746

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

George Minnis

MAGCS P.O. Box 760

Batavia, IL 60510

Office: 630-406-5356, Fax: 630-406-5456

BOARD

Fred Behnke (Nancy)

Mount Prospect G.C.

Home: 773-774-1486, Office: 847-632-9331

Brian Bossert

Bryn Mawr C.C.

Home: 312-274-4724, Office: 847-677-4112

Kevin DeRoo (Cheryl)

Bartlett Hills G.C.

Home: 847-697-0595, Office: 630-483-4991

Jim McNair

Orchard Valley G.C.

Home: 630-892-8389, Office: 630-907-8998

Luke Strojny (Debbie)

Poplar Creek G.C.

Home: 630-830-7370, Office: 847-310-3618

Greg Thalmann (Trudi)

Fox Run Golf Links

Home: 847-394-5410, Office: 847-228-3541

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Ed Braunsky (Sue)

Geneva G.C.

Home: 630-879-8536, Office: 630-232-0627

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

John Meyer (Jules)

Cannon Turf Supply Inc.

Home: 630-898-8922, Office: 630-898-8922

PHOTOGRAPHY

Raymond Schmitz

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Randy T. Kane

University of Illinois & CDGA

630-954-2753

EDITOR: **Fred D. Opperman**

810 Greenwood Avenue

Carpentersville, IL 60110

Phone & Fax 847-428-5009 or email: magcsc@aol.com

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.

This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

FEATURES

Front Cover

Front cover: The MAGCS 1998 Board of Directors, seated L to R: Greg Thalmann; Luke Strojny; Ed Braunsky; Bob Maibusch, Vice President; Kevin Czerkies, President; Don Ferreri, Secretary/Treasurer; George Minnis, Executive Secretary; Brian Bossert; and Fred Opperman, Editor, *On Course*. Standing L to R: Kevin DeRoo; John Meyer, Commercial Advisor; Jim McNair; and Fred Behnke.

2 On Course With the President

Kevin Czerkies

4 Director's Column

Greg Thalmann

FEATURE ARTICLE

6 History of the Midwest Clinic

John Ebel

ASK THE EXPERT

12 The Influence of Plant Growth Regulators on Golf Course Turf

Frank Rossi

18 The Sky Has Fallen (And That's a Good Thing)

John Gurke

22 the Bull Sheet

Fred Opperman

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.



*Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
Sportsman's C.C.*

The 1998 MAGCS Board of Directors have all been assigned their committees for the upcoming year. Last year, the committee chairmen kept their committees from the previous year, so now there is a big changeover. Although each and every committee has a new chairman, I don't expect any problems during the change. If you've ever considered serving on a committee, now is the time to get involved. The following committees need volunteers. Contact the respective chairman if you're interested.

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN
Arrangements	Luke Strojny
Golf	Brian Bossert
Education	Kevin DeRoo
Membership	Greg Thalmann
Public Relations	Jim McNair
Editorial	Fred Behnke
Commercial	John Meyer

Coming back again for one last year to chair the Commercial Members Advisory Council is John Meyer. John has done a terrific job with this committee; however, he has indicated that he would like to step down in November. Maybe John will change his mind. Also, coming in from the pasture to head up the

Past Presidents' Council is Joel Purpur. Thanks, Joel, I know you were just starting to enjoy life after the MAGCS.

George and Karen Minnis attended a computer software training session at GCSAA Headquarters last November. In addition to upgrading the software that we now use for our database, GCSAA has arranged for a company, Knowledge Systems, to act as a Web site provider for local chapters. George has already made preliminary contact with Knowledge Systems. Watch for the MAGCS to become part of the Web in upcoming months.

Now that we've all taken some time off work and are starting that New Year's Resolution Diet, it's time to continue with our educational season. The MAGCS is cohosting a GCSAA seminar January 8 and 9 at Oak Brook Hills entitled "History of Modern Greens." It is one of the more popular seminars from GCSAA. Also, January 12 is our monthly meeting at Arrowhead. I hope to see you there.

Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
President, MAGCS

From tee to tee . . .

Nothing Greens a Course Like Sod.



Look who's been using Central Sod to improve their courses . . .

Ruffled Feathers	Blackberry Oaks	Fox Bend
Cog Hill	Naperbrook GC	Seven Bridges
Wynstone	Cantigny	Carillon GC
Stonebridge	Naperville CC	Highland Park
White Eagle	Illinois Center	Sunset Valley
Tamarack	Broken Arrow	Lake Point GC
Riverside Golf	Mill Creek	Downers Grove
Heritage Bluffs	Hidden Valley	Meadow Lake
Orchard Valley	Oak Brook GC	Waveland GC
Skokie CC	Rockford CC	Harborside Links

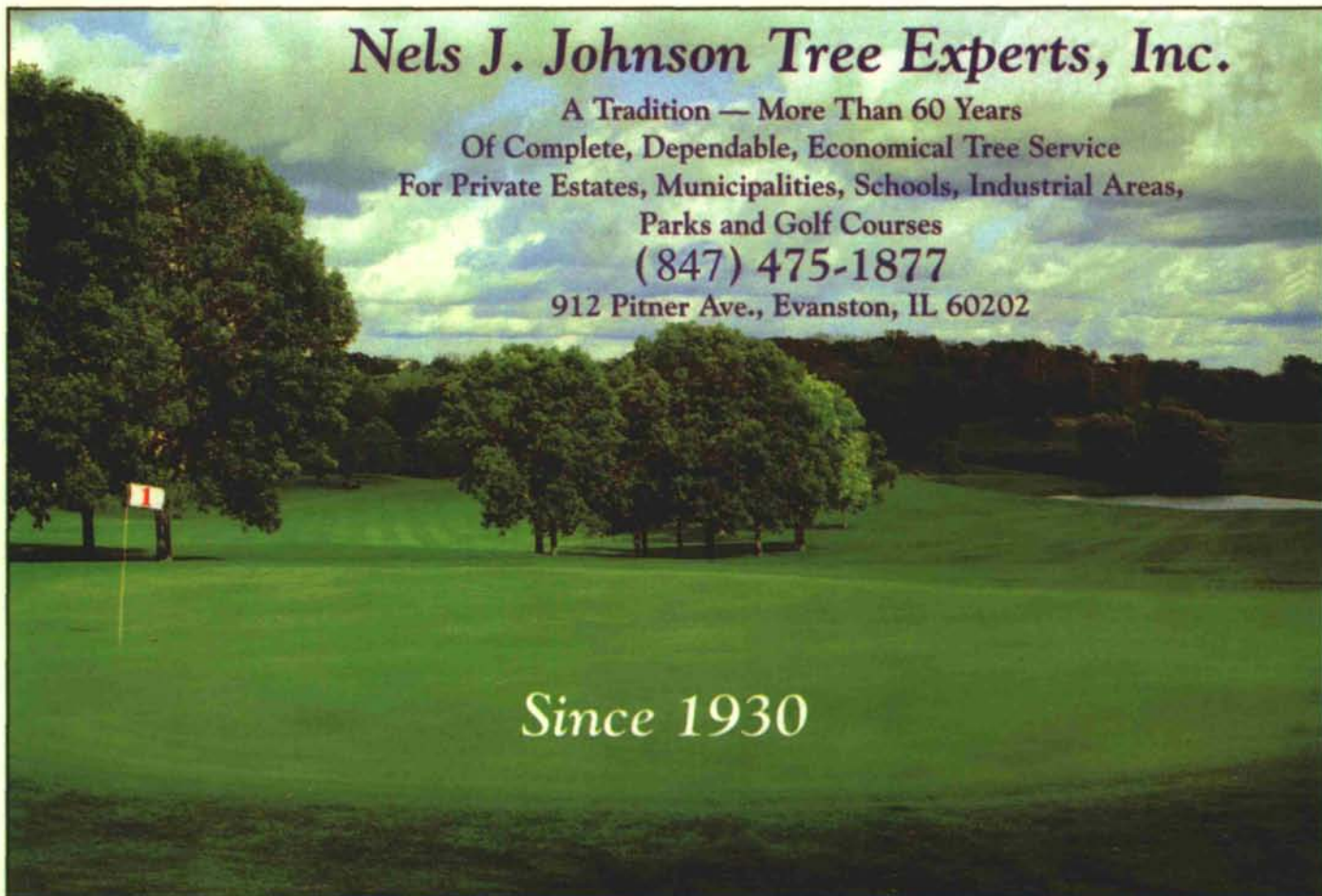
See the impact Central Sod can have on your course.

Complete consultation, delivery & installation available.

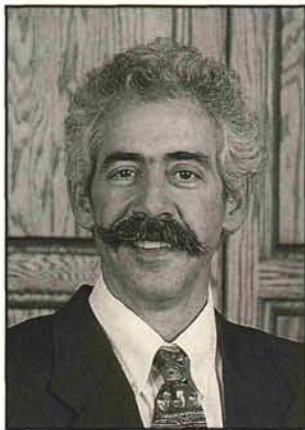
CENTRAL
SOD FARMS, INC.
1-800-310-0402

Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.

A Tradition — More Than 60 Years
Of Complete, Dependable, Economical Tree Service
For Private Estates, Municipalities, Schools, Industrial Areas,
Parks and Golf Courses
(847) 475-1877
912 Pitner Ave., Evanston, IL 60202



Since 1930



*Greg Thalmann
Fox Run Golf Links*

Well, here I go onto a different committee: Membership. After two years of being on the Arrangements Committee, I finally figured out what to do, and I had a system worked out to get the information out in a timely manner. Now I will pass all the knowledge, files, sponsorship sign and MAGCS banner to Luke Strojny, the new arrangements chairperson. The meeting with Luke will probably last about a minute and a half. After unloading the stuff into his office, I will pat him on the back, wish him good luck and say, "See you later; I'm out of here!"

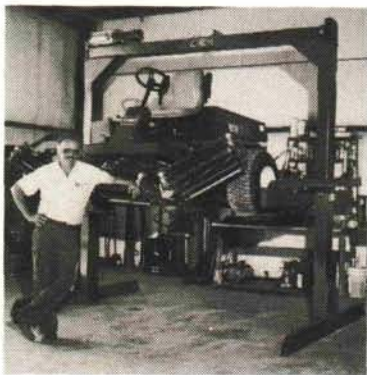
I really enjoyed making the arrangements and talking to the different people at the clubs to set up the day's events. Everyone was very helpful with the meeting schedules and with any problems that came up. It is nice to know

that the staff members at the clubs will go out of their way to help the superintendent put on a good showing for the Midwest meeting.

I also enjoyed talking to and meeting the different commercial members that sponsored the events in the past two years. Without their sponsorship, the cost of the meeting would be at least \$20 to \$30 dollars more per meeting. The next time your favorite commercial member drops by, you might want to take him out to lunch to show him your appreciation.

I am looking forward to being the membership chairperson and working with the old members and welcoming the new members to the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. ■

"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**



**You can get the job done if you...
Apply the right pressure.**

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

We'd like to say we buried the competition.
But that would mean putting an extremely
inferior fertilizer in the ground.



Only par ex with IBDU® has the highest WIN percentage.

We have more than Lebanon* and more than Scotts*. Because the
higher the Water Insoluble Nitrogen content, the longer your turf
will remain green and the less chance there is for burn.



IMC Vigoro

FROM FERTILE MINDS.

*Lebanon is a trademark of Lebanon Seaboard Corporation. *Scotts is a trademark of O.M. Scotts & Sons Co. ©1996 IMC AgriBusiness Inc. All rights reserved.

Arthur Clesen, Inc.

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



AERATORS INC.

Simply The Best Fountain Aerator For Your Golf Course.

Improve Water Quality And Add Beauty To Your Lakes And Ponds



Fanfare



Weeping Willow



Old Faithful



Water Lily



Circulator

Aqua-Lator® Fountain Aerator From Aerators Inc.

- **Tough stainless steel construction** - the most rugged and durable Fountain Aerator. Other fountain aerators are made with plastics and mild steel or limited stainless steel.
- **Maintenance free pump motor** - unlike other fountain aerators which have oil cooled pump motors that require frequent expensive field service.
- **A variety of spray patterns and horsepower.** Lights optional.
- **Made by Aerators Inc.,** with over three decades of experience in aeration products.

Aqua-Lator Fountain Aerator . . . Simply the Best

J.W. Turf, Inc.

14N937 U.S. Hwy. 20
Hampshire, IL 60140
Phone: 847-683-4653
Fax: 847-683-3978

Aqua-Lator® is a registered trademark of Aerators, Inc. © Copyright 1997

History of the Midwest Clinic

Editors Note: This is a very good history of our Midwest Clinic from 1953 to the early 1980s written in 1984 by Past President John Ebel, who is presently retired in Arizona. I was president in 1976; and, as you shall read, it was a difficult chore calling the session back to order after lunch at the Midwest Clinic that year. Thanks, John, for some background into our history.

*John Ebel, Superintendent
Barrington Hills Country Club*

The Search for Knowledge

As in all fields of endeavor, there are the pioneers: those who are not content to be in a state of inertia, people who are willing to climb a few moun-

tains, cross a river or two in search of knowledge.

Ray Davis, Frank Dinelli, Ed Stewart, Bob Williams, Bert Rost, Norm Johnson, Peter Bild, Bill Stupple, Wes Updegraff, Al Johnson, Amos Lapp, Paul Burdett, Walter Fuchs Sr., Ray Gerber, Don Strand and Gordon Brinkworth are all pioneers of the Midwest Clinic.

These men had a common desire to know more about their profession and a willingness to put that desire in motion, men of dedication and strong conviction. They hungered after knowledge to find the truth and to acquaint themselves with the facts of

(continued on page 8)

*As in all fields
of endeavor, there
are the pioneers:
those who are not
content to be in
a state of inertia,
people who are
willing to climb
a few mountains,
cross a river or
two in search
of knowledge.*

MAGCS Clinics

1953	Dec. 17-18	Medinah C.C.	Plant Diseases
1954	Dec. 2-3	U. of I. College of Pharmacy, Chicago	Soils
1955	Dec. 7-8	U. of I. College of Pharmacy, Chicago	Entomology
1956	Nov. 27-28	Olympia Fields C.C.	Practical Research
1957	Nov. 18-19	Olympia Fields C.C.	Practical Golf Course Management
1958	Nov. 18-19	Olympia Fields C.C.	Applied Research
1959	Dec. 1-2	Olympia Fields C.C.	Practical Research at Work
1960	Nov. 29-30	Olympia Fields C.C.	
1961	Dec. 6-7	Olympia Fields C.C.	The Stride of the Superintendent
1962	Nov. 27-28	Olympia Fields C.C.	Progress Through Understanding
1963	Nov. 19-20	Olympia Fields C.C.	A Review of 1963 and the 1964 Forecast
1964	Nov. 17-18	Medinah C.C.	Progress through Education and Research
1965	Nov. 16-17	Medinah C.C.	Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
1966	Dec. 6-7	Medinah C.C.	Discussing the Dilemmas
1967	Nov. 28-29	Medinah C.C.	Teeing Off for Tomorrow
1968	Nov. 19-20	Medinah C.C.	Modern Golf Course Operations
1969	Nov. 18-19	Medinah C.C.	The Superintendent: His Qualifications, Responsibilities and Requirements
1970	Nov. 17-18	Medinah C.C.	The Golf Course Today
1971	Nov. 16-17	Medinah C.C.	Something Old, Something New
1972	Nov. 14-15	Medinah C.C.	The Problems We Face
1973	Nov. 13-14	Medinah C.C.	Our Future Decisions
1974	Dec. 3-	Medinah C.C.	Our Future Decisions
1975	Dec. 3-4	Medinah C.C.	Communications and Motivations
1976	Dec. 1-2	Medinah C.C.	50 Years of Beautiful Golf Courses
1977	Nov. 30-	Medinah C.C.	Knowledge Thru Testing
1978	Nov. 29-30	Medinah C.C.	The Age of Change
1979	Nov. 27-28	Medinah C.C.	Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
1980	Nov. 18-19	Medinah C.C.	Disease Update
1981	Nov. 17-18	Medinah C.C.	Heritage of Progress
1982	Nov. 11	Arlington Park Hilton	
1983	Nov.	Arlington Park Hilton	
1984			

TORO®

Groundsmaster® 455-D

A flexible 10-1/2 foot out-front mower that combines large scale productivity and durability with the agility of a trim mower.

630-773-5555
FAX 630-773-4273

Chicago
Turf & Irrigation Inc.

1170 W. Ardmore • Itasca, Illinois 60143



TORO®

Greensmaster® 1000



The Most Advanced Walk Greens Mower Ever Built

- Air-flow basket
- Exclusive loop handle
- Front-balanced weight design
- 11-bladed reel gives .166 inch clip
- All belt design eliminates oil lubrication
- Accessories include micro-cut bedknife and optional grooming reels.

630-773-5555
FAX 630-773-4273

Chicago
Turf & Irrigation Inc.

1170 W. Ardmore • Itasca, Illinois 60143

History of the Midwest Clinic

(continued from page 6)

turfgrass culture, to study in more detail topics that had previously been superficially touched upon. They knew their "onions" but were concerned more about what they didn't know. What to do?

The following story is a synopsis of how these men set in motion the MAGCS's Turf Clinic.

The Birth of a Clinic

Some of our pioneer superintendents would meet informally to share their knowledge and understanding of golf course maintenance techniques. Contrary to rumors that most superintendents were secretive and unwilling to share what they had learned the hard way, these men would gather in such places as the Glen Oak Gun Club or in Frank Dinelli's rustic and nostalgic old office at Northmoor C.C., which was sometimes used for potting flowers, among other things, and discussing their problems and sharing ideas and solutions.

This embryonic group received support from other turf pioneers in the fields of education and business.

The first efforts to formalize their impromptu meetings came on December 17-18, 1953. It was a bone-chilling -10° day that found fifty hearty souls attending the first clinic at Medinah C.C. through the gracious invitation of Superintendent Ray Davis. They met in the Director's Room with Bob Williams as chairman of proceedings. Formal education was lacking in most superintendents in those days; and the presence of Dr. R. Voight, director of the U. of I. Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station and also in charge of turf plots at the Morton Arboretum, added a touch of class. Bringing additional academ-

ic strength to that first clinic was Dr. Klomprens, who was instrumental in procuring microscopes to be used in a hands-on demonstration of plant disease identification. For some, this was the first time they could actually see some of the little buggers under glass that were destroying their beautiful turf.

Dr. Bill Daniels, professor at Purdue University, was also in attendance as well as Dr. James Watson from the Toro Company. They helped in developing a chemical application chart which could be used by superintendents in choosing the best chemicals for disease control. The clinic was now launched.

Clinic No. 2 was held December 2-3, 1954, at the U. of I. College of Pharmacy in Chicago with sixty participants. Attendees

(continued on page 10)

*The first efforts
to formalize their
impromptu meetings
came on December
17-18, 1953. It was
a bone-chilling
-10° day that found
fifty hearty souls
attending the
first clinic at
Medinah C.C.*

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

Visit our Web Site! www.specmeters.com



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.**

Supplying the Chicagoland area with excellent service and technical expertise for over 28 years...

We deliver...



- Aquatic Products
- Block Retaining Wall
- Bulk Fertilizer
- Drain Tile
- Fertilizers
- Geotextile Fabrics
- Grass Seed
- Herbicides
- Hose
- Insecticides
- Irrigation Parts
- Marking Paint
- Specialized Pesticides
- Spreaders
- Spray Equipment
- Tee and Green Equipment
- Terra Shield Green Cover
- Tree Fertilizer

2N 255 County Farm Road, West Chicago, IL 60185

630-668-5537



**the
bruce
company**
of Wisconsin, Inc.

Construction Services to the Golf Industry

Your source for Golf Course Construction, Reconstruction & Improvement.

*You have the Projects, Ideas & Needs. We have the Experience & Equipment to do the job **Right the First time.***

*Many Trucks
Equipped with
High Floatation
Tires to
Minimize
Damage to your
Golf Course*



- Water Control Structures •**
Pond Cleaning •
New Ponds •
Pond Lining •
Cart Paths •

- **New Construction**
- **Remodelling**
- **Irrigation**
- **Drainage**
- **Feature Shaping**
- **Trap Sand Replacement**



*Specialized
Equipment
suited to
Cleaning your
existing Golf
Course
Water
Features.*

CALL US TODAY!!

Lee Bruce

(608) 836-7041

Dave Weber

Established 1953

History of the Midwest Clinic

(continued from page 8)

were urged to commute by train via the Northwestern Station because of the lack of parking facilities near the college. Two days of intense lectures and lab work were lead by Dr. Jim Watson. The topic was "Soils, Their Origin and Substance."

With two successful clinics under their belts, our Midwest pioneers returned to the U. of I. College of Pharmacy on December 7-8, 1955, for the third Fall Clinic.

The subject this time was insects. Dr. Voight along with entomologist Dr. Bernard Greenburg presented information on the identification and life cycles of many major insects bugging the superintendent.

By 1956 it was evident that the Midwest Fall Clinic was for real and here to stay. November 27-28, 1956, marked the beginning of the Olympia Fields era. Hosted by Superintendent Gordon Brinkworth, Frank Dinelli, educational chairman, presented a program in which assistant superintendents and trainees shared results of practical research projects from the previous year. Our prominent guest speaker was O.J. Noer. This was our first big show. Olympia Fields was a long trip for some, and overnight accommodations could be had in the immense clubhouse. We had really turned the corner now.

In the early years of the clinic, it was difficult to obtain speakers; and many superintendents lacked confidence to stand up and speak. Someone once said, "It is better to keep your mouth shut and be thought stupid, than to open it and remove all doubt." One of the basic educational concepts of the clinic was to help superintendents articulate their

public speaking skills. Thanks to the clinic, today we have a wealth of good speakers in our ranks.

The Olympia Fields era continued from 1956 through 1963 with Warren Bidwell taking over as host superintendent in 1959. Some of the clinic themes during those years were "Practical Research at Work," "Progress Through Understanding," and "The Stride of the Superintendent."

December 6-7 saw such names on the program as Doug Jabaay, Tom Burrows and Jack Mauer. They were all assistants then and presented talks on the role of the assistant superintendent.

History was also made at that clinic. Our banquet featured a talent show with hairy-legged exotic dancers, musical interpretations from the Music Man and a banjo-playing flapper by the name

(continued on page 26)

*One of the basic
educational concepts
of the clinic
was to help
superintendents
articulate their
public speaking skills.
Thanks to the clinic,
today we have
a wealth of good
speakers in our ranks.*

AERIAL EQUIPMENT, INC.

MEETS YOUR NEEDS

SERVICE • PARTS • SALES • RENTALS



SERVICE & PARTS FOR MAJOR BRANDS OF:

- Chippers
- Spray Rigs
- Chain Saws
- Aerial Trucks
- Dump Bodies
- Stump Cutters



ARBORIST & SAFETY SUPPLIES

AERIAL EQUIPMENT, INC.

2381 South Foster Avenue
Wheeling, IL 60090
(847) 398-0620

THE INDUSTRY'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Aerial Equipment Service Dept. Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 6:00 AM - 12:00 Midnight
Saturday 6:00 AM - 12:00 Noon