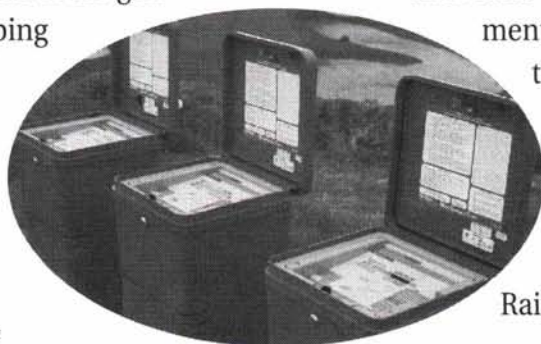




Irrigation by Rain Bird®

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: magcsoc@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

No. 18 hole, viewed from the patio at Hughes Creek Golf Club.

2 ON COURSE WITH THE FIRST LADY

Peggy Czerkies

4 DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

George Minnis

8 SUPER -N- SITE PROFILE:

David Braasch -N- Hughes Creek Golf Club

Michael Mumper

10 ASK THE "EXPERT":

Don't Let the Legal Beagle Bite You

Kevin DeRoo

12 FEATURE ARTICLE:

Butterfly Collecting

Darin Ayres

20 Butterflies are Free . . .

Lois Berg Stack

26 Endangered Species in Your Backyard

Tod Hopphan

32 Cyber Turf

34 THE BULL SHEET

Fred Opperman

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.



Peggy Czerkies

Iknew what I was getting myself into. It was 1978 when he went straight from the prom to Cog Hill without first going home to sleep, and I knew. You see, it was already 3 a.m., and he couldn't be late for work. In another two hours, he should be changing cups, mowing greens, etc., and otherwise begin to learn this trade that would consume his life eternally.

As a golf course superintendent's wife, I consider myself lucky in a lot of ways. It takes an ambitious man to put in the kind of hours that he does. It also takes a man who loves his work. Sending him out to spend the day doing something he hated in order to support his family would be a tremendous guilt trip for me. Instead, he is doing what he loves to do and is constantly rewarded by the progress he sees. From April to November, he is there to see his results seven days a week.

As you know, any wife of a superintendent has to deal with her husband sacrificing family time in order to be at his golf course making sure everything runs smoothly. It's not only his job on the line, it is also his name in the business. Any of you who

The Ultimate "Golf Widow"

have gotten married in the summer and now have to spend all of your anniversaries at home know what I mean! If any of your children were born in the summer, I hope you had loving, caring people around to help out. Getting your husband to take time off during the golf season for **ANYTHING** (besides actually getting to play golf) is totally impossible. That family camping trip when the kids are out of school is virtually nonexistent, unless you're into taking them yourself. This is not a bad idea. We have built some really great memories over the years.

The fact is, if I want to have a life in the summer, I'm on my own because my husband is always going to be at work. There is a positive side to his work schedule though. Because his day begins and ends so early, he is able to spend time with the kids.

We wives see very little of our husbands during "the season." You really have to work hard at creating quality time. Unless you're one of those wonderful women who gets up before the crack of dawn to make breakfast for her man, the first time you see him will be after work. This can be dangerous. He is tired, dirty, grumpy, and stressed out. He wants to eat, take a shower, and he's hoping he can get "Seinfeld" in before he falls asleep. Don't let this "end of the day" image become who he is to you. He must be pleasant sometime during the day, or he wouldn't have a job. Here are a few tips that I've discovered.

I suggest shocking him in the morning with a fresh pot of coffee and a smiling face. (Caution: I don't do this very often. If I spoil him, I'll be locked into getting up

every day.) He won't know what to think, and we might even strike up a conversation. If I want to talk to him at all, **I never turn on the weather channel!** He would be glued to it like it was the Super Bowl. They watch it obsessively; with their weather radios, weather computers, and every scientific toy on the market, nothing replaces the almighty weather channel. "It changes every ten minutes, you know!" The only thing that challenges the weather channel on TV for Kevin is sports. It is also the only thing that makes me thankful that he has chosen the weather channel to watch instead.

If breakfast doesn't work, or if it works so well that I want more time with him, I like to invade his world for lunch. Seeing him in his element is quite an experience, especially if he has a crew to boss around. You can also learn some Spanish that they don't teach you in high school. I can see firsthand what kind of an insanely busy day he has facing him every time he wakes up. Not that I don't appreciate that now, but seeing it really helps me to be a little nicer to him when he comes home. He really doesn't just ride around the golf course in his cart all day.

These are ways that I can get to see the different facets of my husband's personality and confirm that during this hectic season of work, there is, in fact, still some beauty left in the beast. I wouldn't recommend getting into his world too often; it is still his turf (no pun intended). They work so hard during the golf season, it is amazing to me that they still know who we are at the end of it all. When people ask me if my husband works in the winter, I tell them,

(continued on page 36)

IT WHISPERS WHILE IT WORKS.



The John Deere Turf Gator.®

Like its namesake, the 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 www.deere.com

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®

Official
Golf Course
Equipment
Supplier





*George Minnis
Executive Secretary*

Over the past year, a few changes have taken place in the office. The one that stands out the most was giving the membership the ability to use their charge cards for meetings and membership renewal. It started with the August '97 meeting at Bartlett Hills, and I'm happy to report it's been well received ever since. Around 40 percent of the membership charged their registration fee at the April meeting in Schaumburg.

November found Karen and me on our way to Lawrence, Kansas, to accept a copy of the Microsoft Office 97 software. The GCSAA has been offering a copy to 10 affiliates each year, and last year, MAGCS was one of those chosen. The MAGCS database was originally written in Microsoft Access, so the conversion was successful with only a couple of mistakes that I was able to fix manually.

In December, we purchased a new fax machine, one that takes plain paper. It's been great being able to receive a clear fax and not have to crawl under the desk looking for a rolled up piece of thermal paper, as was the case before.


The membership renewal process went well this year, and deadlines were again met. Because most of the directory is printed through database reports or word

processed files, the final result has become a lot easier to accomplish. However, a special thanks goes to Larry Leadley over at Castle Printing. Larry's the gentleman who picks up all the 8 1/2- by 11-inch pages the MAGCS computer generates and turns them into the great directory we have been sending out for the last 3 years now. Kudos to Larry and Castle Printing for a job well done. This year, only one major addition was made to the directory. We added a separate e-mail listing for all members who gave us the info on their renewal form. The listing was created in a word processed file; but I hope to incorporate this information into the database, which will help eliminate errors and extra work in the future. The listing can be found at the back of the A-to-Z section.

The membership grew again this year, but only by a few. The

large majority of those not wishing to continue this year were of class C, D, and E status. For your information, Greg Thalmann over at Fox Run Golf Links is in charge of new memberships for the '98 season, so if you know of anyone wishing to join, please give Greg a call. He can be reached at 847-228-3541.

Finally, just a hint about signing up for the monthly golf outings—DO IT EARLY. Last year, three events filled completely, and some members were unable to play. Don't let this happen to you. Preregister as soon as you can, and for your convenience, just remember, you can use plastic.

Questions, info needed, etc., give me a call. MAGCS voice mail is 630-406-5356. I'll get back to you as soon as I can. 

AERIAL EQUIPMENT, INC.

PROUDLY SELLS & SERVICES



Woodsman



CALL FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION

Service • Parts • Sales • Rentals
Midwest Headquarters for equipment & supplies
for the Arborist & Landscape Industry

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

2381 S. Foster, Wheeling, IL 60090 (847) 398-0620

The Ultimate All Weather Fertilizer®

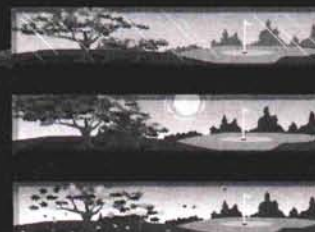
par ex®

with

V-COTE®

and

IBDU®



IMC Vigoro's new technology, V-Cote®, combined with the proven performance of IBDU® slow release nitrogen provides consistent turf color and quality, for optimum performance and safety, all season long.

Arthur Clesen, Inc.

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



IMC Vigoro

Par Ex®, V-Cote® and IBDU® are trademarks of IMC Vigoro, Winter Haven, Florida



COMPOST

Compost provides essential micronutrients to make turf and ornaments grow faster and healthier. Composts ability to retain moisture reduces drought shock. Its microbial content improves soil texture for better air and water circulation and reduced compaction. After fertilizer applications, compost retains added nutrients and makes them plant-available as needed — allowing reduced application rates.

- Divot repair mixes
- Top dressing high traffic areas — fairways, rough, practice areas
- Preparing beds for ornamental plants
- Preparing soil for new seed or sod
- Backfilling when transplanting

Call

GreenCycle Incorporated
400 Central Avenue, Suite 200
Northfield, Illinois 60093
847-441-6606

Keep Your Course In Top Condition...

Legacy Golf

Control water, labor and energy costs with a Legacy irrigation system.

Century is your local distributor with a complete line of rotors, valves and controllers.



With Irrigation Supplies from **CENTURY RAIN AID**

Sprinklers • Valves • Controllers • Fountains • Pump Stations • Controller Service Repair

Golf course superintendents like yourself are making plans to get their courses in top shape for the new season. And irrigation is at the top of their lists. Century golf professionals can show you how to maintain a highly-playable course, and can

help solve any irrigation or drainage problems. They can also show you what's new in clubhouse landscape lighting, water features and more. Call today for a FREE catalog and on-site consultation: **800-347-4272**.

Controller Board Repairs

Call Century when you need controller board repairs for Rain Bird and Toro golf controllers. Replacement boards can be shipped within 24 hours. Call 888-855-9132.



SyncroFlo Pumps

An efficient pump station can solve many irrigation problems. Century now offers the SyncroFlo Eagle Series, the premier system for golf courses.



SyncroFlo, Inc.

Aqua Master Fountains

Improve water quality with an aerating fountain. Century can also show you how to create water features from existing streams or ponds.

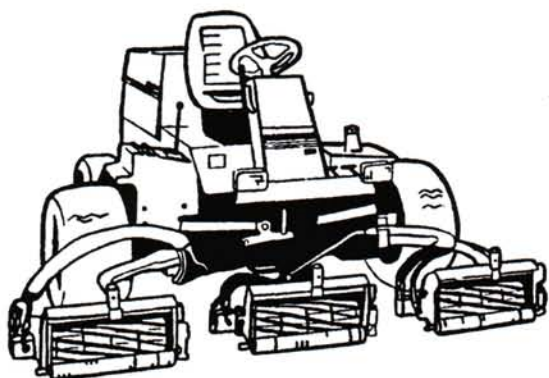


CENTURY RAIN AID

**www.rainaid.com
800-347-4272**

Now Serving These Major Markets: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada.

MAKE THE ***BIGGEST*** SINGLE IMPROVEMENT IN TURF
CONDITIONING SINCE LIGHTWEIGHT FAIRWAY MOWERS



THE REVOLUTION

THE NEXT REVOLUTION



**RANSOMES
AR 250
LIGHTWEIGHT ROUGH MOWER**

ANTI-SCALP Five 22" Hydraulic Rotary Cutting Decks
MULTI-PURPOSE Quick Height Adjustment 3/4" - 5"
GO ANYWHERE 4-Wheel Drive, 38 h.p. Kubota Diesel
EXCELLENT RESULTS High Speed Rotary and 4" Roller



"The AR 250 delivers a new standard in appearance and playability."

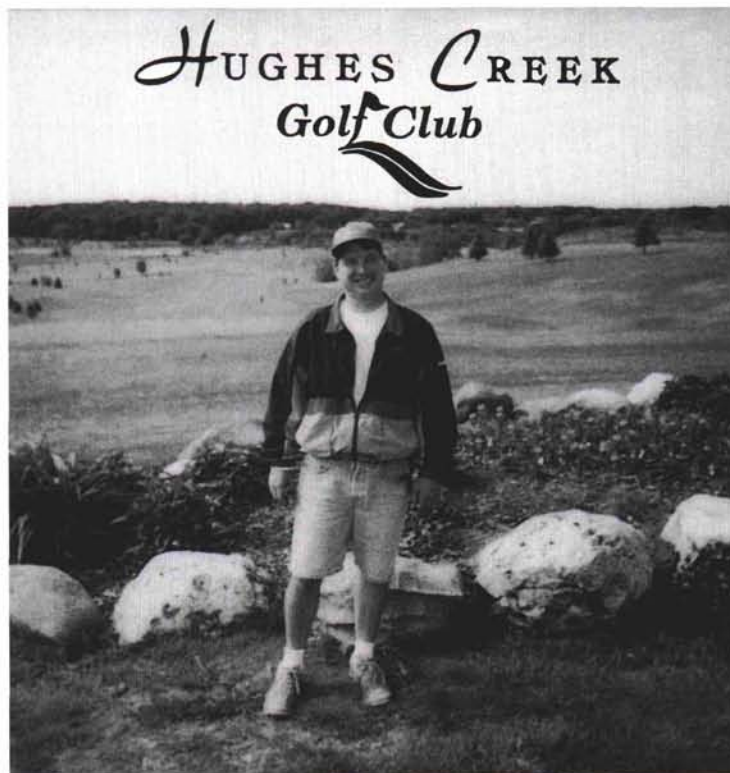


illinois lawn equipment, inc.

16450 104th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467-5498

**Phone 800-942-8610
FAX 708-349-7149**

David Braasch -N-



*David Braasch,
superintendent
of Hughes Creek
Golf Club.*

Michael Mumper

This month's "Super -N-Site" stars Dave Braasch of Hughes Creek Golf Club. Hughes Creek is the site of our July 20 MAGCS meeting. This is a repeat performance at Hughes Creek with our last meeting being held there in 1995.

Hughes Creek was built and is owned by one of our own, Mr. Dave Meyer. It is situated on the rolling hills of Elburn. The course plays to 6,506 yards and has a course rating of 71.4 with a slope of 118. It is an open course, and the wind could be a factor when we play on the 20th.


Dave has been the superintendent since two weeks before our last meeting at Hughes Creek.

With a wide grin on his face, Dave states that this time he will be able to have more of an influence on the course setup and conditions.

Dave is a "working superintendent" and is on the golf course constantly. His hands-on management style is ideal for the Hughes Creek operation. He has a seasonal crew of nine, and as we know, training and delegation are important factors to insure that the course is in top condition. This is something that Dave takes great pride in.

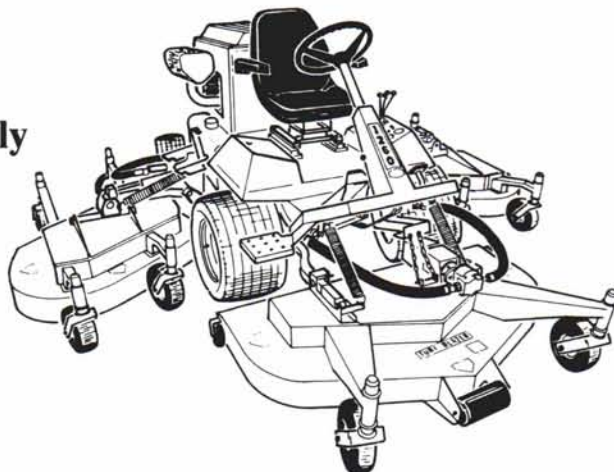
Dave grew up on the south side in Chicago Heights. It was in high school that he went to work at Idlewild for Ted Mochel. He spent his summers working on the golf course and upon graduation took Mochel's advice and studied

Turf Management at Joliet. He graduated in 1990 and continued to expand his knowledge by interning and working for several South Side superintendents, including Dave Ward.

He felt that he could better prepare himself for a career as a golf course superintendent by returning to school, so he enrolled at Illinois State. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science. He worked as an assistant at Eagle Brook before taking the position at Hughes Creek. Dave is single and lives in Naperville. His hobbies include playing golf and doing what most red-blooded single men like to do. 

"THE PRODUCTION MACHINE"

- ✓ High Capacity
- ✓ High Floatation
- ✓ Economical
- ✓ Cutting Units Operated Individually
(use 1, 2, or all 3 units)
- ✓ 52 H.P. Diesel
- ✓ 126" Cut
- ✓ 2 or 4 Wheel Drive
- ✓ Up to 5 years lease available.



CALL:

**BILL MORGAN
TOM RALPH
PAYLINE WEST
225 N. RANDALL RD.
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174**

**630/584-8700
FAX 630/584-4453**



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

Don't Let the Legal Beagle Bite You

Kevin DeRoo
Bartlett Hills G.C.

During a recent MAGCS meeting, our guest speaker for the day raised an interesting question. He asked the group of attending superintendents to raise their hands if they or the club they work for are currently or have ever gone through a general liability lawsuit. I should have been surprised at the many show of hands; but given the current "sue-or-be-sued" attitude of the American public these days, I was not.

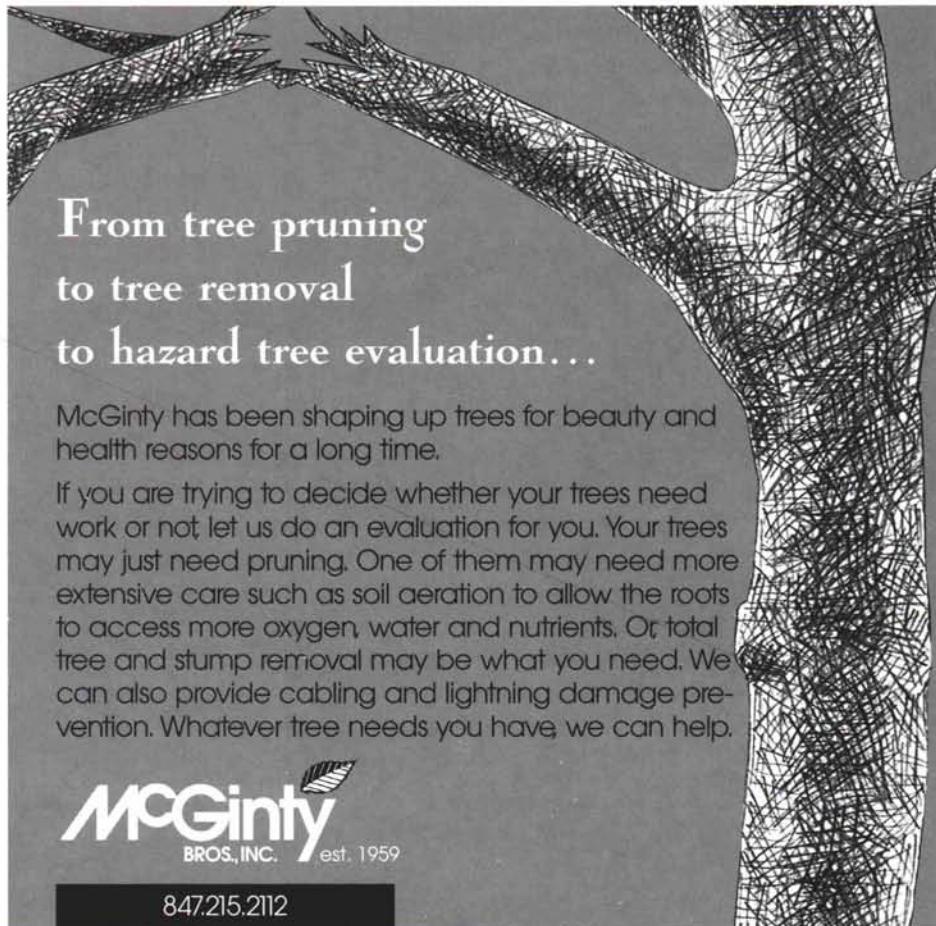
I also took a personal interest in this question having been one of the many superintendents with a raised hand. It was only a few years prior that I witnessed such a lawsuit unfold before my very eyes in the Cook County judicial courts. This question also prompted me to take things one step further and do my own survey. Of the show of hands, I personally asked several of the superintendents if their case ever made it to trial. I quickly found out that of the superintendents I surveyed, all of them worked for public golf courses, and their respective cases were either still in litigation, possibly awaiting trial, or were settled out of court—furthering my suspicions of the general attitude of the American public.

Of all the superintendents I talked to, I was the only one who witnessed one of these cases through from start to finish, that is, the gathering of all information, meeting with the lawyers,

*I found myself
in very unfamiliar
territory. It would
seem I was finally
the expert on
something, something
that is other than
"How to say no
to your own kids."*

giving a deposition, watching the choosing of the jury, listening to the expert witnesses, giving my own testimony in front of a judge and jury, and hearing the reading of the verdict. Given the title section of this article, "Ask the Expert," I found myself in very unfamiliar territory. It would seem I was finally the expert on something, something that is other than "How to say no to your own kids." Undaunted by my own survey, and willing to take on this challenge of journeying through yet uncharted waters, I will go on and share my own experience and, hopefully, give some practical, commonsense steps on how to

(continued on page 30)



From tree pruning
to tree removal
to hazard tree evaluation...

McGinty has been shaping up trees for beauty and health reasons for a long time.

If you are trying to decide whether your trees need work or not, let us do an evaluation for you. Your trees may just need pruning. One of them may need more extensive care such as soil aeration to allow the roots to access more oxygen, water and nutrients. Or, total tree and stump removal may be what you need. We can also provide cabling and lightning damage prevention. Whatever tree needs you have, we can help.

McGinty
BROS., INC. est. 1959

847.215.2112