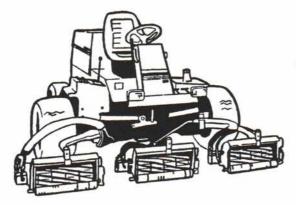
## MAKE THE **BIGGEST** SINGLE IMPROVEMENT IN TURF CONDITIONING SINCE LIGHTWEIGHT FAIRWAY MOWERS



### 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



### 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.

#### FRONT COVER

No. 14 hole at The General

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Kevin Czerkies

4 DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Bob Maibusch

6 FEATURE ARTICLE:

**An Evaluation of Native Midwestern** Plants for Use in the Golf Course Landscape

Tom Voigt

10 SUPER -N- SITE PROFILE: **Combined Golf Day at Eagle Ridge** Inn & Resort, "The General"

Randy Kane

12 ASK THE EXPERT: Safety First

Brian Bossert

- Adolph Bertucci 6/3/18 2/4/98
- THE BULL SHEET 34

Fred Opperman

34 Tulip Tales!

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.

here are we going? The current members of the MAGCS Board of Directors are not sitting around on their duffs. They are not just going through the motions of running an association. They are constantly looking for ways to improve services and benefits for the membership.

I recently attended a seminar on strategic planning for the Northbrook Park District. One of the things discussed was that you've got to have "vision" on where you're going as an organization. Many MAGCS board members have excellent "vision" for this association. What is best for the association and its members are key things to remember when providing new or improved services. There were a couple of ideas discussed at the last board meeting: A MAGCS Web site and scholarships. Ad hoc committees have been formed to investigate the costs and feasibility of providing these benefits.

Brian Bossert is heading up the Web Site Committee, and Bob Maibusch is heading up the Scholarship Committee. I encourage any member that would like to serve on either one of these committees or has any thoughts that they would like to share to please call Brian, Bob, or myself.

A MAGCS Web site sounds nice, but many questions need to be answered. What is it that we want to accomplish? Should the Web site be for information only, or do we allow members to sign up for meetings? We do have an option of being a page on the GCSAA Web site. Many other GCSAA chapters are already online with the national association. Cost factors and goal objectives will be explored by Brian's committee.

Scholarships! This issue seems to be ruffling a few feathers. It appears that the current board shows support in favor of a scholarship program. Bob's committee has a lot of homework to do on this one. Setting criteria, amount of scholarship, how many scholarships, who's eligible and, most importantly, how will it be funded—these are all good questions that will need to be addressed before the board takes any action.

How does the board know what the majority of the membership wants? The survey that was conducted in 1995 has been extremely helpful. The other day, I pulled out that survey. It showed that 57 percent of the respondents were in favor of scholarships. Also, the top four areas the membership felt needed improving were education, public relations, secretarial services, and the newsletter. I feel that significant improvements have been made with all four areas.

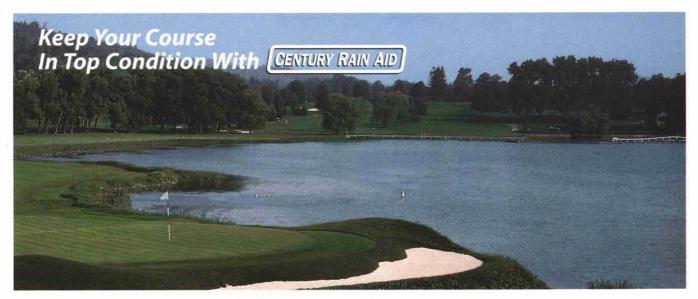
Also, Ed Braunsky's Nominating Committee will be evaluating the way the annual election is run. One thing in particular

that will be looked at is whether or not the office of secretary/treasurer should be a contested race.

Everybody has a view of where they would like to see the Midwest Association advance. We have many members that pay attention to the decisions made by the Board of Directors, while some members are satisfied to just find *On Course* in their mailbox each month. Without feedback from the membership, the board will be voting on what it wants, or thinks the membership wants. Don't hesitate to tell any board member your views on any subject.

The Midwest Association is stronger than ever, but there are still many ways to improve it. We, as an association, cannot live by the old saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it." Rather, we need to keep up with the times by providing the Midwest members with top-notch services. We all do the same thing at our respective golf courses or place of business. We are constantly changing the way we maintain our turf. You've got to keep with the times or you'll be run over. The MAGCS Board is trying to keep up with the times. That is what makes the MAGCS a class organization.

W : 0 11 0000



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

Century golf professionals can show you how to keep your course in top condition with efficient irrigation and drainage, landscape lighting, water features and more. Call today for a free on-site consultation: **800-347-4272.** 



Legacy Golf
Control water, labor and energy costs with an efficient Legacy Golf irrigation system.
Complete line of rotors, valves and controllers.

LEGAC



Pump Stations
An efficient pump station can solve many irrigation problems. The SyncroFlo Eagle Series is the premier system for golf courses.

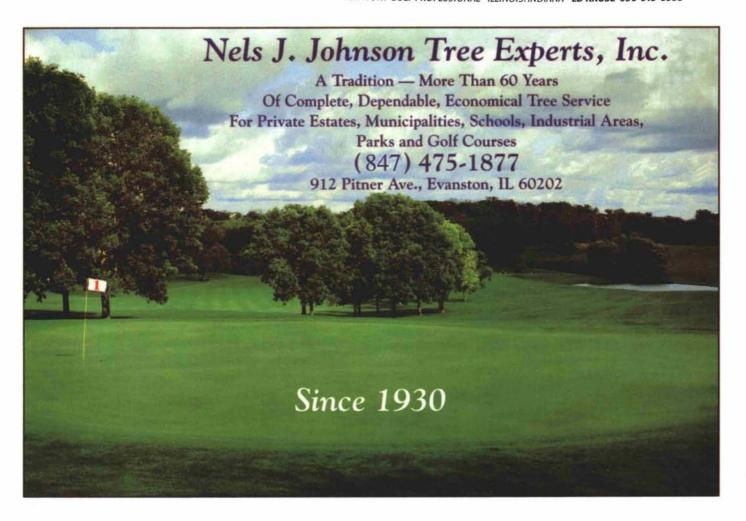




Controller Board Repairs Century handles controller board repairs for Rain Bird and Toro. Call 888-855-9132 for replacements within 24 hours.

CENTURY RAIN AID

CENTURY GOLF PROFESSIONAL - ILLINOIS/INDIANA • ED KRUSE 630-515-8555





Bob Maibusch Hinsdale G.C.

he MAGCS Board of Directors recently met and approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a scholarship for children of MAGCS members. I will be chairing the committee and would welcome suggestions from members as to how we should approach this regarding selection process, scope of contribution, fund-raising, etc.

I think the time is right for a program like this. For several years on the Board of Director, I have heard members say, "Why don't we do more for our members?" or "Charity starts at home." We have even been criticized in the past for contributing to turf scholarships because we were creating more competition. Although curtailing our contributions to turf scholarships is, in my opinion, a shortsighted attempt to hold back the competition in our job market, I do believe that we can do more for our own mem-The establishment of a scholarship program for children of MAGCS members is a way of rewarding the efforts of those in our own family, and it's probably long overdue.

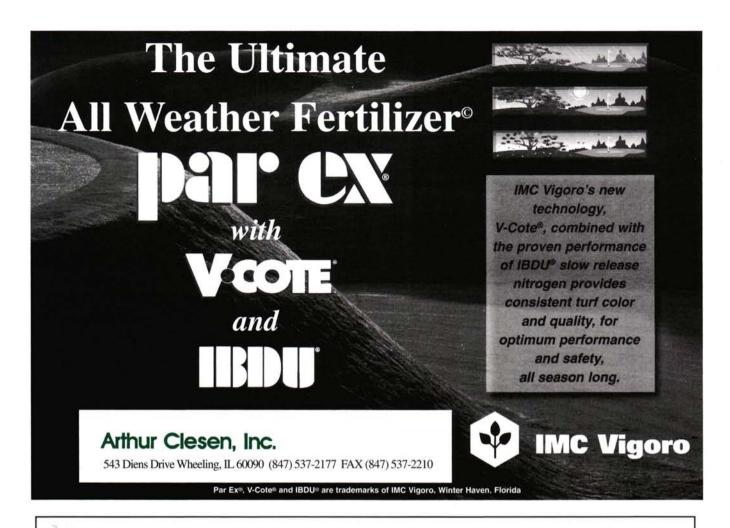
My initial thoughts are that scholarship consideration should be available to all classes of MAGCS members. The most important area, in my estimation, is establishing an equitable selection process. It should be monitored by people outside of MAGCS or, at the very least, members who would not have a vested interest in the outcome. The candidates' qualifications should be submitted for consideration on a blind basis whereby no names are used that could influence or prejudice the judging panel in any way. If this program is to become established and successful, any possibility of favoritism or impropriety in the selection process must be guarded against.

My biggest concern in pursuing this objective is that someone whose child is denied a scholarship for legitimate reasons would then denigrate the program through rumor and innuendo which could have a devastating effect on fundraising efforts. If we are serious about this program, it must be held to a very high standard. The Legacy awards sponsored by the Novartis Company and administered through GCSAA have been very popular and well received, but even they have been subject to crit-I have heard people icism. complain about how some recipients are children of past GCSAA board members or high-profile superintendents. Unfortunately, what they fail to recognize is that if the superintendents in question have had the drive and enthusiasm to become involved and reach their full potential in their profession, logic would tell you that these same traits will be passed on to their children as well; and they will fulfill their potential in the areas of school, community involvement, athletics, or whatever arena they are placed in.

Establishment of this program would, hopefully, have peripheral benefits. It may force us all to reexamine the influence that we have on the emotional, scholastic, and attitudinal development of our children and try to lead them by example. I certainly hope that is the case.

I would personally like to see renewable scholarship awards given out. In other words, if students received an award, they would be able to renew that award throughout their up-to-four-years of college based on a preset criteria of maintaining grades, community involvement, etc. This way, deserving students would know that they would be receiving support throughout their college career instead of the traditional one-year scholarships which are given out and which then create a void the following year.

Although this investigation process could take some time, I am confident and excited that it is being given serious consideration. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress in this area; and once again, please bring your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to my attention.





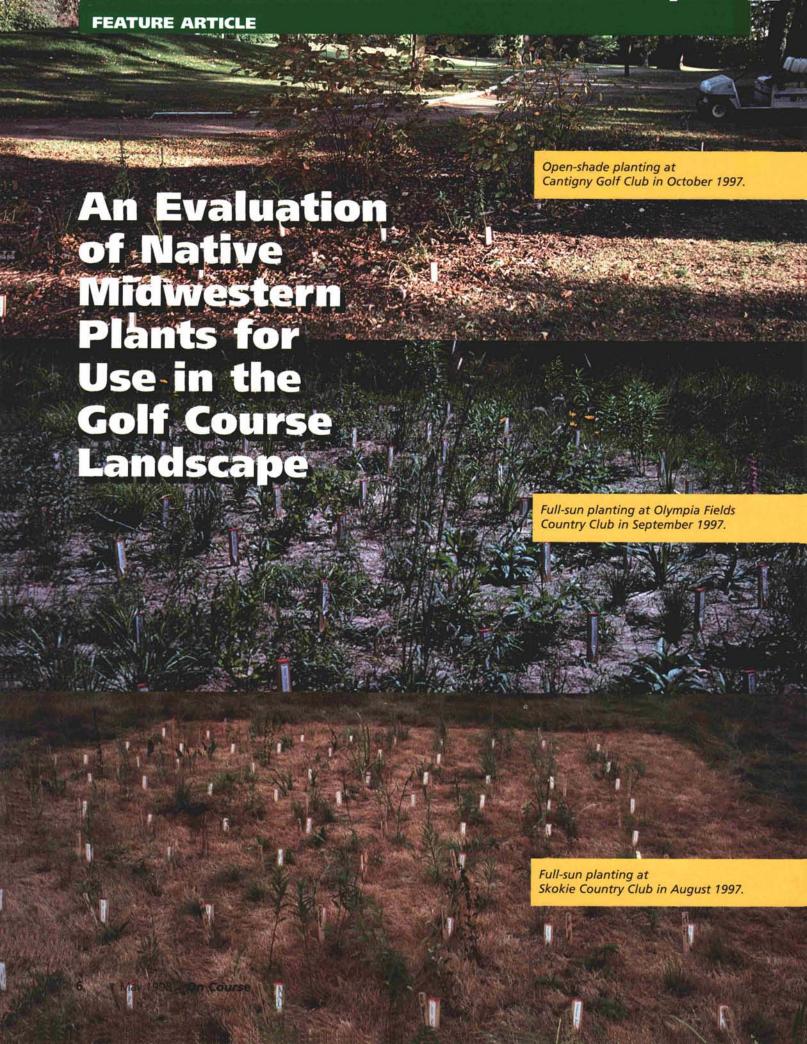
## COMPOST

ompost 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 • Backfilling when transplanting 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

Call

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



Tom Voigt Extension Turfgrass Specialist University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL

#### Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation for financially supporting this study. In addition, the author thanks Golf Course Superintendents Scott Witte, Dave Ward, and Don Cross for their help and support and also Cantigny Golf Club, Olympia Fields Country Club, and Skokie Country Club for providing field laboratory sites.

#### Introduction

Superintendents at many Illinois golf courses have taken far-rough areas out of mowing. In fact, in a recent survey responded to by 110 Chicagoland superintendents, more than 8.5 percent of the 18,608 golf course acres represented in the survey were covered by unmowed grasslands, meadows, or prairies. Moreover, 89.8 percent of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "Reducing golf course maintenance by not mowing out-of-play areas is a good idea." Not moving out-ofplay areas reduces maintenance inputs, provides wildlife habitat, adds to the golfing experience, and often improves public relations among golfers and other groups.

In some cases, the existing exotic vegetation has been allowed to grow untended; in other areas, existing plants have been replaced by plant species native to the region. There are, however, several questions regarding the use of native plant species. Specifically, what plants will perform well in unmowed rough areas, how should these plants be

established, and how should these areas be maintained?

This article reports on the first year of a three-year study funded by the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. There are three purposes for this study. First, in this study, I am evaluating native grasses, sedges, and forbs to determine their usefulness

"Reducing golf course maintenance by not mowing out-of-play areas is a good idea." Not mowing out-of-play areas reduces maintenance inputs, provides wildlife habitat, adds to the golfing experience, and often improves public relations among golfers and other groups.

in unmowed areas of Midwestern golf courses. Second, results of this study will be used to develop a database of native Midwestern plant information that can be used to produce an encyclopedic manual of native plants suitable for use on Midwestern golf courses. Finally, this study will explore management options for native

plants (e.g., different soil preparation methods at establishment, weed control options during establishment, etc.)

#### Potential Benefits of This Study

Results of this study will assist Chicago-area golf courses in several ways. First, this work is identifying native plants suitable for use in unmowed, far-rough areas and will add to the existing body of information about these plants. Information about these plants will be useful to these and other superintendents with unmowed areas on their courses.

As these plants are evaluated in the on-site golf environment, any information derived will be particularly useful to the golf audience. The plants used in this evaluation have been selected specifically to fit golf course needs. Based on information collected about these species, they are all relatively short (less than six feet tall), relatively pest free, adapted to more than one soil setting, and native to the northern portions of the U.S. Of particular interest will be evaluating plants in open-shaded areas of each course. Selecting species with ornamental appeal for these settings can be particularly difficult.

The golf industry will also benefit from this work. At the conclusion of this research, a publication will be produced. This publication will provide an overview of this project, evaluation results, and information about the landscape uses and management of the native plants in the study. This publication will be made available in both hard and electronic forms.

This evaluation will also benefit the golf industry by providing public relations value. Studying these native plants allows golf

(continued on page 8)

### **An Evaluation of Native Midwestern . . .** (continued from page 7)

courses to draw upon the rich botanical heritage of Chicagoland. It goes hand-in-band with participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program by establishing information about natives capable of providing sources of wildlife food and habitat. This program is extremely popular among Chicago area superintendents; in the survey mentioned earlier, 57.3 percent of the respondents are currently anticipating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and another 32.7 percent plan to begin participating in the future. Employing native Midwestern landscape plants and participating in these wildlife programs reinforces the idea that golf courses are environmentally friendly places.

Finally, this research will be valuable to the golf industry because replacing maintained areas with unmowed native vegetation can reduce golf course fertilizer, pesticide, and labor inputs. While costs for preparing and planting areas with native plants can be substantial, management savings can be realized once the areas are established. Follow-

(continued on page 30)

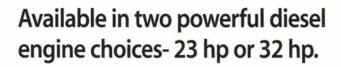
1. Allium cernuum	Nodding Wild Onion	16. Hierochloe odorata	Vanillagrass
2. Andropogon hallii cv. U.I.	U. of I. Sand Bluestem	17. Heliopsis helianthoides	False Sunflower
3. Asclepias sp.	Milkweed	18. Iris virgincia shrevei	Wild Blue Iris
4. Aster azureus	Sky blue Aster	19. Koeleria cristata	June Grass
5. Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama	20. Liatris aspera	Rough Blazing Star
6. Bromus kalmii	Prairie Brome Grass	21. Lythrum alatum	Winged Loosestrife
7. Carex antherodes	Hairy-leaved Lake Sedge	22. Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot
8. Carex bicknelli	Bicknell's Sedge	23. Penstemom digitalis	Foxglove Beard Tongue
9. Carex crus-corvi	Crowfoot Fox Sedge	24. Pycnanthemum virginianum	Common Mountain Mint
10. Coreopsis palmata	Prairie Coreopsis	25. Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower
11. Coreopsis tripteris	Tall Coreopsis	26. Sanguisorba canadensis	American Burnet
12. Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass	27. Silphium terebinthinaceum	Prairie Dock
13. Desmodium canadense	Showy Ticktrefoil	28. Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod
14. Elymus canadensis	Canadian Wild Rye	29. Vernonia fasciculata	Common Ironweed
15. Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	30. Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root

1. Allium cernuum	Nodding Wild Onion	15. Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye
2. Aster macrophyllus	Big Leaved Aster	16. Eupatorium purpureum	Purple Joe Pye Weed
3. Aster novae-angliae	New England Aster	17. Festuca obtusa	Nodding Fescue
4. Carex crinita	Fringed Sedge	18. Hystrix patula	Bottlebush Grass
5 Carex frankii	Bristley Cattail Sedge	19. Iris virginica shrevei	Wild Blue Iris
6. Carex grayi	Common Bur Sedge	20. Juncus tenuis	Path Rush
7 Carex muskingumensis	Swamp Oval Sedge	21. Lobella siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia
8 Carex pensylvanica	Common Oak Sedge	22. Phlox divaricata	Blue Phlox
9. Carex radiata (rosea)	Straight-styled Wood Sedge	23. Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan
10. Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass	24. Solidago flexicaulis	Broad Leaved Goldenroo
11. Diarrhenna americana	Beak Grass	25. Solidago ulmifolia	Elm Leaved Goldenrod
12. Dodecatheon meadia	Shooting Star	26. Thallctrum dioicum	Meadowrue
13. Elymus riparius	Riverbank Rye	27. Uniola latifolia	Spike Grass
14. Elymus villosus	Silky Wild Rye	28. Zizia aurea	Golden Alexander

1.	Allium cernuum	Nodding Wild Onion	11. Heliopsis helianthoides	False Sunflower
2.	Andropogon hallii cv. U.L.	U. of I. Sand Bluestem	12. Liatris aspera	Rough Blazing Star
3.	Aster azureus	Sky blue Aster	13. Lobella siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia
4.	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama	14. Lythrum alatum	Winged Loosestrife
5.	Elymus canadensis	Canadian Wild Rye	15. Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot
6.	Elymus riparius	Riverbank Rye	16. Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan
7.	Elymus villosus	Silk Wild Rye	17. Solidago flexicaulis	Broad Leaved Goldenro
8.	Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	18. Solidago ulmifolia	Elm Leaved Goldenrod
9.	Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	19. Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root
10.	Hystrix patula	Bottlebush Grass	20. Vernonia fasciculata	Common Ironweed

## TORO<sub>®</sub>

## Reelmaster® 5100-D/5300-D



630-773-5555 FAX 630-773-4273



urf & Irrigation inc. how how the head with

1170 W. Ardmore • Itasca, Illinois 60143

## TORO<sub>®</sub>

## Fairway Aerator

Now you can aerate 61,000 square feet an hour at speeds up to 2.2mph with exceptional hole quality, plus adjustable coring depth control.

630-773-5555 FAX 630-773-4273





1170 W. Ardmore • Itasca, Illinois 60143

# Combined Golf Day at Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort, "The General"

Randy Kane Chicago District Golf Association

or 1998, the Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents are the hosts of the ITF Combined Golf Day, and our site is a familiar one-Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort near Galena. Eagle Ridge has hosted three other Combined days in the last twelve years: 1986, 1989, and 1995. Its North and South courses are the highly regarded works of architects E. L. and Roger Packard, and both courses are perennially ranked among America's 75 Best Resort Courses by Golf Digest. For a great escape from Chicagoland, there is no place better than the Eagle Ridge Inn and its fine golf courses and amenities.

Although the North and South courses regularly receive accolades and 4-star rankings, Eagle Ridge has gone itself one better with the creation of a new 18-holer called "The General," in honor of General Ulysses S. Grant, whose post-Civil War home was in Galena. The General is 6,820 yards of thrills and spills, designed by Roger Packard and two-time US Open champion Andy North. The General, which has a course rating from the back tees of 73.8 and a slope of 137, will be the site of the 1999 Illinois State Amateur Championship. The course is meant to be a test of golf, but also fun and challenging for all skill levels. Also noteworthy is that The General was built by Paul Clute and Associates, who were recipients of GCBAA's 1995 Builder of the Year award.

If you have been to the Galena Territories, you know there are big, sweeping hills and lots of

Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort

THE GENERAL AT EAGLE RIDGE



Jim Wyffels, superintendent of "The General."

grand vistas from those hilltops. Packard and North routed The General through some of the most striking and undulating hills and valleys in Illinois. Some holes of The General feature large elevation changes, and the signature 14th hole drops close to 200 feet from tee to green (the fairway looks like a two-lane highway with no shoulders from the back tee!). There are also natural lakes and rock outcroppings that have been incorporated into the design, such as the "quarry wall" behind the 8th green. The General opened just last May but has become a definite "must play" golf course in the Midwest. The view from the picture window at the new clubhouse *alone* is worth the trip.

(continued on page 28)

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 6:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Saturday