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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.



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS Sportsman's C.C.

7 all is finally here, This is my favorite season. The days are shorter, the weather is refreshing, and the color of leaves can be breathtaking. With frosty mornings, golf rounds are dropping off, and many of our seasonal help have Mexico on their minds.

I find it hard to believe that golfers forget about frost from year to year. I've had the same golfers teeing off at daybreak for years, yet when we get that first fall frost, they've forgotten about that dreaded "Frost Delay." The most common reply I hear from the golfers is, "How can you possibly have frost when the thermometer at the bank says it's 41° F?"

For some reason, I feel like I'm getting some sort of revenge against these early morning golfers. Instead of my maintenance crew mowing the first couple of greens in the dark to stay ahead of the onslaught of golfers, I now have the power of telling these golfers when they can get off (the tee, that is). This is a feeling that I'm sure is only experienced by superintendents at public courses.

Besides frost, another fall disturbance to golfers is "Aerification." Many of us should be completing our aerification about this time. I've found that the use of solid tines drastically reduces the amount of complaints. I've been solid tining my fairways for several years now. The main reason for using the solid tines is the complaints that are associated with the mess left behind when hollow tines are used. A few years ago, I core-aerified fairways, destroyed the plugs, and dragged them back into the surface. The next morning, with the fairways wet from a heavy dew, the first few groups of daybreak-playing golfers picked mud from their shoes, marched to the pro shop and demanded their money back. We all know that aerifying is essential for quality turf growth, but I felt like the villain because we had upset golfers. I've also found that solid tining greatly reduces labor costs because there is virtually no cleanup of plugs.

We all enjoy the beautiful fall leaf colors, but with it comes our responsibility of cleaning them up when they do finally fall. I'm fortunate enough that my course has many different types of trees, and they all don't drop their leaves at the same time. This enables us to keep up with the cleanup.

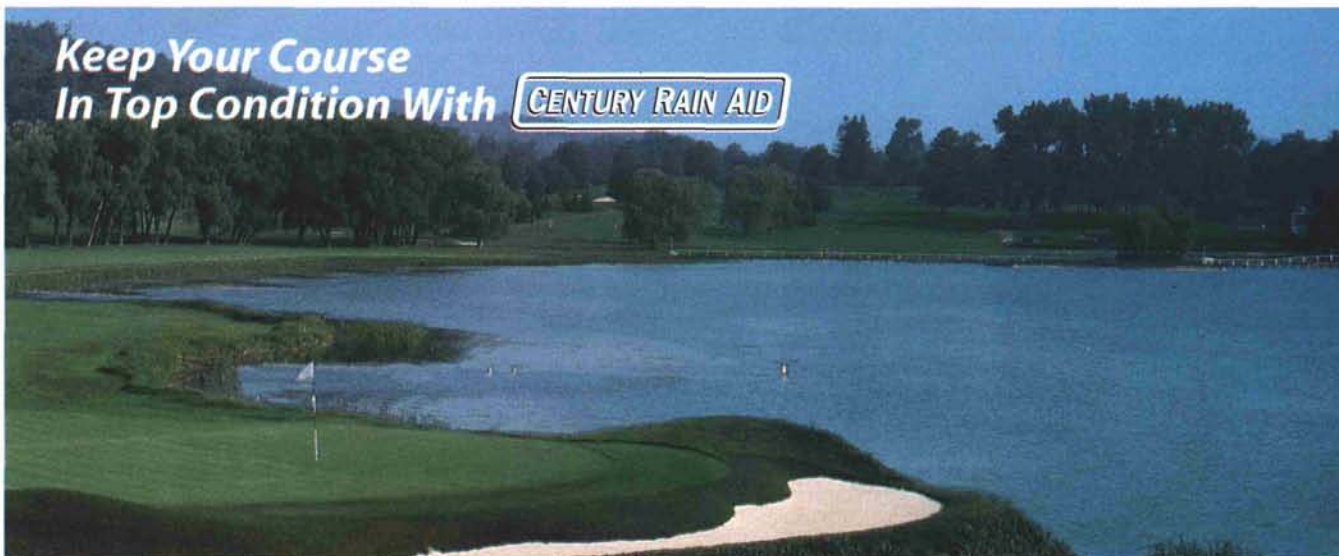
For many of us, fall also means course construction. Large projects can be disruptive to the golf course, but most are necessary for the well-being and playability of our courses. Whether you are only constructing a forward tee or replacing an irrigation system, many hours of planning meetings go into the effort. It's nice to watch and to supervise the project as it moves from paper to reality. I personally like doing course construction projects because it usually means

the finished product will cure one of my headaches.

We are down to our last golf meeting for 1998. I'm sure that's sweet music to Brian Bossert's ears. The 2-man scramble/college championship will be played at Seven Bridges this year. If you've never played Don Ferreri's course, I urge you to sign up for this event. It's one of the top public courses in the Chicago area. Remember, you don't have to be competing on a college team to participate in this event. Feel free to sign up as a single and compete for prizes as part of a 2-man scramble team. Brian will pair you with another single. So come on out and enjoy some of the fall colors at Seven Bridges.

Kevin Czerkies, CGCS President, MAGCS

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Lawrence Flament,

Superintendent Settler's Hill G.C. 1997

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Hobbies: A Stress-Relief Valve

Joel Purpur
River Forest C.C.

When I was volunteered by the Education Committee chairman to submit an article for "Ask the Expert," at first I thought that I was to give some enlightening information on a subject that I am an expert on. I thought for awhile, and the only thing I could come up with was that some consider me an expert on maintaining my annual ski vacations after three kids and eleven years of marriage. I'm also good at playing with the kids and usually get yelled at before they do. While the young ones are priceless, I am looking forward to all of our children being out of diapers so we can go on *family* ski vacations too.

This time of year, I can only assume that most people in our industry are burned out from a seemingly endless summer of either supplying golf courses or baby-sitting a golf course day and night trying to keep turf alive. Instead of writing about an expert's "technical stuff," I will write about what keeps me going between seasons. Other than my family, my hobbies keep the motor running.

Hobbies are an important part of stress relief, especially being in the golf business. We continually have to give up so much during the summer. Anyone who has talked to me for any length of time will usually hear me start to babble about one of my interests: flying airplanes. Being a pilot is one of my methods for escape. Especially during the summer months, I enjoy flying over golf courses and seeing how everyone is doing turfwise and, on

(continued on page 6)



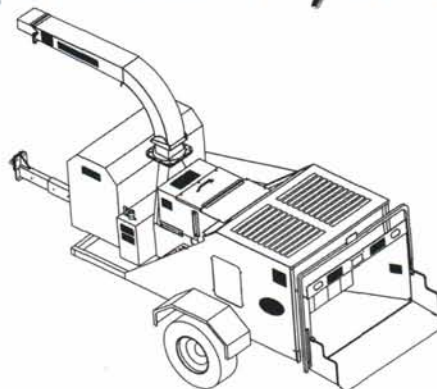
l-r: Hayden and Joel Purpur

Photo by Fred Opperman

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Hobbies: A Stress-Relief Valve

(continued from page 4)

some occasions, floodwise. You can't hide a lot from the air. You can see some pretty interesting things.


This can work against you in some cases. Mike Sauls at Butler National had to move a cart path along their 17th tee because a former green chairman did not like the way it looked from a jet while on final approach into O'Hare! Wow, that's a new one!

Flying the golf courses during periods of drought can also be interesting. Problems associated with poor sprinkler coverage and patterns can be easily seen when conditions are right. Drain lines can sometimes be easily seen during drought conditions as well by the variance in grass color above the drain tile versus the surrounding turf.

Aerial photographs of construction projects are also pretty cool. Dave Blomquist of Naperville Country Club asked me to fly his assistant (Tim Anderson at that time) and take a few overhead shots during his practice facility project. Small planes are not for everyone, and Dave, not being one who is comfortable even in a big plane, said, "I was getting queasy just watching you," as we did some steep turns above him to get at a better angle. Tim took some pictures, Dave got some shots that he wanted, and I got to get in some flying time. What fun. I would be glad to arrange a flight for anyone who wants to see their course from the air, or just fly around for the thrill of it.

If you want *high quality* aerial photographs, you are better off hiring a professional service. They are not that expensive. I had the pleasure of flying with Allen Gold-

stein of Aerial Images Photography, and I can tell you that you will get better results with a professional service. Some of the *On Course* aerals were done by his company as well as shots of my home course, River Forest Country Club. On the other hand, if the thought of flying gives you a thrill, let's go up, and you can bring the camera along.

Hobbies (except golf) can help dramatically to reduce stress. Flying an airplane, for me and my family, is a great way to get away from it all and forget about difficult members, *Poa annua*, golf cart decisions . . . WORK. People NEED hobbies to maintain their sanity. Don't forget the importance of your outside interests. I don't. If you want to try flying and get a bird's-eye view, call me. 

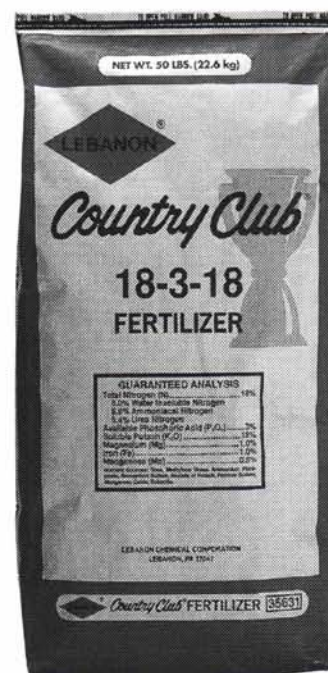
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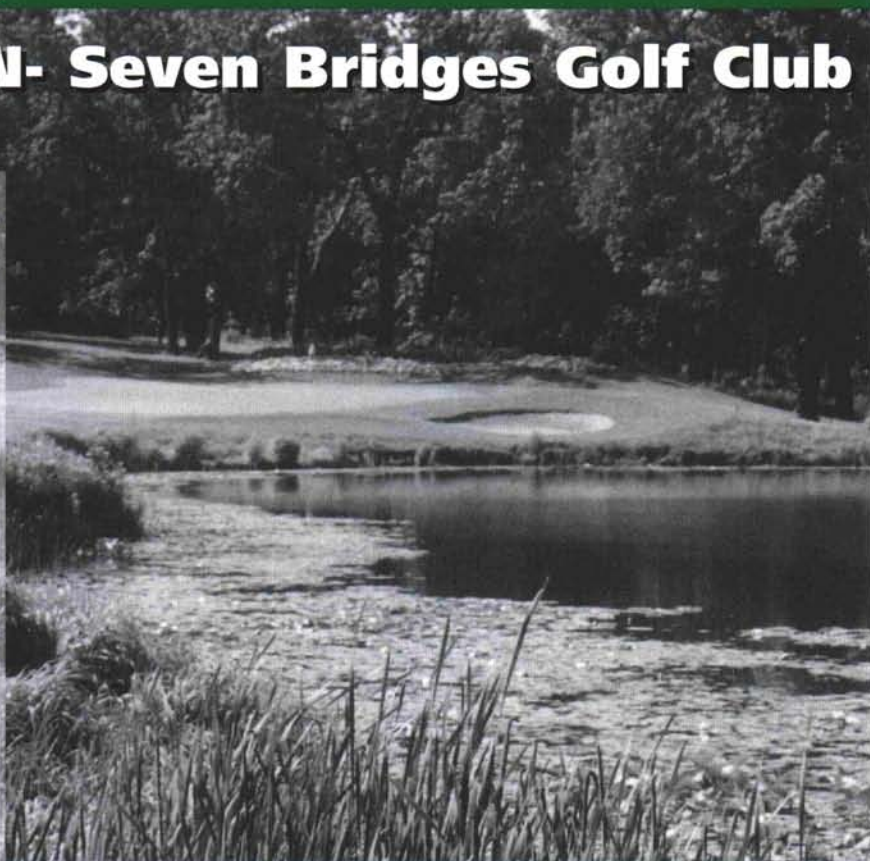
Don Ferreri -N- Seven Bridges Golf Club

John Gurke
Aurora C.C.



7he October MAGCS meeting will be held at yet another course within spitting distance of your humble writer—Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge, with Don Ferreri serving as our host. The name is deceiving, as seven bridges would not even come close to being sufficient to traverse all the water hazards on this challenging Nugent-designed, Wadsworth-built, 7,118-yard track. Perhaps a more appropriate name would be Seventy Balls. The approximate number needed for a 17-handicapper such as myself to complete

(continued on page 28)



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Late Fall Fertilization: A Prescription for Turf Recovery

Pete Landschoot
Department of Agronomy
Penn State University

The hot, dry summers left many lawns, athletic fields, and golf courses parched, brown, and thin. With the rains and cool weather of September and October, most turf recovered, but thin lawns are still present in certain areas. This year, many turf managers are planning to make late fall fertilizer applications with the hopes of improving turf density and vigor next spring. In this article, we will examine how late fall fertilizer applications influence turf performance, when to make your applications, and which types of fertilizers and rates provide the best response.

*Carbohydrate
reserves help turf
resist winter injury
and disease and
serve as a source
of energy for
root and shoot
growth the
following spring.*

Why fertilize in late fall?

Fall is the time of year when cool-season turfgrasses recover from summer stress-related conditions, such as drought, heat, and disease. The cooler temperatures and moist conditions are conducive to good turf growth and, provided that plants are properly fertilized in late summer, turf begins to accumulate carbohydrate reserves in stems, rhizomes and stolons. Carbohydrate reserves help turf resist winter injury and disease and serve as a source of energy for root and shoot growth the following spring.

Research has shown that if fertilizer applications are made in midfall (mid-October to early

(continued on page 12)



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