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ment reach far beyond its boundaries or the community in which it resides.

Golf development can be a positive element to progress. First, the land it takes to support a golf course is significant. On average, 150 acres are needed to support a golf course. The extent of the land mass alone is an excellent opportunity to solve a host of environmental needs within a given community or region.

Specifically, planned biodiversity within golf courses has increased over the past years. Existing facilities, in an effort to reduce maintenance costs, continue to expand low-maintenance areas. Architects are committed to incorporating existing and new wetlands, grasslands and sensitive areas into planning efforts for the betterment of the golf course as well as the community.

Recent survey data indicate that almost 20% of total golf course area is dedicated to low maintenance, no maintenance or "wildness." More than 3,780 acres are currently devoted to this "wilderness crusade." This is substantial and cannot be ignored by environmental campaigners.

Further, architects and engineers actively seek to address a host of environmental solutions within a golf course corridor by protecting, enhancing or minimizing impacts to sensitive areas. Water quality and storm water management are specific engineering issues addressed during the development of golf courses. Wetlands and open space can be expanded in golf course corridors to accommodate larger-framework open space plans or wetland mitigation banking. Erosion control practices can help reduce the potentially strangling effects of farm runoff and construc-

tion sedimentation. Finally, golf courses can buffer detrimental development from sensitive microenvironments. These are positive influences golf courses have for the enrichment of the entire community.

For instance, Colliers Reserve in Florida and Spanish Bay in California are courses that are standards of environmental

Recent survey data indicate that almost 20% of total golf course area is dedicated to low maintenance, no maintenance or "wildness." More than 3,780 acres are currently devoted to this "wilderness crusade." This is substantial and cannot be ignored by environmental campaigners.

protection and enhancement. These courses aid the environment with their presence by protecting plants and wildlife, expanding wetlands, buffering development and augmenting wildlife sanctuaries.

Other courses have been cited for efforts to reclaim abandoned strip mines and develop them into environmental assets.

These include Black Diamond Ranch in Florida and The Quarry in Texas. These courses have stabilized tenuous landforms and established wildlife refuges. Harborside International in Chicago is an example of a golf course that transformed an industrial waste site into an environmental treasure, with positive recreation, economic and social ramifications for the area.

Finally, "end-use" considerations for landfills include recreational facilities like sledding, hiking, fishing and golf. Golf as an "end-use" product for landfills can transform a "bad neighbor" into a positive environmental attraction.

These are some of the positive consequences of golf development for potentially ruinous landscapes. Environmentally, golf can actually solve a host of environmental, cultural and community needs within the boundaries of the golf course. If planned properly, golf provides a positive environmental experience to golfers as well as surrounding communities, ultimately enriching communities throughout a region.

Third, golf can provide great cultural benefits to our society.

The game of golf can help everyone become better citizens. Certainly, golf courses offer excellent recreational opportunities for a community. The complexity of our culture makes golf appealing and the benefits felt by the game are resonant. Smog-filled cities, crammed highways, computers, phones, faxes, radios and television invade our senses constantly. Is it any wonder that the popularity of golf has risen over the past decade?

We demand more and better environmental experiences like the
(continued on page 24)



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Beyond The Boundaries . . .

(continued from page 22)

ones we feel on the golf course. Only a few other sports are so richly filled with the environmental experiences that golf provides. These experiences reach deep into our need to see and feel nature in its most profound settings.

For centuries, the greatest of civilizations have created gardens in their cities. Whether the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Villa Gardens of Italy, the palatial formal estates of France at Versailles and Vaux, or the picturesque gardens in England, man has a need to create and recreate the elements of our environment to soften the impact of our "technocultural" needs.

These great civilizations understood the boundless, enriching advantage of "designed" open spaces. Intelligent cultures before

us produced the finest of landscape experiences in forms that, to a great degree, resemble golf courses. Those civilizations understood the inherent value of "wildness" and landscape experiences in everyday life. Wildlife and diverse plant habitats add to the quality of anyone's life in a complex urbanized culture.

What was your most memorable round of golf? Was it your lowest score? Was it the hole-in-one? Was it a fascinating golf course? I have played many golf courses and the most memorable rounds are those that thrill my senses. The game can uncover feelings of tranquility, admiration or awe at the purity of a particular landscape. Whether at the mountains of Castle Pines, the seaside at St. Andrews, Pebble Beach, Ballybunion or Black Wolf Run, the best of golf is found in the dignity of a landscape, its

complex simplicity, its diversity and environmental abundance.

This is the powerful curative potential of golf.

If we can get more people into the landscape, in a careful and meaningful manner, more people will appreciate its diversity, its clarity and intricacy, its sensitivity and significance. Quality-of-life issues are "hot buttons" in today's political atmosphere. Golf can generate positive residual "quality-of-life" effects by enhancing the recreational, economic, environmental and cultural welfare.

Programs such as Adopt-a-School, facilitated by Chicago-area golf course superintendents, provide schoolchildren with an avenue to environmental education. These programs and others allow children to study and understand natural systems at work by collecting wildflower seeds,

(continued on page 26)



Photo credit, Village Links of Glen Ellyn

Programs such as Adopt-A-School allow children to understand natural systems at work with activities like replanting native vegetation.

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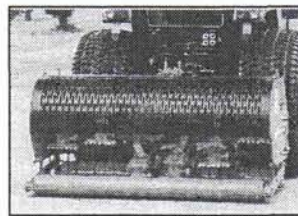
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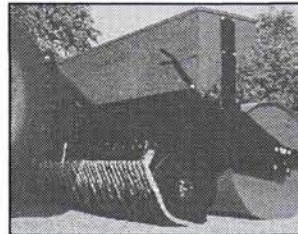
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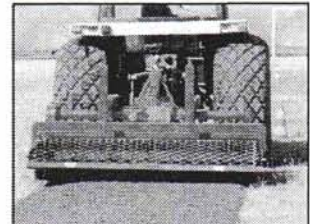
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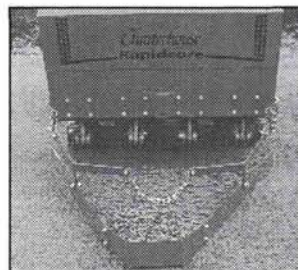
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Beyond The Boundaries . . .

(continued from page 24)


establishing butterfly gardens, replanting native vegetation or conducting a wildlife census.

Within the next year, an 18-hole course with expanded practice facilities and a pitch-and-putt course is planned for the Village of Mooseheart in the central part of the Fox River Valley. This project is a unique initiative by a variety of public, private and not-for-profit organizations. The result of this effort will be a cornerstone facility utilized by thousands of youngsters each and every year.

This could be most effective in large urban areas, where the opportunities to interact in a natural setting are impossible. Initiatives such as First Tee and Hook-A-Kid on Golf are challenged to provide recreational experiences to children that would otherwise not be exposed. The mission of Hook-A-Kid on Golf is to expose this great game to as many children as possible and provide places for them to play. This means developing golf course facilities for youth specifically so that kids can learn the game, as well as understand the self-control and conduct required to participate in the game.

Imagine a practice facility, with a three-hole golf course and practice facilities developed within an inner city setting on urban blighted areas or brown-field sites. Imagine the pure and absolute benefit from a facility such as this. These types of facilities are now being contemplated, planned and developed in Chicago and other urban settings.

Golf can have significant positive effects upon urban renewal efforts. The cultural effects of these types of initiatives will be felt for generations. The positive attitudes of children, mentored by caring adults, learning a game of character that will stimulate their senses for a lifetime, will saturate our culture with penetrating results.

Golf is recreation. Golf is a positive environmental impact. Golf is a stimulating landscape experience. But most importantly, golf can have a profound effect on the lives of our youth. These are but a few of the enormous advantages of the game. Golf has much to offer our society. Let us defend the game, and boast about its benefits. Golf is a game that has benefits that reach far beyond its boundaries. 

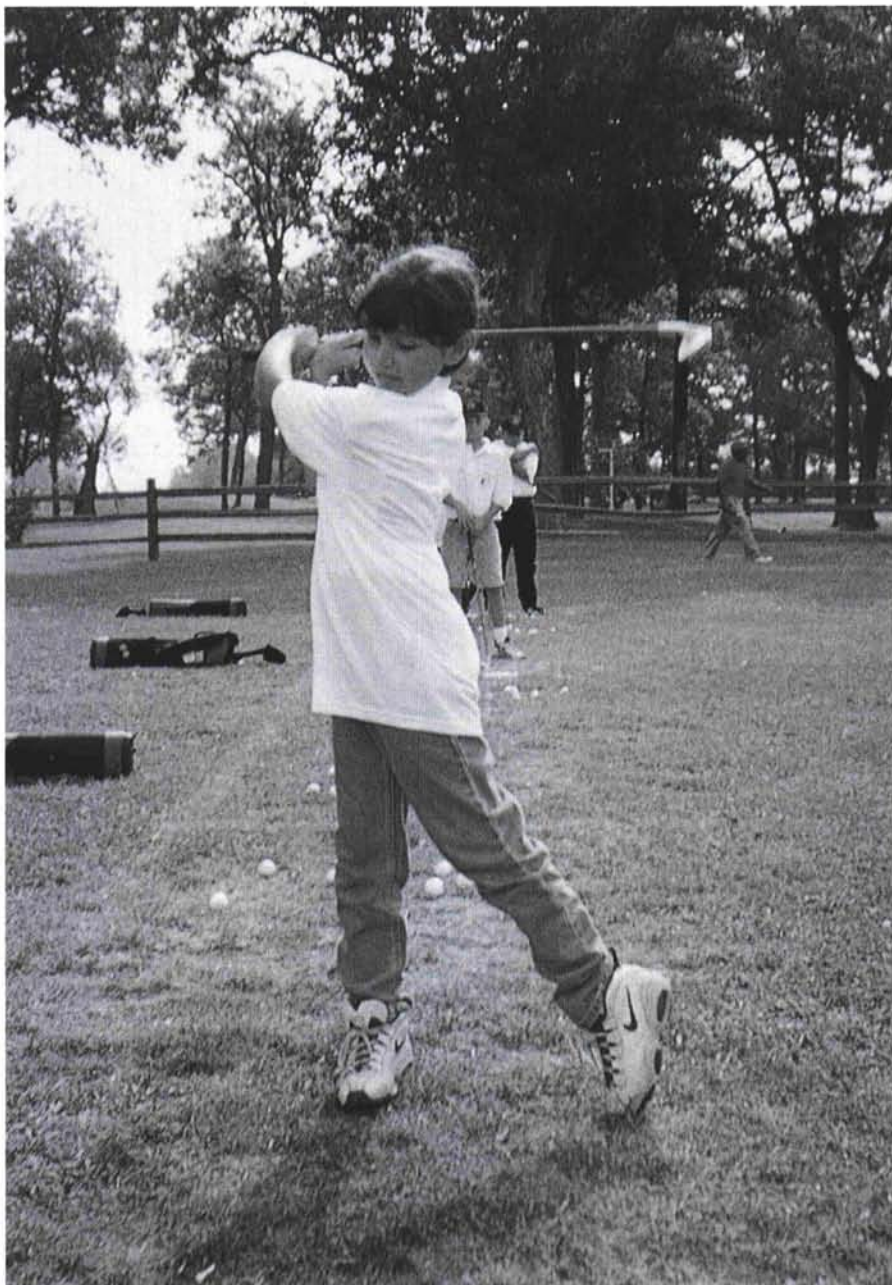


Photo credit, Hook-A-Kid on Golf

Initiatives such as Hook-a-Kid on Golf provide recreational opportunities to children that would not otherwise be exposed.



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Good-Bye



Fred Opperman, Editor

As I look back over the years, I recall how fortunate I have been. I started my apprenticeship at "The Finishing School for Students in Turf Management," alias Bob O'Link Golf Club, under the tutelage of Bob Williams. What a great learning experience that was. If anyone has an old copy of *Golfdom*, August 1961, page 21, there you will see a young Fred Opperman, no beard and with hair. After two summers at the "Finishing School," I went on to be the assistant at Elmhurst C.C. (now renamed Oak Meadows G.C.) and spent two years there before becoming the superintendent at Riverside G.C. I returned to Elmhurst C.C. the next year as superintendent and remained for four years.

At the annual MAGCS meeting at Cypress Restaurant in 1969, Ray Gerber asked if he could buy me a drink; and from that conversation, I ended up as the superintendent at Glen Oak C.C. when Ray retired in May 1970. In a matter of a few years, I had as mentors two of the deans of turf: Bob Williams and Ray Gerber, both GCSAA past presidents and recipients of the Distinguished Service Award.

During that time, I was blessed by having a good-looking blond pick me up for a blind date. That date has never ended and is going on 35 happy years. In 1969, Judy and I were again blessed with our son Todd, who has turned out

to be the pride of our lives. Yes, I have been fortunate.

I would also like to mention some other people who over the years helped me along this path of life that one takes. Everyone has his or her own list if you just think back, but these are others that I need to mention: Bob Hammer-schmidt, who was the green chairman at Glen Oak C.C. for quite a few years and has since been a dear friend and sounding board.

*It has been a rewarding
16 years serving as your
editor, and I will truly
miss it. The joy of
seeing a well-written
article by a
superintendent has been
very satisfying, and
the pride in presenting
the "Ray Gerber
Editorial Award" has
always been special to me.*


Greg Oltman and Art Clesen, two of the most honest, sincere, hard-working businessmen I have ever met and worked with. Then there is Bob Baker, a mentor who took me under his wing. Wow, what a knowledge of trees he has and what a gentleman he is.

In 1983, when I started as editor of *The Bull Sheet*, I never imagined that it would last for 16+ years, 194 newsletters. It really seems like only yesterday that it all started. I must point out that what makes the newsletter run and what ultimately puts it in your home or

office is the advertisers. The Chicagoland area is fortunate to have such loyal advertisers as the newsletter has enjoyed over the years. My hat is off to them, and I personally want to thank them.

While I have always kept "nagging" you at just about every meeting to write articles for your newsletter, it has paid off. That is one of the areas that our association can take pride in, the membership's participation in writing articles. So many of the other newsletters I receive have few, if any, articles from their superintendents.

It has been a rewarding 16 years serving as your editor, and I will truly miss it. The joy of seeing a well-written article by a superintendent has been very satisfying, and the pride in presenting the "Ray Gerber Editorial Award" has always been special to me. The feeling of accomplishment in providing you with tools to better do your job is incomparable. For the last 10 years I haven't been a superintendent, but believe me, I've always thought of myself as one and tried to provide the articles that would be of interest to you.

The MAGCS is a great association; it is that way due to its loyal and hard-working board of directors and members who make it so. I regret leaving so many friends and associates here in the Chicagoland area and not being active in the affairs of the association. As I have mentioned before, change is constant. Judy and I are looking forward to our new adventure and to making new friends in Montana. One must remember where your priorities are. If you have your love of God, family and friends and your health, you are truly blessed. And I have been blessed. This is my last issue as editor. Once again, thank you for your trust in me as your editor for all these years. 

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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 16 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Broken Arrow G.C.

July 19 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake C.C.

July 27 — 1999 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

August 17 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Odyssey G.C.

August 18 — 1999 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. For details, contact Kay Patrick at 517-321-1660.

November 3 — Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah C.C.

November 20 — Fall Dinner Dance at Seven Bridges G.C.

The April MAGCS monthly meeting, held at Mill Creek, was unfortunately washed out. Brett Hultquist and his crew did everything possible to have the course in beautiful shape, but the gods were not smiling on us that day, my friends, and the rain just would not quit. Several of our more hardcore (for lack of a better or more insulting term) members tried to stick it out, but their only reward for their diligence was being wetter and colder than the rest.

The Toro Company donated \$1,000 to the GCSAA Foundation in the name of the MAGCS in honor of our winning both the gross and net chapter team competitions in Tampa, FL at the GCSAA Tournament. Congratulations again to our always-strong competitors.

Reminder: For those interested, copies of last year's MAGCS financial statement can be obtained by contacting your secretary/treasurer, Brian Bossert. The report makes great bedtime reading.

On behalf of all
MAGCS members.

THANK YOU,
FRED OPPERMAN,
AND BEST OF LUCK
TO YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY!

(continued on page 32)



L to R, Textron president Phil Tralies, Arnold Palmer, Phil Taylor, Textron CEO Carl Burtner

Congratulations to Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc., for being honored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products at the recent GCSAA Convention in Orlando. Illinois Lawn Equipment received the *Raving Fan Award*, which recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in customer satisfaction, while the *Dealer of the Year Award* recognizes outstanding sales growth and excellence in parts and service for customers. Illinois Lawn also joined the *One-Million-Dollar Club* for financing/leasing equipment through Textron Financial Corporation. Arnold Palmer participated in the presentation of the awards.