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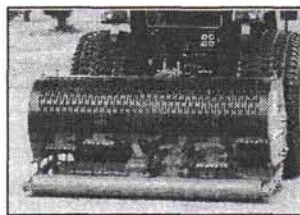
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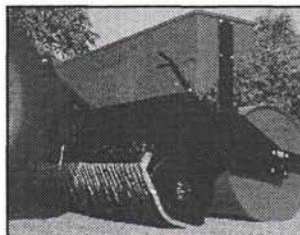
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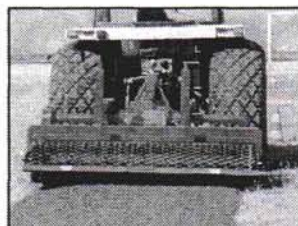
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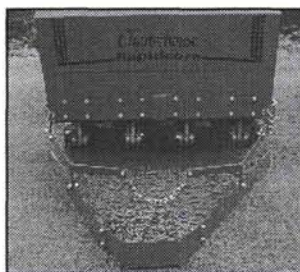
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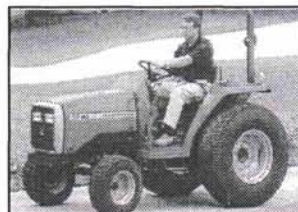
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# A Superintendent's Responsibility

Glenn Bereiter  
Aldeen G.C.

**T**he longer anyone is in this profession as a golf course superintendent, the more their responsibilities increase. When I began in this business, my mentors would remind me almost daily that a golf course superintendent is the problem solver of the club. Ours was the only department with the resources and the knowledge to handle most problems that surface within the club. We are agronomists, managers, consultants, educators, teachers, electricians, accountants, mechanics, horticulturists, carpenters, inventors, etc., etc., etc. I'm sure we could all add more things to the list, but for the purpose of this article, I would like to concentrate on the educator/teacher responsibility of our positions.

As we began our journey to our present positions, we were educated to maintain a golf course; and we learned from Mike Mumper at the NCTE that "they don't teach you everything you need to know in school." We are constantly learning how to improve our courses, the environment, communication skills and employee relations. One of the most important relationships is that one between the superintendent and the assistant.

We all remember our first assistant superintendent position: learning the day-to-day operation of a golf course throughout the entire year; storing up the information that the superintendent had learned from years of experience; watching the decision-making process first-hand and even being involved in those decisions; knowing that whatever the outcome, the superintendent had to live with the consequences; and

moving from one assistant superintendent position to another and learning an altogether different style of golf course maintenance, but providing the same results.

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*One of the  
most important  
relationships is that  
one between the  
superintendent and  
the assistant.*

---

One thing that makes golf course maintenance fascinating is the many different styles of management; no two golf courses are maintained exactly alike. That is

why being an assistant at a number of golf courses is important. One can draw on the superintendent's knowledge and style to formulate your own style of maintenance. I always tell my interns and assistants that you can learn from any situation, good or bad, or more importantly, how to handle a situation or how **not** to!

In my opinion, in order for the assistant/superintendent relationship to succeed, a set of guidelines needs to be stated and agreed upon. From the superintendent, we must: **RESPECT** their previous experience, education, and professional goals. **COMMUNICATE** with them, the same way you expect communication from the golf pro, general manager, or any other club official. **TRAIN** them in the

*(continued on page 24)*

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## A Superintendent's Responsibility

(continued from page 22)

intricacies of golf course management, teaching them what they haven't learned in school. Prepare them with assigning RESPONSIBILITY to carry out daily tasks and to manage the crew in the superintendent's absence. TRUST their judgment and abilities. Provide EDUCATION, as members in local associations, GCSAA, and attending seminars and conferences. Give them HONESTY with regard to performance and evaluation. Finally, and possibly most important, is FLEXIBILITY. Allow the assistant the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them. All too often we don't give an assistant the opportunity to fail; and, consequently, we never give them the opportunity to succeed.

In turn, from the assistant superintendent, I expect: TRUST in the decisions we make that they will be handled as we agreed, or in some cases, as assigned. DEDICATION to the high standards I expect and our patrons demand. WILLINGNESS to learn, record experiences, and work long, hard hours. Being the first one to work in the morning and the last one to leave in the evening. RESPECT for my experience and training and in following the decisions we ultimately come to. CONFIDENTIALITY for information of club officials or members that could be construed in different

ways. An EXEMPLARY employee for all staff to imitate. A PROFESSIONAL in the way they approach their job, other employees, members or patrons, and association gatherings. The assistant must want to LEARN. All too often assistants come to us thinking that they have all the answers and know how to handle any situation when, in reality, they do not.


Earlier I mentioned communication from superintendent to assistant, but it is also true from assistant to superintendent. Remember that in order to communicate, someone must be LISTENING for proper instruction and plan of action. The number of students entering the marketplace yearly are making quality assistant positions scarce. It is common for a club to receive fifty or more applicants for a job opening. We are in a competitive market here, and it seems to be tightening as time goes by. There is no "fast track" to a superintendent position any more, and it is up to us to train our employees properly to give them every opportunity available to succeed in this profession. 

## Luke Strojny -N- Poplar Creek C.C.

(continued from page 10)

When I asked Luke about his aspirations in our profession, he seemed to be caught off guard. But he answered very simply: to find contentment in his work.

The more I thought about the answer, the more it made sense to me. Our profession allows us to nurture beautiful places of recreation, enjoyment and supposed relaxation. Because every member, guest, or participant judges our work and sometimes is not satisfied with the conditions we provide, it is difficult to be content ourselves. Every aspect of our business, whether it is our budgets, personnel, employers, physical grounds, turf types, or nature herself, has limitations. It is up to us to recognize and understand these limitations and work within the confines of them. Once these boundaries are defined, it is up to us to achieve the uppermost limit within that confine. By doing so, perhaps we will and can find contentment ourselves.

I know the members of the MAGCS will be content by the fine surroundings and accommodations that Luke will provide for us at the March meeting at the Poplar Creek Country Club. Thanks, Luke. 

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# the Bull Sheet

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 18 — CDGA Green Seminar, Medinah C.C.

March 10 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Poplar Creek G.C.

April 27 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Mill Creek G.C.

May 3 — ITF combined meeting, Mount Holly C.C. and Weaver Ridge G.C., Peoria area.

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

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

Harper College in Palatine will be offering a one-day seminar called Team Concept for Golf Course Management. The class will start Wednesday, March 17, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fernando Fernandez, CGCS, will be the instructor. For information, call 847-291-2232, or fax 847-705-8574.

For the fifth year now, Fernando will also be offering classes in Spanish to English to help Spanish-speaking people acquire the Commercial Not-for-Hire Operators license, category General Standards, for the state of Illinois. The classes will be held at Harper College starting Tuesday, March 16, and will run for 10 weeks from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For information, use the above phone number.

Assistant superintendents needed: Applicants need golf course maintenance experience and the ability to obtain an Illinois Pesticide Applicator's license.

Call Kurt R. Sams, Idlewild C.C., Flossmore, IL, at 708-798-4927.

Call Paul Swenson, The Course at Aberdeen, Valpariso, IN, at 219-531-5718.

Call Mark Bobb, Barrington Hills C.C., Barrington, IL, at 847-381-0140.

**Look who's turning 80!** Albie Staudt. Do you know what Albie wants for his birthday? He is requesting your club scorecard. No birthday cards, just your golf club's scorecard for his collection. Now guys, let's fill his mailbox with those cards. Here is a man who saves us countless hours from listening to the reading of past meeting minutes. Isn't he worth a scorecard? You bet he is. Send those cards to 723 Carlisle Rd., Batavia, IL 60510, and then give him a call at 630-879-5511 and wish him many more Happy Birthdays.



Calling all Gin Players! The Annual Gin Classic will be held at Hackney's Restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling. It is just south of Dundee Road.

Date: Monday, March 22

Time: 12 Noon Lunch

This year's recipient will be Maryville Academy. Cost for the day will be \$40 (minimum). Includes lunch, donation and gin tourney; or \$25 (minimum) for lunch and donation. Donations may also be sent directly to: Maryville Academy, c/o Father John Smith, 1150 N. River Road, DesPlaines, IL 60016. Come on out, enjoy the gathering, and help a very worthy cause.

Mechanic needed at Settler's Hill G.C. Contact Dan Murray at 630-232-4922.

CDGA Green Seminar, Thursday, March 18, at Medinah C.C. Featured keynote speaker is Judy Bell, past president of the USGA. Note that any MAGCS member (superintendent, assistant superintendent, commercial) can register at the "CDGA Member" rate.

The MAGCS has opened up a web site on the internet. The address is [www.magcs.org](http://www.magcs.org). In the future, this address will be on the index page of *On Course*.

DACC Turfgrass Alumni Association Becomes Official.

The Danville Area Community College Turfgrass Association and Friends was officially organized December 2, 1998, at the Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois. The first meeting was held and called by Brian McCoy, of Danville C.C., Danville Illinois.

It was agreed that there was a need and desire of alumni to meet, generate scholarship money, and assist Danville Area

(continued on page 28)



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**the Bull Sheet**

*(continued from page 26)*

Community College's Turfgrass program. At this meeting, there were several other topics discussed, including increasing membership and planning the spring golf outing. They also elected three committee chairmen: Brian Bossert, Scholarship Committee; Dennis Buck, Golf/Events Committee; and Rich Wall, Membership Committee; along with appointing Brian McCoy Secretary/Treasurer.

Those attending the first meeting were Brian McCoy, Danville C.C.; Mike Hart, Danville C.C.; Brian Bossert, Bryn Mawr C.C.; Kerry Blatteau, Oak Brook Hills Resort; Ron Dohman, Pontiac Elks G.C.; Dennis Buck, Dwight C.C.; Keith Peterson, Medinah C.C.; Rich Wall, Lesco Inc.; Bill Smith, Panther Creek C.C.; Eric May, Panther Creek C.C.; Don Spinner, Iron Horse G.C.; Todd Deitz, Mt. Hawley C.C.; Brock Burton, Bryn Mawr C.C.; and Bart Schaaf, Oak Springs G.C.

Others joining in the first year, and thus becoming charter members, were John Tonsor, South Side C.C.; Will Buchar, Charleston C.C.; Stephanie Batroni, Hinsdale G.C.; Stacy Wallace, Northmoor C.C.; Brian Comisky, Pinecrest G.C.; Michael Rayman, Canton C.C.; Paul Pierceall, Lowe's Inc.; Fritz Bateman, Edgewood

G.C.; and Rich Erickson, Panther Creek C.C.

Anyone interested in joining the DACC Turfgrass Alumni and Friends Association can call Brian McCoy at Danville C.C. at 217-443-8955, or send a check for \$25 to P.O. Box 292, Danville, IL 61834. We are planning a golf outing at Pontiac Elks C.C. on Saturday, May 8. Anyone interested in participating can call Ron Dohman at 815-842-3728. Space is limited to the first fifty people.

For sale: Course Alert II Siren System with master controller and four remote horn satellites (one new). Installed in '95. Asking \$1,200. Toro GM3 triplex-traction unit only, good condition. Asking \$400. Toro VT3 satellite face plates for \$75 each. Contact Kurt at Exmoor, 847-433-1177.

For sale: One VT-2 Toro Central with four clocks. Two new power supply boards #556138 for VT-2. One new syringe printed circuit board #556136 for VT-2. 80 hydraulic normally open 650s sprinkler heads. 150 hydraulic normally open 690s sprinkler heads. PSI pumping station, 1,000 gpm. Call Matt Springer, Sunset Ridge C.C., at 847-446-5268.

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LTC standalone controllers, and loads of Rain Bird #55 quick-coupler valves. A "Chris Plumb Special": three-pump process controller that regulates your pumps based on system pressure. Worked great; like new. Almost no offers refused! Call Brian Bossert, Bryn Mawr C.C., at 847-677-4112.

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Methyl Bromide news: The methyl bromide phase-out deadline was extended to 2005 by language included in the

*(continued on page 31)*

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Lawrence Flament,

Superintendent Settler's Hill G.C. 1997

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