

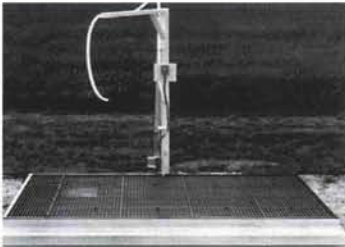
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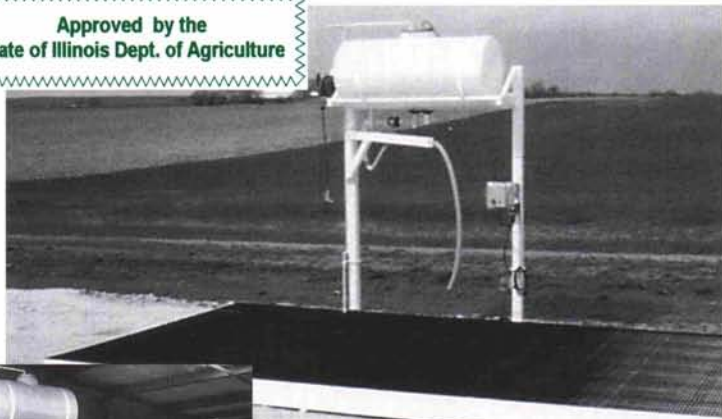


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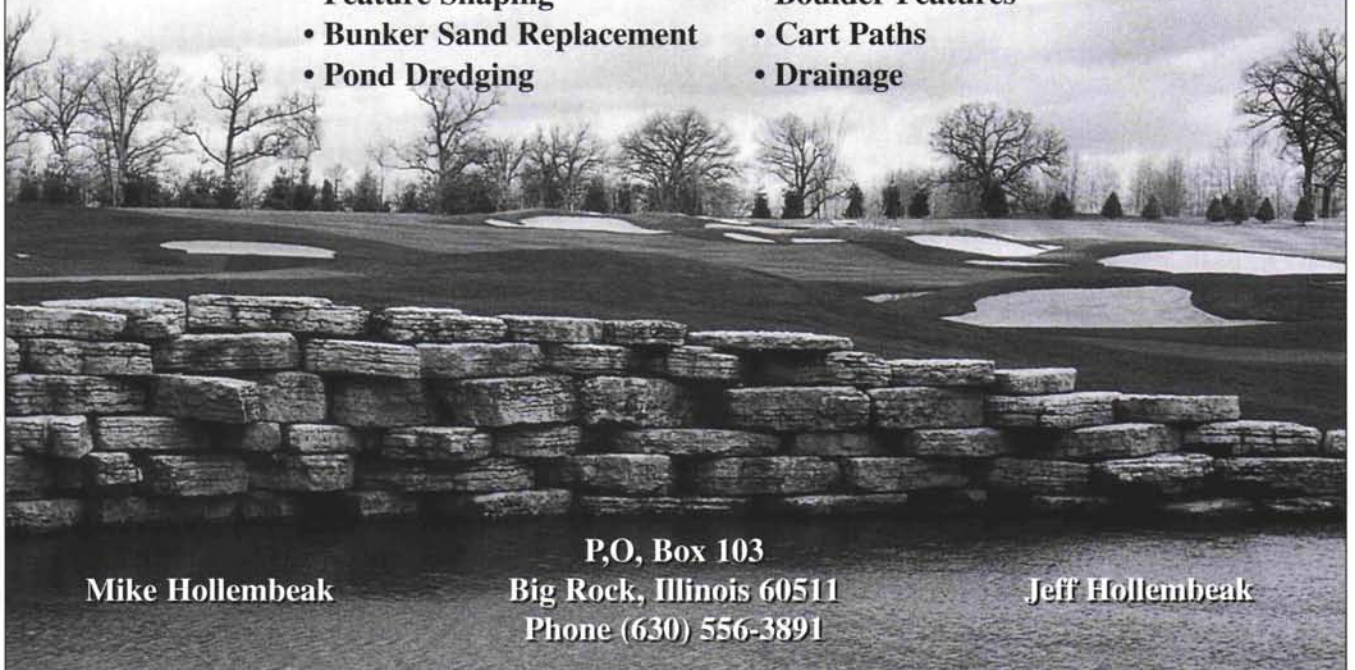
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ITF Combined Golf Day to Showcase Two Peoria Courses

Pat Norton, CGCS

7his month's Super-N-Site Profile is a real dynamic duo . . . a real two for the price of one . . . it's a double your pleasure, double your fun sort of a thing.

The ITF Combined Golf Day will be held May 3 on two superb Peoria area golf courses. Peter Clarno will be hosting one half of the field at Mount Hawley C.C.'s beautiful, totally renovated private layout, while Geoff Kemp plays host to the rest of the golfers at the awesome and dramatic Weaver Ridge (a course that Phil Kosin justifiably raves about).

I took the time in late March to go visit Pete and Geoff—two turfgrass veterans—at these distinctly different golf layouts and interview them for *On Course* . . . and what a wonderful day those two guys gave me! Both superintendents are just great guys . . . very hospitable, friendly and knowledgeable. Each is a credit to himself, his club and our profession.

Geoff Kemp's Weaver Ridge G.C.

Geoff Kemp, CGCS, will be hosting one half of the field on May 3 at the stunning, spectacular Weaver Ridge G.C.

In a word—this course is amazing! I had a hard time comprehending its beauty . . . and it is even more difficult to describe verbally. The course has some terrific elevation changes, lots of elevated tees and beautiful vistas

WEAVER RIDGE
golf club



Geoff and Cathy Kemp and their three children: Ben, Jason and Lauri.

seemingly everywhere! ITF golfers are surely going to enjoy being punished by this gorgeous golf course, a Michael Hurdzan/Dana Fry design built by Wadsworth Golf.

Geoff came on board at Weaver Ridge in June 1996 during the irrigation installation phase. Seeding, etc. started on August 16, 1996, with the course opening for play on June 13, 1997.

An Illinois native, Geoff grew up in Bloomington-Normal. He began his career as an assistant at Mount Hawley, then took on the superintendent role at Pontiac Elks, Pekin C.C. and Crestwick C.C. before getting involved at Weaver Ridge.

Geoff is 42 and has been married for 20 years to wife Cathy, who is the events coordinator at Weaver Ridge. The clubhouse is

(continued on page 14)

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ITF Combined Golf Day . . .

(continued from page 12)

capable of hosting groups of up to 350 people on each of two different levels, which means that as many as 700 wedding guests on any given Saturday look to Cathy and her staff for the royal treatment. I guess that Saturdays at Weaver Ridge are usually incredibly busy!

The Kemps have three children: Ben, 18, Jason, 16, and Lauri, 13. Geoff says that he can still kick Ben's butt on the basketball court and Jason's butt on the golf course. His deep-seated fear, though, is that daughter Lauri will be the best athlete of them all and soon surpass him in any and every sport!

Geoff reports that the course hosted about 32,000 rounds in 1998, a total that will ultimately climb to a maximum of 35,000-40,000 rounds annually. The course plays to different yardages from its five sets of tees . . . anywhere from 5,000 to 7,000 yards depending on how much pain a guy wants to inflict on himself! The course also sports 87 beautiful bunkers, which Geoff flatly states by far represent his biggest headache/challenge.

This golf course is absolutely breathtaking and will be a treat for anybody playing it! However—make sure you've got your "A" game going before attempting to play here. Too often, I (and I'm sure many of you, too) do not take the time to play a few rounds before attending a big event . . . shaking out the rust, right?

In particular, I hope that my friend Hans from Blackberry Oaks takes this advice before slashing and burning his usual way around the golf course during the ITF event. Or maybe I'll ask to be paired with Hans to insure that some of my golfing ability will rub

off on him as we negotiate our way through either one of these fine central Illinois courses.

It would be the least that I could do to repay the hospitality shown to me and to *On Course* by these two fine superintendents.

Pete Clarno's Mount Hawley C.C.

Mount Hawley C.C. is an older club, originally built in 1923, according to Pete Clarno, an affable 38-year-old gentleman. Its acreage is relatively small, about 95 in all, which is very typical of older courses. The club recently underwent a significant facelift to revitalize her venerable beauty, courtesy of Lohmann Golf Designs and Landscapes Unlimited. The actual reconstruction of this course took just 87 days to complete, which is a nice testament to the cooperative talents of many people—Jay Wille and Bob Lohmann, the people from Landscapes Unlimited, the board and membership of Mount Hawley and certainly Peter Clarno.

Pete has extensive construction and grow-in experience. He launched his career at Mount Hawley as the assistant superintendent, and then moved to Georgia to finish a grow-in at a private club. In the early '90s, he spent two years constructing a daily fee layout, then got involved with Sunbelt Golf, the construction contractors for the seven sites and 18 golf courses that comprise the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama. After his two-and-a-half-year stint with Sunbelt Golf (during which time he actually sat on the firm's board of directors), he returned to Peoria in August 1994.


Pete spent the next year-and-a-half working on plans for Weaver Ridge. In February 1996, he started at Mount Hawley C.C., scheming during those early

months on how best to rip apart and renovate the existing golf course. Ultimately, the annihilation of the old Mount Hawley began in July 1996, after the BOD courageously voted to close the course for 13 months for a total facelift.

The magnificent new Mount Hawley features all new greens and green complexes, regraded/recontoured/regrassed fairways, many new tees, all new bunkering, new and expanded lakes, and all new irrigation and drainage. The existing and new elements blend seamlessly into one vintage beauty that plays to about 6,300 yards.

Pete told me that this renovation was somewhat of a "piece of cake"—easy for someone of his experience to say! I'd simply say that the membership at Mount Hawley should be very proud of their golf course and of their superintendent. This guy really knows what he's doing!

Pete is also a 15-year veteran of "the marriage thing." Wife Linda owns her own medical transcription business. The couple has two daughters, Erica, 12, and Stephanie, seven.

Thanks, Pete, for your great hospitality . . . I enjoyed myself just about as much as your colleagues will during the Combined Golf Day! 

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Is a GM Position in Your Future?

Joel Purpur, CGCS

During the Golf, Government & Environmental Session at the GCSAA International Convention in Orlando, James Singerling, CMAA, supported the concept of a management network comprised of three equal department heads versus the general manager, or "GM," system of management. No comment made during the session's almost two-hour time frame drew as much applause.

I have been fortunate to get along with the golf professionals and club managers where I have worked, but time after time have heard stories from fellow superintendents about how a general manager used his authority over a superintendent to tie his or her hands on an important issue, not for the good of the club but only to reinforce the power of the GM position. In the mad pursuit to be viewed by the membership as the most important club employee, GMs have been known to purposely make other department heads look bad solely to exert their own dominance.

We know that clubhouse managers and golf pros do not totally understand what we superintendents are faced with on a day-to-day basis, so why is the clubhouse manager or pro still usually chosen over the superintendent for the GM position? Several reasons exist, but the trend is changing. Over the past few decades, our profession has made great strides in education and presentation. No longer is the superintendent stereotyped as

*James Singerling,
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system of management.*

wearing bib overalls and sporting a "green thumb." Today, a college-educated professional is the standard. (And about the coverall thing—if you don't dress like a professional, you won't be thought of as one. It does not take much to switch from blue jeans to Dockers.)

Years ago, many superintendents were not visible on a regular basis to people in the clubhouse, staying out on the course doing what they did best, distant from the public. Golf pros and clubhouse managers have always been the personnel speaking to the

(continued on page 18)

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Is a GM Position in Your Future?

(continued from page 16)

players one on one. Now, more and more, superintendents are becoming involved—indeed, need to be involved—with public relations on behalf of their organizations through direct contact around the clubhouse. Many superintendents are now attending club board meetings, another step in the right direction. The superintendent position itself seems to be more stable as in general, superintendents have very long tenures.

How many superintendents have pursued a general manager position? Probably not too many. Most will say that they do not want to give up time away from the golf course, their true devotion. But would you feel the same way if your club was going to a GM management scheme and you could either pursue the position or answer to a clubhouse manager or golf professional on a daily basis?

Several MAGCS members have opted for the former, pursuing and securing titles of either general manager or director of golf. Mike Nass of Cantigny Golf Club and Dave Fisher of Park Hills Golf Course are two good examples of superintendents advancing to the GM position. Both Mike and Dave feel it is easier for a superintendent to learn the restaurant and pro shop businesses than it would be for a pro or clubhouse manager to learn and understand golf course management.

Mike Nass enjoys being the main “go-to” person at his facility and welcomes the challenges of the added responsibilities. He feels very fortunate about his work situation and appreciates the fact that his employers provided him the opportunity to acquire the education necessary for the position.

Dave Fisher’s transfer to the GM role was slightly different than Mike’s. Initially, the pro at Dave’s course assumed the GM position, and when this did not work out, Dave stepped in. Dave’s friendly personality eased the transition and no hard feelings developed. Operations are going smoothly and organizational coordination has been achieved.

When asked about any difficulties with the transition to GM, both Dave and Mike expressed concerns about letting go of hands-on golf course management and managing from a distance. For both, making this sacrifice was well worth it. Neither Dave nor Mike hesitated to say he would take the same path if he had to do it all over again. Both agreed that the effort and responsibilities are worth the advantages

of being a GM and that they would rather be general managers than work for GMs.

If golf professionals and clubhouse managers coming into GM roles are “trained” with a basic course or two in turfgrass management, why doesn’t the GCSAA promote educational courses that train superintendents on the full spectrum of GM responsibilities? I for one would take part in the training. Although I am perfectly happy with the tri-management system at my club, if the situation were to change I would like to have enough qualifications to at least be considered for the GM position. When push comes to shove, I too would rather be a GM than work for one.



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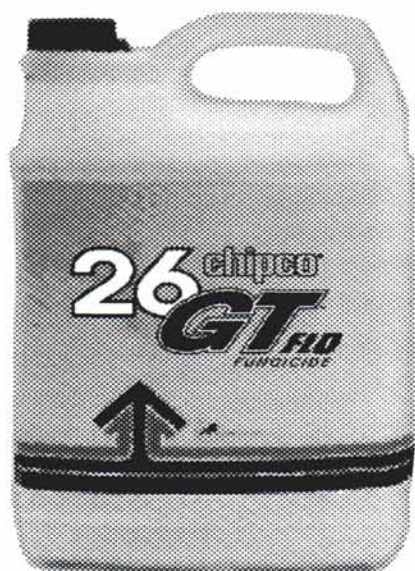
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The Process Behind Good Chemistry

(continued from page 10)

in drinking water, produced in and around the home, and encountered on lawns, gardens and public spaces, such as parks, rights-of-way and golf courses. Safeguards for infants and children, as well as other sensitive population subgroups, have been expanded.² The new legislation also requires that where two or more pesticides act on human health in the same manner, they must share a common risk cup. Therefore, the risk cup has become smaller, resulting in potentially fewer pesticides and/or pesticide uses. While the FQPA makes it more difficult to register or maintain products in the market, we can be assured that the products that receive approval have been thoroughly reviewed by the EPA and pose a reasonable certainty of no harm to people or the environment.


To obtain federal registration, then, rigorous research into environmental issues including water quality, product degradation, the analysis of the degradates and effects on soil microbiology are necessary. Ecological research involving non-target effects on native and endangered species is also part of the process. Pesticide registration decisions are based primarily on the EPA's evaluation of the test data provided by manufacturers. Some 120 or more tests may be required.¹

Established products will also be, at some point in time, subject to review by the EPA. This review process requires manufacturers to reexamine the older products' chemical components, reassess their risk in light of the risk cup and evaluate the products' ability to meet the new legislative standards. Expenditures related to this re-registration review are significant. This costly process has already resulted in the

elimination or limitation of the number of tools available for superintendents. Organophosphate and carbamate insecticides are among the first of the products now undergoing review by the EPA as a result of the new legislation. A grassroots initiative is presently encouraging the EPA not to rush to judgment on invaluable pesticide products and use preliminary and incomplete information. Rather, this grassroots campaign calls for use of real-world data and sound science as the basis for the EPA's analysis.

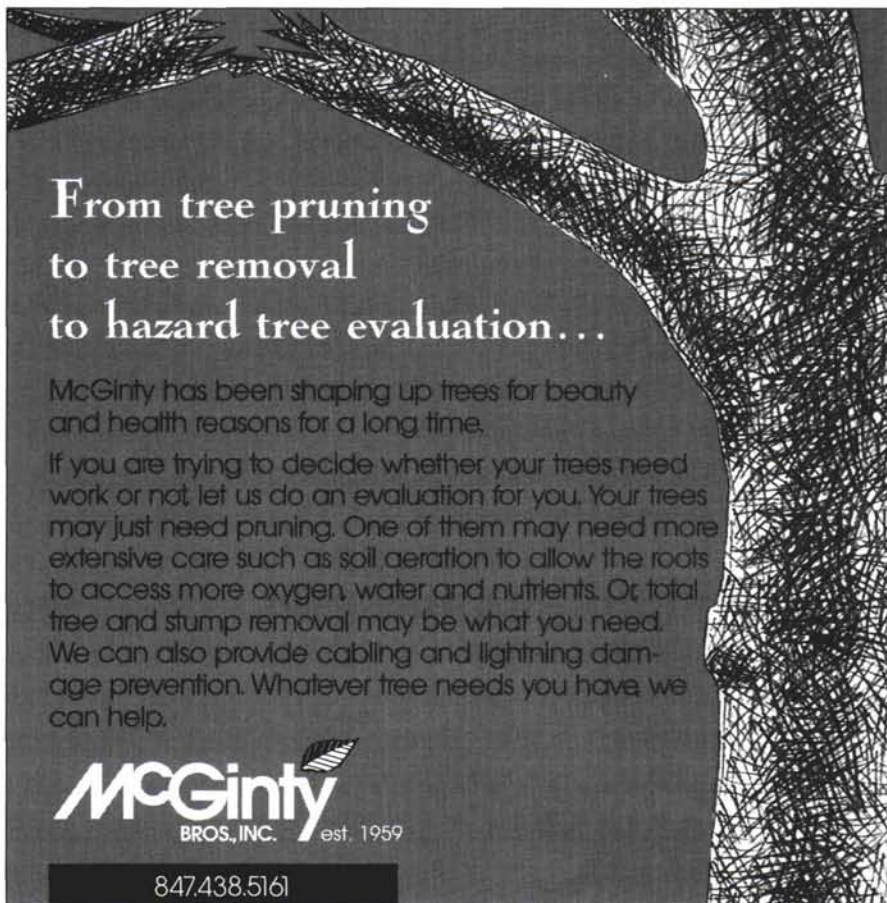
In addition to the EPA's strict requirements, the economics of product development also affect the process. The research needed to bring a particular product to market can take from six to ten years and cost the manufacturer \$50 million or more.² You may wonder, why are the large pesticide manufacturers also in the pharmaceutical business? The

answer is research. With the emergence of biotechnology, the synergy between pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical research platforms provides the manufacturers with exciting new possibilities, skills and resources that enhance competitive position in the marketplace.

What are the fruits of the extensive research and registration efforts put forth by the chemical manufacturers? New, user-friendly products and the continued availability of reliable, time-tested chemicals that provide excellent alternatives for pest control in the turf environment. 

¹ *Lawn Care Chemicals: What Consumers Should Know.* American Council on Science and Health, 1992.

² *And Now, The Good News.* American Crop Protection Association, 1997.



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