

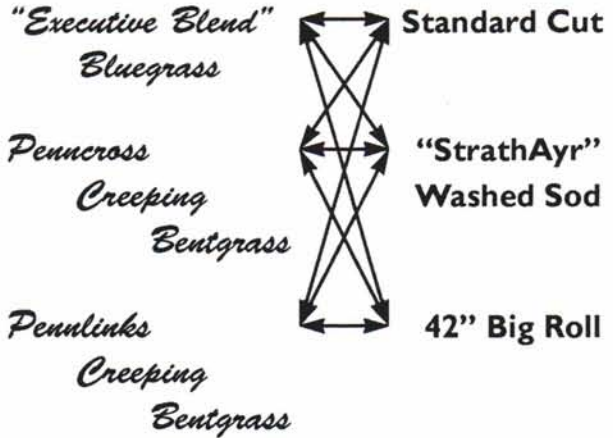


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Just Shut Up and Play!

(continued from page 20)

Groundskeeper Willy accent), “Argh! We’ve gut ta teyk the drrraiyyurrrr oat oov Taiygurrrr’s ‘ahnds, laest ‘e sheoots oonderrr pahrrr. We joost cah’n’t allooo it!” Last I checked, the decision of which club to use is, and always has been, the player’s. If a course has narrow fairways, brutal rough and bottomless bunkers, TOUGH! Every contestant plays the same course, and if some choose to hit driver and hit it crookedly, they’ll be playing the same gorse, too. It’s called COURSE MANAGEMENT, fellas. I simply can find no compassion in me for anyone, in any line of work who says, in effect, “The reason I only made \$400,000 this week instead of \$600,000 is that the course was lousy.”

Okay, I’ve vented a little of my own pent-up steam. The British Open is history, and I can relax, right? Just when I thought I was out, they pulled me back in! Today is Tuesday, August 10th, and I’ve just read the back page of the *Chicago Tribune* sports section. Not surprisingly, taking into account the above comments and those regarding the U.S. Open, the Tour pros are at it again. This time, it’s the PGA, and even before they’ve stepped out of their courtesy Cadillacs, the guys are carping. We are all too familiar with what Mother Nature wrought upon us this past July, and I think anyone in this business whose course looked beautiful after that is a freak of nature. That notwithstanding, Lee Janzen—who is obviously an agronomist as well as a golfer—spouts, “They [the greens] are hard, and I don’t think the weather has anything to do with it....I don’t think heat should be an excuse for the lack of a perfect surface.” Two paragraphs later, Fred Cou-

ples opines, “The greens are soft.” Which is it gonna be, guys? If I may, I’d like to make a suggestion—take your private jet to West Virginia and tell the first farmer you see that weather is no excuse for failed crops. Once you’ve extracted the rock salt, pitchfork or whatever implement

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same gorse, too.*

*It’s called COURSE
MANAGEMENT,
fellas.*

of pain and destruction he chose from your skull (the one you sit on and think with), we’ll chat. I feel like a doughnut, because all I can think to say right now is, “Bite me.”

The PGA is now a memory, and all is well again. Almost. The

Ryder Cup looms on the horizon, and—from the mouths of babes—another controversy has arisen. “Pay us!” they’re shouting. When that was thrown back in their faces, they performed the quintessential backpedal (a Tour pro’s version of Bruce Serling’s “Superintendent Shuffle”) and said, “We meant pay us and we’ll give it to charity...yeah, that’s what we meant.” STOP IT! At least there will be no soft-spike/metal spike controversy on the PGA Tour—with so many feet in mouths, they’ll be barefoot.

Professional golf is a HUGE business—millions upon millions of dollars are available to these select few, incredibly fortunate members of the lucky sperm club. Is it too much to ask that they comport themselves with the same gentlemanly respect for others that the Game prides itself on? Have we as superintendents truly become our worst enemies by using every high-tech tool and every iota of knowledge and experience to provide premier conditions regardless of Mother Nature’s moods? And in those rare cases when She wins, have we set ourselves up for this type of verbal assault? Like my hero, John Philp, we all see our courses as our babies, and we all take offense when someone bad-mouths that which we spend our lives nurturing. It is their prerogative, but I still can’t resist the urge to say, “Just shut up and play!” 

Author’s disclaimer: The above sentiments in no way apply to the club members or public tee-timers who pay our salaries.

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Points Worth Pondering

- The customer is not always right, but the customer is never wrong.
- Nobody cares what you know until they know that you care.
- Someone else may be 100% to blame, but you are 100% responsible for how you react.
- Customer service is nothing but a reflection of your own satisfaction.
- Always find a way to say "yes" to the customer.
- Every person's work is a self-portrait.
- An apology is an excellent way to have the "last word" in a disagreement.
- When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.

Tony Kalina -N- Prairie Landing G.C.
(continued from page 8)

Tony is also involved in two different steward groups: the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group and the Adopt-a-School program in West Chicago. Also, he is currently on the list to volunteer at the Morton Arboretum.

Projects to tackle this coming year include re-establishing grass lines, reconstruction of bunkers and adding more prairie areas—as if there isn't enough tall grass already!

In any event, bring plenty of balls and a wind sock, and we'll see you in October at Prairie Landing. 

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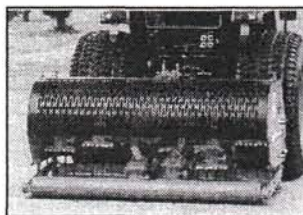
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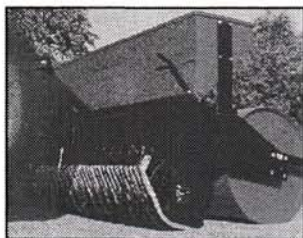
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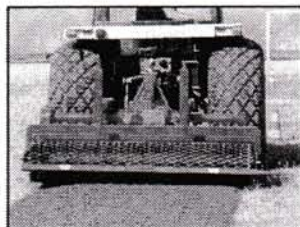
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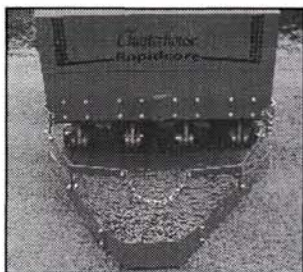
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Trees Prepare For Winter

(continued from page 34)

of growth and changes in metabolism that condition the tree to respond to low temperatures.

The second phase of acclimation is induced by freezing or near-freezing temperatures. During this stage, changes occur in sugars, proteins, amino acids, nucleic acids and organic acids, and the tree develops resistance to freezing.

The third stage is triggered by very low temperatures (-20 degrees to -60 degrees F). In this stage, trees can withstand very deep freezes (some down to -430 degrees F). This final phase of acclimation appears to be largely a physical process involving the binding of water. Water in cells is bound so tightly that it resists dehydration and reduces the amount of water available for destructive crystallization. Any unbound water would

freeze, expand and destroy the water-conducting vesicles and tracheids, like frozen water would shatter a glass bottle.


The trees also employ supercooling to prevent frost damage. By increasing the sugar and other solute concentration of their sap, the freezing point is reduced so low that only unusually cold conditions can cause the sap to freeze.

Dormancy in trees

Dormancy is also an adaptive strategy employed by trees in temperate regions to survive harsh winters. Dormancy is brought on by the same triggers that induce leaf color change, senescence, abscission and cold hardening.

When seasonal shoot growth ceases, the trees first enter a phase of inactivity called quiescence. This is a mild dormancy that can be broken by increased temperatures

or more favorable lighting. As autumn continues and temperatures continue to drop, the state of dormancy deepens until true dormancy is attained and shoot tips can no longer break dormancy and elongate, even under the most favorable conditions. This deep dormancy can only be broken after a certain length of cold weather, or cooling period. This genetically controlled cooling period prevents trees from breaking dormancy on a warm January day and exposing tender new shoots to killing frosts. The trees will only break dormancy when the danger of deep frosts is over or at least minimized.


To protect the delicate, dormant growing tissue from winter damage, trees "set" a terminal bud at the end of each growing shoot. The bud scales protect this meristematic tissue until it is time to break dormancy and grow through another season. 

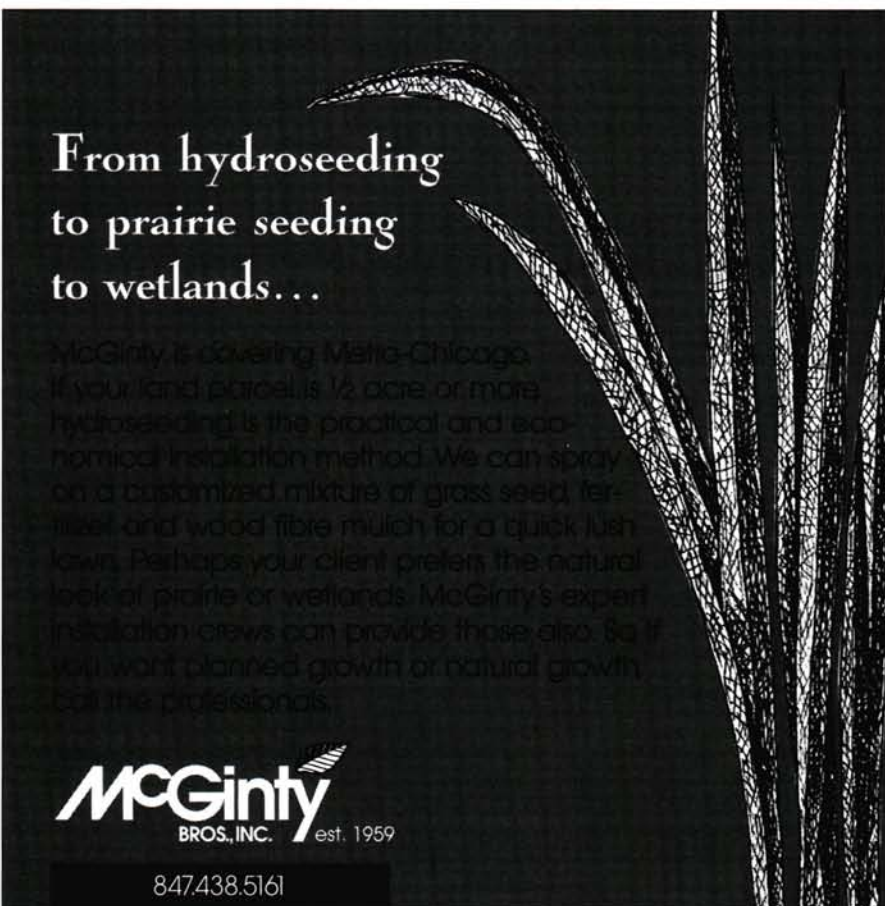
Ten Ways to Fiscal Fitness

(continued from page 18)

your family's financial needs, because your family could be earning less real interest than you expected on your insurance benefits—creating a need for more benefits.

9) **Contribute to your 401(k) plan.** If a plan is available where you work, participate. There are many tax advantages and your employer may match a portion of the money you contribute. That's hard to beat.

10) **Invest regularly.** Whether you have a 401(k) or not, you should save regularly. Look for investments that offer automatic transfers from your bank account every month. This will help keep you on the savings track. 



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A Report from Your First Tee Liaison

*Brock Burton
Bryn Mawr C.C.*

As a member of the Midwest Association, I have gladly accepted the responsibility of being the liaison between the MAGCS and the First Tee organization. The First Tee is a program that will create golf facilities that are accessible to America's youth. The local chapters are set up to provide juniors with a golf practice facility, at minimal cost, and provide guidance for the kids who need it. I sent a detailed packet of information concerning the First Tee to all MAGCS board members.

I contacted Mike Nass, representing the Wheaton chapter, and from what I gathered, his site is well-established and on its way. The other gentleman I have spoken with is Don Wegrzyn, who is the former golf professional at Old Elm C.C. Don is now the president of the North Chicago First Tee site, which is also referred to as the Northeastern Illinois Junior Golf Alliance (N.I.J.G.A.).


After speaking primarily with Don, I gathered a considerable amount of information concerning the First Tee and its future site in Foss Park. I attended the chapter's second board meeting, and was invited to participate in an outing with Don and some of the other board members. Following the outing, they took a trip to Foss Park to show everyone their preliminary plans for the layout.



The superintendent of Foss Park, Bob Winter, is handling most of the construction work on the site. A double tee made of an artificial surface will be established, along with three holes measuring out from 75 to 125 yards, and a practice green.

At this point, equipment and money donations are of top priority, and I believe the Midwest has established a betting hole at the monthly meetings to raise money for junior golf.

I realize several organizations have been established to support junior golf, such as the Illinois Junior Golf Association, the First Tee, and so on. All I ask is that the members of the Midwest please give consideration for the donation of funds or

equipment to the N.I.J.G.A. and the First Tee. I have enjoyed being the liaison for the MAGCS, and hope to be of help to anyone interested. 

To find out more information regarding the First Tee, contact Brock Burton, assistant superintendent at Bryn Mawr C.C., at 847-677-4112.

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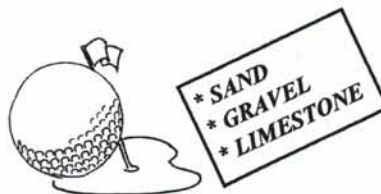
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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 12 — Combined Golf Day at Prairie Landing G.C.

November 3 — Medinah Turf Clinic—guess where

November 9-11 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference, State College, PA. For more information, contact Peter Landschoot at 814-863-1017.

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

November 30 through December 2 — NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

February 14-15, 2000 — GCSAA Golf Championship, Mobile, Alabama

February 14-20, 2000 — GCSAA International Conference and Show, New Orleans, Louisiana

June 24, 2000 — World Shotgun 2000—more below

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate Dan Quast and his staff for their EXCELLENT work in preparing Medinah Country Club for the PGA Championship. Most of us were able to get out to Medinah during the tournament, and I for one was in awe of the conditions. You guys did us all proud!

Second and...secondmost(?), a pat on the back for Brian Bossert, Web site coordinator, for his fine work on the new MAGCS message board. Everyone should have received a notice about this new feature (similar to Turf Talk), and I encourage all with the means to do so to check it out at magcs.org. Nice job, Brian.

On August 17, Ray Schei hosted the MAGCS Annual College Championship at Odyssey Club. The winning team was Penn State with a gross score of 132. The two two-man teams that combined for that score were Bob Kronn and Ed Fischer, 64 (score, not age), and Dave Blomquist and Joel Purpur, 68. Seems Joe-Pa's strong ground attack was too much for the run-and-shoot-oriented Danville Community College boys, who finished a close second with a 135 posted by the teams of Blatteau/Dohman, 67, and Bossert/Buck, 68. Perennial doormat Illinois, with its mistake-prone freshmen, did show some promise for the future by tying for third with Purdue; Michigan State finished fifth; Joliet Junior College, sixth; and Barry (Clemenza) Alvarez's Badgers once again fell short of their lofty expectations by landing the Wisconsin team in seventh place. A big hand goes out to Ray and his crew who had the course in terrific shape.

The North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) will again be held at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles from November 30 through December 2. The

trade show, with over 100 firms represented on the floor, will be open on Tuesday, November 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, December 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Look for further information in your mail soon.

Mrs. Wilhemina Fuchs, widow of Walter, called to express her heartfelt appreciation for all those who extended sympathy and for those who attended the memorial for Walter. She apologizes that she could not thank everyone in person, and appreciated the article in *On Course*.

From the "Local Boy Makes Good" file—Tim Scott, CGCS, of Stony Creek G.C. has had a very busy summer. Not only did he post a top-10 finish in the Illinois Open at Fox Bend (on the hottest weekend since a hotter one), besting a veritable who's who list of professional golfers, but he also qualified for the U.S. Amateur Open Championship at Green Garden G.C., and went on to compete at Pebble Beach for that national title in August. Tim reports that the course was beautiful—5" rough and all! The highlight for Tim was being paired with David Jacobsen (brother of PGA-er Peter), who, ironically, sells Jacobsen turf equipment. Nice going, Tim.

This news from the desk of Jim Latham, former USGA agronomist in our neck of the woods. Jim Holmes, the first USGA regional agronomist in the upper Midwest, succumbed to a heart attack at his home in Weaverville, CA on September 19, 1998. Jim was 71, and is survived by his wife, Ann, and children Jim and Kathy. Jim opened the USGA office in spring of 1957, and was a strong proponent of the Green Section method of green

(continued on page 32)