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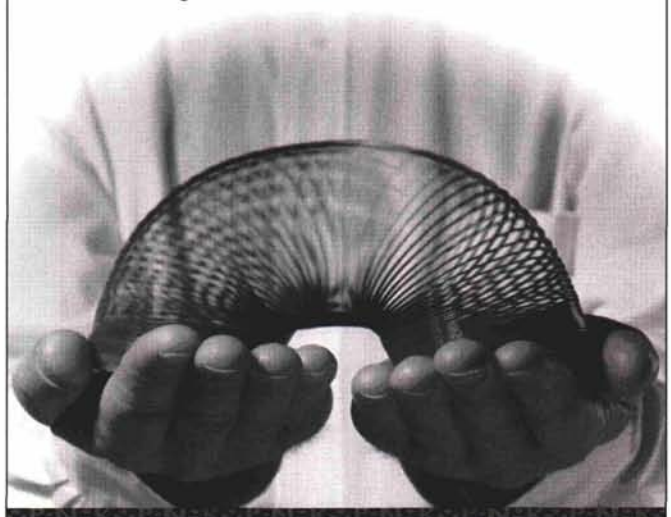
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Y2K, Ready or Not
(continued from page 20)

should you, however, think that this is all much ado about nothing and will all blow over quickly. Consider Y2K-preparedness as risk management and enjoy the new millennium!

Author's Note: If you have a real interest in this topic, or if after reading the article you are only more confused, the Internet contains a wealth of information on Y2K. Just go to Yahoo!, type "Y2K" in the search window, and you'll see what I mean. In fact, this is how I retrieved a lot of the information for this article.



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Take Advantage of Information Resources

David Gelino

During high school, a teacher of mine asked the class to name the capital of North Korea. Of course, no one knew the answer. Standing near my desk when he asked, the teacher turned to me and sarcastically said, "Although not one person knows the answer, nobody will look it up." I took his remark as an invitation to find out the answer. Something told me I would hear that question again and that I should go to the library and find that answer.

How many of us make use of all the resources that are available? It seems that each month, 10 to 15 trade publications land on our desks. If your summer is shaping up anything like mine, you never can find the time to read them all. Luckily, with some of the bigger magazines, you can scan the table of contents to see if anything piques your interest. Some articles that appeal to me are those in which a superintendent tells how and why he/she did things a certain way. Obviously, many things are going to differ between his/her golf course and the one at which I work. Still, quite often, a few things in the articles make me question if that may work for me.

By far, my favorite articles are those of the "how-to" variety. In fact, a recent article pertaining to troubleshooting irrigation wiring caught my eye. The timing of it was uncanny considering my multimeter seems to be a permanent passenger in my cart. Granted, I was already familiar with most of its content, but the article was a great help to refresh

my memory and fill in some of the gaps.

Although magazines are a readily available source of information, the Internet is right on its heels. By using the World Wide Web, we can traverse different


Greater knowledge provides choices—choices that may be cheaper, quicker or more environmentally friendly than the ways we are currently doing things. Knowledge will also give us more confidence in communicating with players and members about problem situations as they occur: what happened, why it happened and what we plan to do about it.

sites for information. In fact, I have found the GCSAA site to be very useful. While browsing, I typically go to the Members Only section to read the postings in Shop Talk and Talking Turf. As their names imply, Shop Talk focuses on equipment and Talking Turf on turf maintenance. Users can post a specific question on

either board and wait for colleagues from around the nation and world to reply.

A very enjoyable and more personal way to swap ideas is at the monthly meetings. The education portion of these meetings features speakers who perform a service either directly or indirectly related to our industry. The golf portion allows us to get into the trenches and play another course. This is a great opportunity to pick out some ideas that may be helpful at my course—for instance, ways to deal with traffic patterns, annual and perennial plantings and course signage. The golf portion of the meeting is also a good time to talk with other superintendents from the area to find out what they are doing and how their seasons are panning out.

We owe it to ourselves and to our members or players to offer the finest playing conditions possible. Greater knowledge provides choices—choices that may be cheaper, quicker or more environmentally friendly than the ways we are currently doing things. Knowledge will also give us more confidence in communicating with players and members about problem situations as they occur: what happened, why it happened and what we plan to do about it.

It does not take much time to thumb through some magazines or browse a few Web sites, but the small investment of time may pay big dividends later. By the way, I earned 10 bonus points on the next test for the five minutes it took me to learn that P'Yongyang is the capital of North Korea. 



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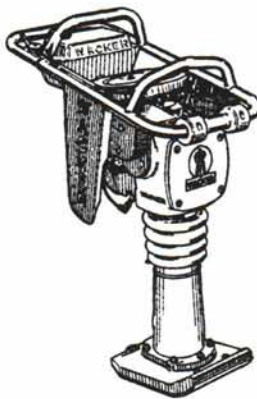
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1999 Ray Gerber Editorial Award Contestants

Fred Opperman

During the past year, 13 superintendents have qualified to participate in the Ray Gerber Editorial Award contest. Articles eligible for the award must be written by a member of the MAGCS who is currently a golf course superintendent. All articles published in *On Course* meeting this requirement will be considered; however, "On Course with the President," "Director's Column," and "Super-N-Site" articles are not eligible. Eligible articles include those published in the September through August issues. Articles originally published elsewhere and then published in *On Course* are not eligible for the award.



MONTH	ARTICLE	AUTHOR
1998		
September	"A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words"	Dan Anderson
	"Inside the Ropes"	Jim McNair
October	"Hobbies: A Stress-Relief Valve"	Joel Purpur
November	None	
December	"Superintendent and Assistant Relationships"	Michael Mumper
1999		
January	"Lust: Leaky Underground Storage Tank"	Tim Anderson
February	None	
March	"Tracking Soil Temperatures"	Nick Hongisto
	"A Superintendent's Responsibility"	Glenn Bereiter
April	"When is Enough, Enough?"	Kevin DeRoo
May	"Is a GM Position in Your Future?"	Joel Purpur
June	"The Masters: Go There, Do That"	Fred Behnke
July	"Then and Now, The Concern Over Spike Marks on Our Putting Surfaces"	Dan Albaugh
	"An Overview of Management Companies"	Dave Braasch
	"Do You Care About the Future?"	Chuck Anfield
August	"Using Composts to Improve Turf Ecology"	Dan Dinelli
	"Water, Water, Water..."	Chuck Anfield

This honor will be awarded at the Midwest Turf Clinic on November 3, 1999 at Medinah C.C. Good luck to all of the contestants.



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Ken Goodman -N- Bull Valley Golf Club
(continued from page 10)

Despite his love affair with turfgrass management, Kenny made the time to do the family man thing. His wife Carolyn (the straw that stirs the drink at Arthur Clesen Inc.) and children Lisa, Terry and Kenneth, Jr. (Duke) get Kenny when he isn't on the course. Many of us know Duke as the Clesen "have fertilizer will travel" spreader truck guy.

An active participant in the MAGCS, Kenny did a stint on the Board of Directors and has hosted meetings before this one. In fact, he hosted the annual championship at Bull Valley several years ago, when the winning score in the championship flight was 81. (When we discussed this bit of his-


tory, Kenny chuckled in a semi-evil way, leading this reporter to suspect that this year's course set-up won't exactly be a piece of cake.)

In fact, the pins could be in the center and the tees at the front and Bull Valley can still eat you up. A Dick Nugent design (can you say brutal?), Bull Valley will play to 7,200 yards for our championship flight and 6,850 for the rest of us. Kenny suggests that you bring your big sticks and hit them straight.

Kenny has been at Bull Valley since the first day of construction, working closely with the architect and the builder in a truly hands-on capacity. Every square foot of the 180 acres, including 22 acres

of bentgrass fairways and 45 acres of wetlands, has his fingerprints on it (well, maybe not the wetlands). His efforts were recently recognized by the membership of the club when the newly constructed practice area was named the Kenneth F. Goodman Learning Center. Kenny proudly commented that this honor is usually reserved for dignitaries who have passed on: "Do you think they're telling me something?"

Yeah, Ken, they're telling you something all right. They're telling everybody something.

Congratulations, and put a few of the cups where we can see them—please. 



Another look at Bull Valley's signature hole, #13.



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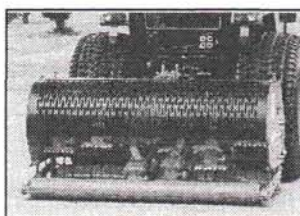
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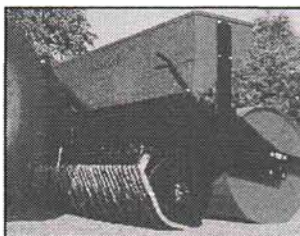
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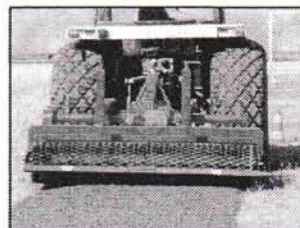
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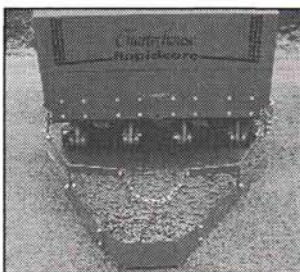
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Director's Column

(continued from page 8)

seasoned veterans alike. Employment opportunities in the Chicagoland area are not abundant, so when you create openings, spend the time and energy necessary to surround yourself with good people. It might be the only thing that stands in your way of playing a couple more rounds of golf.

Roughly \$300 covers the expense of producing a job announcement and mailing it. If we can mail two announcements together, the cost is \$150 each. All superintendent positions are mailed individually, no exceptions. We mail employment announcements to all Class A, B and C members of the MAGCS. All turf programs at colleges in Illinois and surrounding states will now receive job postings as well. We will also post announcements on our Web page at www.magcs.org. So avail yourself of the opportunity to post those job announcements with MAGCS. Then sift through all the resumes and surround yourself with good people.

The MAGCS/ITF connection

Another commitment I made this year was to serve on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF). I would like to briefly describe the relationship the MAGCS has with the ITF. The Midwest has agreed to route our turf research contributions through the ITF as long as research committees are in place and directly involved with our turfgrass advisors at the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University. This procedure gives us substantial input on the types of projects to be invested in. We will also require two updates a year as to the programs the advisors are working on; these updates should be suitable for publication in *On Course*.

The ITF raises funds for research in a variety of ways. The Sunset Ridge Plan receives contributions from private golf clubs through monthly assessments to its membership. We also run a number of golf days to raise research dollars, the next being the combined MAGCS/ITF Northern Golf Day on October 12 at Prairie Landing Golf Club. The annual NCTE at Pheasant Run is about education and raising money for turfgrass research. Please do your best to support all of these programs. Many devoted people are working behind the scenes, doing a great job for you to insure success prevails for the ITF.

I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to the charter member public golf clubs for their fundraising efforts this year. Public golf courses receive the benefits of turfgrass research just as private clubs do. Why not ask public links players to share in the cost of developing new and improved methods of golf course management? Carl Hopphan and myself, along with a volunteer committee of dedicated superintendents, developed a number of ways to be successful at this. The participating clubs to date (your club can

still join!) are Mount Prospect, Orchard Valley, Bartlett Hills, Seven Bridges, Woodbine, Prairie Landing, Sportsman's and Poplar Creek golf courses. Our combined efforts during the last weekend of July raised more than \$3,000, with additional funds to come.

In closing, I will remind you of the same reality we impress upon golfers. There is no guarantee that your golf course will look as good tomorrow as it looks today, and that's a fact. Recent legislation has reduced the amount of funding available for turfgrass research. Over the years, turfgrass research has enabled us to keep the turf on Illinois' golf courses among the best in the nation. Ongoing research and education is vital if we are to keep disease and unwanted infestation off of our courses. Loss of revenue severely impedes our progress and that's why we need your help. If you would like to be involved with our program, please contact me at Seven Bridges G.C., 630-852-1746. For the good of the game!



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