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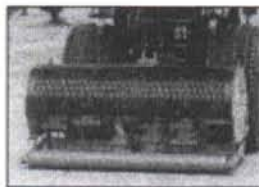
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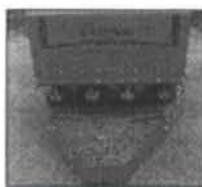
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Making the Same Mistake, Twice

My column last month, "A Lesson Learned?," told you of my poor judgment in not using a respirator when measuring out toxic, powdered chemicals and the persistent nosebleeds that resulted. This month, I will tell you about a similar experience some 10 years later, during the early 1960s when I was at Bob O'Link Golf Club.

Again, working in cooperation with agronomist O.J. Noer, we agreed to a joint venture of field-testing fine, powdered sewerage sludge on putting green turf. We began our project by calibrating our drop spreader output on the concrete floor of the maintenance shop on a 10 foot by 10 foot area of 100 square feet. In the process of sweeping up the material and weighing it, etc., we created considerable dust but we felt that with all the doors and windows open that the dust would not be a problem.

The testing procedure on our putting green nursery proved to be excellent and we moved on to the regular greens on the course. We applied ¼-pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per week for four weeks in a row and the results were just what we had hoped for. However, we did encounter one large problem in the process: I developed a serious pulmonary problem that put me in the hospital for three weeks. After several doses of antibiotics, my doctor informed me that the pathologists had discovered a type of bacteria

in my lungs that was normally only present in the intestinal tract. Immediately, I made the assumption that the sludge might have been the source. Regardless, I recovered and learned once again that when you are in our field of work, you must have all personnel use respirators when working with any potentially hazardous chemical.

Lesson learned: Learn from your mistakes and don't let them happen a second time.



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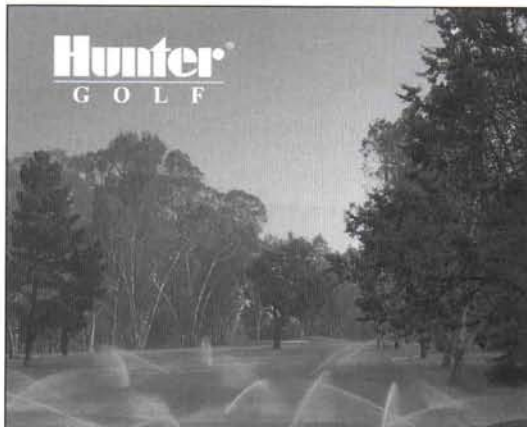
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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 6 — 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively**, CGCS host.

December 3-5 — North Central Turfgrass Exposition at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. See below for more details.

As mentioned in Dates to Remember, the NCTE will be held December 3-5 at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Along with the usual happenings (trade show, abundant educational opportunities, etc.), this year's event will offer a few twists. First, the ITF awards luncheon will be an awards dinner held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3. The Founders Club Reception will be held at noon the following day. Finally, a "Deturfing Social" will be held on Wednesday the 4th beginning at 2:30 p.m., following the close of the trade show. ITF advisors and researchers will be on hand to answer your questions and help solve your turf management issues. Bring the crew and enjoy this very beneficial and reasonably-priced event.

After 47 years of caring for golf courses, our very own **Ted Woehrle** is retiring. Ted served as president of MAGCS in 1961, as well as president of GCSAA in 1977. We congratulate Ted Woehrle—an icon in our industry—on his long and luminous career, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Call me scoop—as was reported last month, **Wally Fuchs** and **Trent Bradford** have formed Chicagoland Turf, a distributor of turf products and accessories. What is now old news, though, is that **Brian Baker** and **John Lebedevs** have joined the

team. Best wishes to these gentlemen on their exciting endeavor.

Another huge event took place in September (and since we're talking about the guy anyhow): On the 21st, **Brian Baker**—formerly of Simplot Partners and now with Chicagoland Turf—married his sweetheart **Dana** in Naperville. A host of MAGCS members were invited to (or crashed) the occasion, and a great evening was enjoyed by all. For those who didn't know, **Scott Witte** can dance, but your faithful and humble narrator can not. **Joel Purpur** can stay up late, but **Jon Jennings** can not. And finally, members of the immediate family of the bride and groom, and all of their close friends and relatives, and even some strangers who just moseyed in from the bar, can sit up front near the action, but MAGCS members can not. Probably a good call on the bride and groom's part. Congratulations to **Brian** and **Dana Baker** and best wishes for a long, happy and healthy life together.



Brian and Dana share their first dance as a married couple.



The MAGCS was well-represented—but there were too many to name, so figure them out yourself.

Also joining the ever-growing list of lifelong bachelors-turned-indentured husbands is **Dan Sterr** (Stonebridge C.C.). Dan swept his longtime squeeze **Jodi Lee** off to Las Vegas on October 2 for a quick, painless (meaning no relatives, no wedding planners, no caterers, no tuxes nor gowns—in other words, perfect) wedding at the Little Chapel Where Michael Jordan Got Married Once. Congratulations to **Dan** and **Jodi**—it's about time!

MAGCS would like to welcome **Sylvia Lima** to the Chicago area. Sylvia is the new golf irrigation account representative in our area for TPEC. Sylvia replaces **John Marquess**, who recently relocated to central Illinois and is now a golf course superintendent there. Welcome to the neighborhood, Sylvia!

Congratulations also go out to **Kerry Blatteau** on his recent career change. As of October 6, Kerry joined Mechanical Soil Technologies as sales manager. Good luck to Kerry in his new environs.

Peter Voykin, longtime superintendent at Twin Orchard C.C., is receiving visitors at Brentwood North, a healthcare center in the north suburbs, shares brother **Paul Voykin**, Briarwood C.C. Drop by or send a card to Peter c/o Brentwood North, 3705 Deerfield Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015-3599. Or, phone Peter at 847-459-1200.

(continued on page 26)

THE HIGHLANDS COURSE							
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
JAKE		MOVE SLATE TO CLUBHOUSE					
CAROL		SYNCHRO GREENS					
JOHN		CUT CUPS	WHY ERASABLE JOB BOARDS GET ERASED EVERY DAY.				
ROSS		MOW FAIRWAYS					
MIKE		HAUL SAND TO #12 BUNKERS					
DAVE		FILL COOLERS + WASHERS					
JOSE		TAKE PINE STRAW TO #8 TEE BOX					
DEB		MOW GREENS					
LARRY		REMOVE TREE ON #3 CART PATH					



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The September MAGCS meeting was held at Pine Meadow Country Club with **Tom Savage** providing the wonderful conditions and hospitality for the day. This event was the annual MAGCS Championship, and the course was immaculately prepared for the competition. Congratulations to the following outstanding individuals for their fine performance in the event: Championship Flight: **Tim Scott**—75; **Chuck Anfield**—76. First Flight Gross: **Mike Nielsen**—82; Net: **Dave Schlagetter**. Second Flight Gross: **Steve Van Acker**—84; Net: **Bob McCallum**. Third Flight Gross: **Dan Marco**—92; Net: **Kevin DeRoo**. Commercial Flight A: **Charlie Brugler**—83. Commercial

Flight B: **Steve Stewart**—89. A photo was supposedly taken of this elite group, but alas, the photographer forgot to replace the batteries. Thanks again to Tom Savage and the staff at Pine Meadow for a beautiful

day; and if you were wondering (as I was), the big maroon foliage plant found throughout the course was castor bean—thanks, Tom, for setting me straight.

.....



Tom Savage with the new addition to his office wall.



Luke Strojny and Don Ferreri discuss the benefits of ex-presidency.



Todd Schmitz, Dave Braasch, Bob McCallum, Marsha Traves and Kevin DeRoo.



Randy Wahler, Dave Kohley, Tim Davis and Brian Bossert.



Dave Schlagetter, Dave Radaj, Paul Bastron and Rick Wilson.



Dan Marco takes the phrase "swing out of your shoes" to a new level.

The ITF Fall Golf Day and MAGCS Annual College Championship was held at Glen Flora Country Club on October 7 with **Paul Bastron**, CGCS hosting the event. The day was crystal clear, and the course was fantastic (you know you've got good greens when both players in a two-man scramble putt off the surface more than once). This year's college champion was the University of Illinois, whose team of **Pete Leuzinger**, **Paul Yerkes** and **Bob Kohlstedt** outplayed runner-up Michigan State. Kelly Schroeder of Arthur Clesen ran the betting hole (no. 6), raising \$560 for turf research, while \$520 was raised for the U of I Turf Club on no. 18 to help send turf students to the GCSAA International Conference and Show in Atlanta next February. Congratulations to the winning team, and thanks to Paul Bastron and the great folks at Glen Flora for their most gracious hospitality. Also, many thanks to our generous sponsors:

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Be on the lookout for a postcard from GCSAA asking you to review and verify your voting status. The MAGCS Membership Committee is asking that if you do not currently have your vote assigned to MAGCS, please consider doing so. MAGCS represents one of the largest voting blocks within GCSAA, which affords us a strong presence at the national level. Members who wish to change their voting status can do so by completing the card and returning it to GCSAA by January 1, 2003. If you have questions regarding your voting status, you may contact Lori Petrick, chapter relations coordinator, at 800-472-7878.

The MAGCS Environmental Committee needs your help! We are working to put together a press release that will highlight environmental outreach programs that have been initiated by MAGCS members. If your course has sponsored or participated in any type of outreach program that is geared toward environmental awareness and the role of the golf course superintendent as environmental steward, please submit a brief summary with the essentials (who, what, when, where, how and why) via fax to Tim Anderson, CGCS at 815-469-7837, or post it on the MAGCS Web site.

.....
For sale: Almost-new John Deere 22" walking greens mower—model 220. Interested parties should contact Jim Kopija at 630-879-1731 for more details. By the way, Jim is looking for work in our industry, so if you have an opening, give him a call and he'll be glad to get a resume out to you.



October host superintendent Paul Bastron explains the ground rules (i.e., pick up any sticks you may encounter) while Jim Shone looks on.



The mystery is solved—Wally Fuchs and Ed Fischer are actually two separate people.



Paul Bastron admires his framed copy of On Course (which is complimentary when one hosts a meeting—hint hint).



Pete Leuzinger, Jeff Leuzinger, Paul Yerkes and Tom Voigt (who stood in for Bob Kohlstedt) were the winners of the college championship. Nice to know the University of Illinois can win SOMETHING . . .

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D.B.A. Bill Boyd

Black Monday

Now that the summer has come and gone, it's time to start clearing the course of leaves, and blowing out the irrigation system. It's also a good time for a little reflection.

*... it appeared
to be the dawn
of a typical day.
I had the normal
little headaches
that go along with
getting everyone
out on their first
task . . . Finally,
with everyone on
their way, I walked
out of the shop
and to my surprise,
there it was: the
mighty "dollar spot."*

Looking back at my first season as superintendent at Trappers Turn Golf Club, a 27-hole, four-star course in central Wisconsin, I feel quite satisfied and proud. My crew made many improvements, tackled unforeseen obstacles and upgraded the quality of the course in general. The season of 2002 was an overall success, however, nothing came easily. One day in particular comes to mind. It was a day that seemed never to end. I refer to it as "Black Monday."

It was a dewy morning in mid-July. The day started out at 4:45 a.m. with a very heavy fog. Back in the shop, it appeared to be the dawn of a typical day. I had the normal little headaches that go along with getting everyone out on their first task. We had equipment problems and some communication hang-ups because my crew consists of Hispanic and Polish-speaking laborers. Finally, with everyone on their way, I walked out of the shop and to my surprise, there it was: the mighty "dollar spot." It was everywhere, resembling a fresh dusting of snow on an October morning—but this was July.

I jumped on my cart and peeled out to take a closer look at the severity of the invasion. The fungus was everywhere except the greens, tees and fairways. Remaining calm, cool and collected, I went ahead to the clubhouse to talk to the assistant general manager about the day's play and get some much-needed coffee. Little did I know what other surprises the day held for me; if I had, I might have chosen something stronger than coffee.

At roughly 6:05 a.m., following another short go-around on the course, I pulled up to the maintenance shop. As I walked toward my office, I noticed water on the floor just outside the door. Naturally, I followed the water to its source, which was the toilet, and she was overflowing. After applying some quick intervention and chanting a few choice words, I got the water to stop. I proceeded to get the mop and clean up the mess.

As I was putting the mop and bucket away, feeling somewhat relieved, in came my fairway operator, Joe, looking quite troubled. I said, "What's up?" (I recalled that this was only his second time mowing fairways.)

"I just got done mowing one and five, and I can't get the units to come up," said Joe. So I said, "Let's go look." As we drove out to the area, I was thinking the worst. When we arrived, I saw that the worst had happened. A hydraulic hose had burst and oil-striped two fairways at mowing direction six-twelve. With a few additional turns in front of the green, along with two clean-up laps, I could only imagine what the grass would look like in a few days' time. What was I to say? I took a deep breath and began counting backward from 100 to regain my composure. Then I said, "Joe, at least your lines are getting straighter." From then on, we fondly referred to him as "Joe slick."

When I got back to the shop, it dawned on me that the mechanic was in Sturgis for a motorcycle rally until Thursday. I radioed the assistant and told him of the latest challenge. Then I headed off to a neighboring course 10 min-

(continued on page 30)

utes away to borrow some product that would assist the oil-soaked grass in its recovery.

I returned 30 minutes later and was greeted by the rough-mower operator, Jim.

"I got the tractor up against a tree," Jim said.

"Let's go take a look," I said. On the way out to the area, I was thinking to myself, "How bad can this be?" When I got there, the tractor was up against two trees, it had two blown tires and the mowing deck was jackknifed. To top it off, this grisly scene played out on the side of the steepest hill on the course. After surveying the damage, Jim and I headed back to the shop to get the proper tools and equipment to free the pretzel. It took about an hour to free everything and get the tractor to a safe place where we could repair the tires. I determined that it was a good time for lunch. So what if it was only 10:30 in the morning.

After lunch my assistant, Scott, and I went back to repair the fairway unit that was still sitting on the cart path in a puddle of oil. With the blown hose replaced, I was sure the rest of the day would go smoothly. Boy, was I mistaken.

"Dale, do you copy?" came a voice over my radio.

"Go ahead," I answered, a little gun-shy now.

"Well we got a situation here . . . the rough tractor is in the lake . . . it's stuck."

I called back and laughed, "Yeah, right," thinking someone was playing some kind of sick joke on me, the kind of thing the guys like to do when I'm stressed. I put the radio down and resumed work on the mower. A few minutes later, a desperate "Are you coming?" came over the radio followed by a request for the four-wheel drive and some chains. At that moment, I knew it wasn't a joke.

I went back to the shop to get a chain, which is when I got a telephone call from Andy Putzer, my other assistant. He wanted to report that a bee had stung an employee, and now the poor guy was having an allergic reaction. I instructed Andy to get him directly to the clinic.

Soon, I arrived at Mystic Lake to find the tractor stuck in the mud on the lake's edge. My other rough operator, Dick, assisted as I hooked the chains around the axle and pulled her clear. The rescue went smoothly . . . ah, something was finally going my way.

I returned to the shop as the crew began to return, one by one, parking the equipment for the evening. After everyone had punched out, Andy pulled into the lot with the young bee-sting victim. This had been one of the longest days of my life and I was glad to see it come to an end. I looked at Scott and Andy and suggested that we head straight to Monk's, the local watering hole. That good old barley and hops does wonders.

"I got the tractor up against a tree," rough-mower operator Jim said . . . On the way out to the area, I was thinking to myself, "How bad can this be?" When I got there, the tractor was up against two trees, it had two blown tires and the mowing deck was jackknifed. To top it off, this grisly scene played out on the side of the steepest hill on the course.

So when you're having a bad day, think of me and remember . . . while I try to forget . . . that foggy morning in mid-July now known as "Black Monday."



On Course . . . (continued from page 3)

Okay, that covers the 2001-2002 Board of Directors. Now it's time to thank the people who staff the Association. Thanks to Cathy Miles Ralston for being so patient waiting for my president's messages, then doctoring them up when they were late. Thanks to George Minnis, who does it all and is really the most important asset our Association has.

Wait—I am not done yet!! Thanks to outgoing president emeritus

Brian Bossert for the guidance, support and help he gave me this year. Finally, thank you to the membership for the confidence you showed in electing me your president.

In closing, I have enjoyed my tenure as president. It truly has been a learning experience and a great responsibility. I hope my ramblings during the year gone by have answered some of those questions you may have had and maybe got all

of you thinking a little more. I look forward to enjoying the end of the month once again, rather than racing to meet an *On Course* deadline.

Again, my deepest thanks—and my best wishes to the 2003 Board as they carry on in all the pursuits that make the Midwest an outstanding organization and one of the GCSAA's exemplary chapters.

