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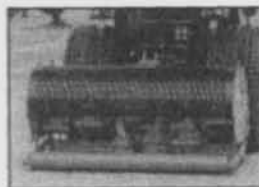
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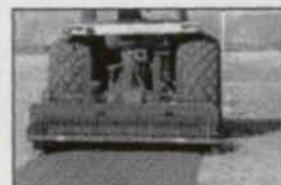
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A Lesson Learned?

All of our experiences throughout our lifetime can be categorized as good, bad or indifferent depending upon how they affect us and how we react to them.

The episode I am about to relate here is among my bad experiences. It happened due to my own poor judgment and provides a basis for a lesson to be learned. Let us look at the details.

About 50 years ago, during my 12-year tenure as the superintendent at Beverly C.C., O.J. Noer—the agronomist with the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission—recommended that I follow the lead of several superintendents who were having some success in reducing *Poa annua* in bent/*Poa* fairways using fall applications of sodium arsenite.

Knowing full well the high toxicity of powdered arsenicals, I chose to make the applications myself with

the three-nozzle spray boom. Incidentally, the deterrent effect on the *Poa annua* was somewhat successful as noted the following spring. So far, positive results and a lesson learned, right? Wait and learn of the total outcome.

About two weeks after the arsenical application, I began to experience occasional nosebleeds for no apparent reason. I went to see a specialist doctor (member of the club) to diagnose the problem. His judgment was that I had an injured artery in my nostril that required cauterizing. This meant the packing of my nostril to about the size of a golf ball for a two-week period. (I looked like a circus clown, no less.)

The damaged artery healed in a couple weeks, but I was left with occasional nosebleeds for the following two years, uncomfortable to say the least.

The doctor and I concluded that the measuring out of a toxic chemical without the use of a respirator was the cause of my problem. Now how stupid could I be and more importantly, did I learn a lesson?

Tune in to this column next month for the answers.



FROM THE EDITOR

Cathy Miles Ralston

Commending Our Writers

It is my responsibility (and honor) to serve as one of the five judges designated for each of the editorial prizes sponsored by the MAGCS: the longstanding Ray Gerber Editorial Award and the new Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award.

Prior to filling out my ballots in September, I re-read all of the published articles that had met eligibility requirements for the respective awards. As I perused one excellent article after another, I couldn't help but feel delighted at the high-quality work MAGCS members had submitted to *On Course* during 2001-2002. Factor in other types of articles not eligible for either award—"the Bull Sheet," our president's messages and director's columns, the Super-N-Site profiles, Bob Williams' "Voice of Experience" and features authored by local turfgrass researchers and non-member industry experts—and it's no wonder that *On Course* is among the

upper echelon of GCSAA chapter publications.

As the editor of your magazine, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and Editorial Committee, I extend my gratitude to the Midwest members who have devoted their time, energy and creativity to writing articles for *On Course*. My only request is: more of the same! As we head into what should be a slower season for many of us, please take a moment to reflect on any experience or expertise you have that would make an interesting article for *On Course*. Whether your topic is a discussion of the major renovation you

just completed at your club or a how-to on selecting the right champagne for New Year's Eve, rest assured that your friends and acquaintances in the MAGCS are eager to "read all about it."

Again, many thanks for last year's bumper crop of outstanding articles. Your contributions have made your magazine one of the GCSAA's finest, and it is your future articles that will ensure the continued success of *On Course* as a chronicle of our Association's life and times.



What's Growing At Midwest Golf House: Present and Future

In the Midwest Golf House, the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) has created a building that will someday be home to just about every association affiliated with the game of golf. It was built to unite not just the golf world, but all Illinois green industry factions. It is located directly across Archer Avenue from Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, Illinois. Beyond bringing golf into the lives of beginners, juniors, the disabled and the economically disadvantaged through various programs, the Midwest Golf House Complex will serve as a demonstration/research facility for the entire green industry. CDGA member clubs have the world's best turfgrass, but they also have trees, shrubs, flowers and native grasses that make up their quality structures.



The Arboretum at Midwest Golf House features colorful wildflowers.

Photos by Peter Wagner/Courtesy CDGA



The landscaping calls attention to, but does not overwhelm, the plaques bearing logos of the organizations affiliated with Midwest Golf House (note the MAGCS logo).

The "front yard" of Midwest Golf House has recently been landscaped with high-quality plant material provided by some of the best local nurseries. The Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) provided the expert manpower to plant the material and one of Illinois' most talented landscape architects designed the project. The end result is the proper plant material to reflect the character of the building, yet not the sort of planting often seen in a commercial application. This theme will continue into the landscape design of the "back yard," which is a three-hole par-3 short course. Creating an arboretum effect will provide golf course superintendents a perfect place to bring their greens committees/boards of directors to show them exactly how unique plants look in realistic conditions. We will introduce a testing ground for turfgrasses, different sand for bunkers, ornamental grass plantings and now, test demonstration areas for Chicagoland Grows program plants.

Research and demonstration plots for the entire complex will be determined by the Wadsworth Endowed Turf Research Agreement. The Wadsworth Turf Research Committee will represent the three principals that constitute and

(continued on page 24)

control this agreement. Those parties are the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation (ITF), Chicago District Golf Association and the University of Illinois College of ACES. Their sole responsibility will be to allow only site-specific, meaningful projects to be conducted. The ITF contingent comprises 11 golf course superintendents representing their CDGA member clubs. Two open discussion meetings took place to determine the initial soil structures and seeding programs for the entire three-hole golf facility. Each area—greens, tees, fairways, rough and bunkers—was examined thoroughly, with the discussion incorporating a wealth of experience and knowledge. Illinois

golf courses, along with the entire green industry, will benefit, so consider this Midwest Golf House endeavor to be your personal test facility where you have your own family doctor make you the very best. The Midwest Golf House Complex is yours to enjoy, so please stop by and pay it a visit.

The original design of the golf course comes from Joe T. Jemsek, son of Frank Jemsek, while the builder was Brent Wadsworth. The masterful qualities of Wadsworth are reflected in how he shaped a great layout out of a flat field. It has been somewhat difficult to set up our water supply/well for golf course irrigation, but we soon

will be in business. Dr. Randy Kane has designed a seeding program that is totally unique in creating this full-scale demonstration/research complex. He will include many turfgrass varieties throughout the three-hole layout to provide a perfect living laboratory. As of early September, plans were to start seeding greens and tees by Labor Day and have fairways and rough areas done shortly after mid-September.



Creating an arboretum effect will provide golf course superintendents a perfect place to bring their greens committees/boards of directors to show them exactly how unique plants look in realistic conditions.
—Carl Hopphan



Diverse prairie grasses are also in use at the Arboretum.



Carl Hopphan examines a Colorado blue spruce situated in the "front yard" of Golf House.

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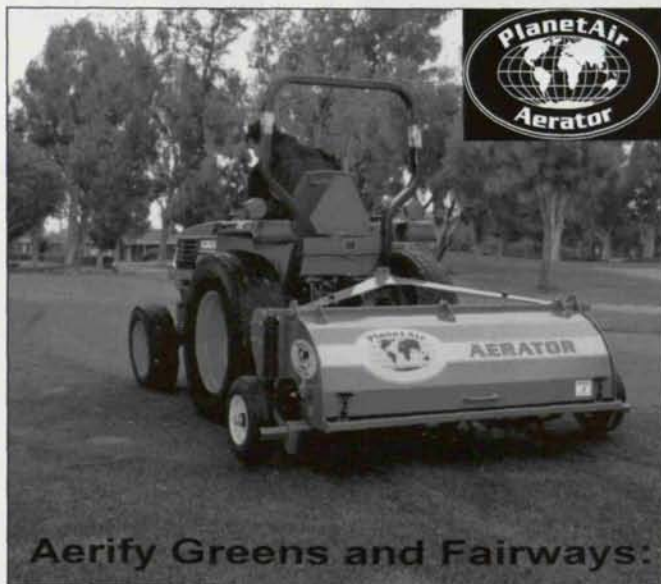
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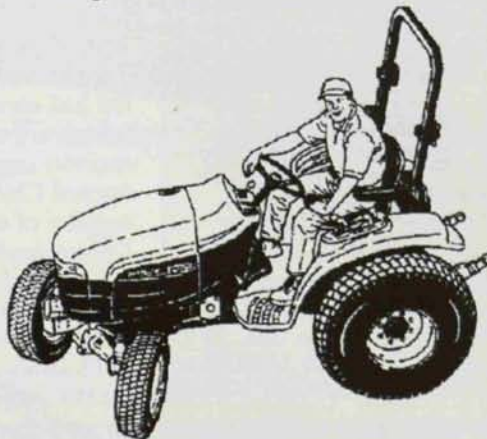


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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7 — MAGCS monthly meeting and ITF Fall Golf Day at Glen Flora Country Club, **Paul Bastron**, CGCS host. This is the MAGCS Annual College Championship, so put your team together and win one for the Gipper.

October 7 – December 13 — The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School's Two-Year Certificate Program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 14 — University of Illinois Turf Alumni Golf Outing at Ruth Lake Country Club, **Dan Marco**, CGCS host. More details follow.

October 15 — MAGCS Scholarship Fund Outing at Salt Creek Golf Course, **Gary Hearn** host. Noon shotgun, 72-golfer limit. Cost is \$65 for golf and dinner, or \$35 for dinner only. Proceeds go to the MAGCS Scholarship Fund. Contact Gary Hearn at 630-773-4790 for more info.

October 17 – 18 — OSHA Comprehensive Safety Training Courses at the Georgios Comfort Inn in Orland Park. Call 1-800-206-6705 for registration info. This course is also offered on October 28-29 and 28-31 (four-day course) at the Holiday Inn in Rolling Meadows.

October 19 — MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance at Bryn Mawr Country Club, **Pam and Brian Bossert**, CGCS hosts.

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

As mentioned in Dates to Remember, the University of Illinois (0 and 2 at the time of this writing) Turf Alumni Golf Outing will be held at the Ruth Lake Country Club with the ever-hospitable Dan Marco hosting. Nobody seems to know how many have occurred up to this year, but it is more than several and fewer than a lot. Either way, the day includes golf, happy hour where all students and future superintendents get to meet and be disappointed by their U of I predecessors, and a gala dinner to top off the day's activities. If you are a U of I alum (or have the desire to hang around with many of them), contact Turf Club president Travis Williams at 217-652-7192 or by e-mail at tswilli@uiuc.edu.

Big BIG news from a couple of our retired MAGCS legends: First off, **Wally Fuchs** (former proprietor of Turf Products/Turf Partners, Inc.) has had enough of the quiet life and is back in business. Wally, along with majority owner **Trent Bradford**, has opened Chicagoland Turf, a full-scale supplier of turf products for the Chicagoland market. Just couldn't let a sleeping dog lie, huh Wally? Second, **Ray Schmitz**, the recently retired and long-time superintendent (23 years) of Flossmoor Country Club, is even MORE recently UN-retired. Ray has joined **John Berarducci** and Bear's Turf Products, Inc. to form a "marriage made in heaven," with over 60 years of combined turf experience. Congratulations, Ray—how many hours WAS your retirement? Best of luck to all these great guys.



Trent Bradford, Ray Schmitz and not Wally Fuchs, but since we possess no photo of Wally, we used an almost-dead-ringer in Ed Fischer.

While speaking of Ray Schmitz, **Dudley Smith** (another retired legend who will undoubtedly get sick of it and go back to work) offers this recap of a great day for Ray and his family: "Hoo-ray Ray!" On Tuesday, September 3, the members of Flossmoor Country Club gathered for a scramble golf event and a delicious picnic supper on the clubhouse patio to honor the retirement of their superintendent Ray Schmitz.

A 15-piece band serenaded those assembled with Glen Miller and Tommy Dorsey medleys. Ray Schmitz began his Midwest career with the Walsh family at Hickory Hills C.C. in 1966. Then Tom Walsh had him do the grow-in at a new course, Green Garden in Frankfort. For the last 23 years, Ray has served at Flossmoor C.C., and served as MAGCS president in 1992 (along with being the unofficial MAGCS photographer for countless years). At the podium, a very emotional German dairy farmer from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin introduced his wife Jan and his three sons: Todd, Andy, and Mark (two of whom are local superintendents today—**Todd Schmitz** at Fox Valley Golf Club and **Mark Schmitz** at Meadows Golf Club). Ray spoke highly of his past association with his former green chairman and golf professional. As the club president presented Jan with retirement gifts, the band broke into strains of "On Wisconsin" and the club members stood and shouted, "Hip Hip Hooray—Hooray for Ray!"

On to the GCSAA (couldn't manage a segue here). Big Brother has released some very important information regarding the 2003 Conference and Show in Atlanta in February—the most significant (and appreciated) news being that there will be people-movers on the trade show floor!

Congratulations and best of luck to **Scot Spier**, formerly of Lesco, who is with Simplot Partners now. Look for Scot in a shop near you soon.

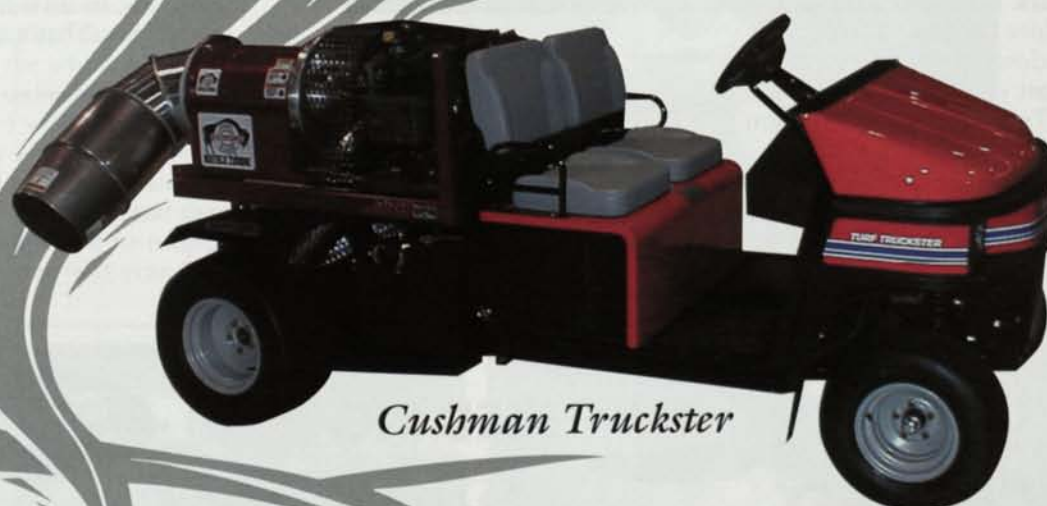
The August 26th MAGCS monthly meeting was held at Green Acres Country Club with **Dave Radaj**,

(continued on page 28)

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CGCS serving as our gracious host. One hundred-plus members turned out for a great day on a great golf course. The event was a two-man best ball, net and gross, with a blind draw. Gross division winners were 1st, **Tim Scott** and **Steve Jump**—72; 2nd, **Dave Schlagetter** and **Dave Kohley**—77; and 3rd, **Charlie Brugler** and **Rick Reed**—77. Net division winners were 1st, **Charles Ardell** and **Jim Huber**—62; 2nd, **Curt Franklin** and **Jay Druhan**—64; and 3rd, **John Anderson** and **Frank Heery**—64. Other awards were given out, too: closest to the pin on #6—**Dave Blomquist** (3'11"); longest putt on #3—**Jim Shone** (74'2"); closest to the pin on #16—**Mark Petitgoue** (3'9"); longest drive on #13—**Dave Kohley**; closest to the pin on #9—**Dan Quast** (10'2"). On no. 11, **Marsha Traves** and **Patti Thorson** of Illinois Lawn ran a betting hole that raised \$650 for the 100 Club—a charity for the Chicagoland families of policemen and firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty. Edu-

cation was provided by **Larry Tomaszewski** and a colleague from AXA Advisors, who spoke on retirement investing in today's goofy market. Thanks to Dave Radaj and all the wonderful people at Green Acres for a marvelous day.



Larry Tomaszewski

The 2002 John Deere Team Championship was held at Turnberry Country Club (**Jim Evans** host) on September 9. Congratulations to the team from Glen Oak Country Club that won the event (superintendent **Andy Dauksas**, club pro **Danny Mulhearn**, manager **Mark Rudins** and club president **Ed Gilligan**) with a searing 56.

Our very own **Bob Maibusch**, CGCS of Hinsdale Golf Club is running for secretary/treasurer of GCSAA for 2003. Please show your support for Bob and MAGCS at the Conference in February. If you vote for him, he might tell you the one about the golfer who gets called off the course because his wife has had an accident. That's all I can say about that.

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A Family Affair

Another great MAGCS event took place this past August—the Kane County Cougars family picnic at Elfstrom Field in Geneva. This annual event is a wonderful way to introduce our families to our compadres in the turf business while enjoying an afternoon of food, fun and America's pastime. If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend, you are missing out on a great time. Just beware of batting practice—it gives new meaning to "baseball-sized hail." After the game, families were treated to a splendid fireworks show and an opportunity to run the bases like the real (semi) pros. Many thanks to **Kevin DeRoo** for once again setting up this great day. A fine testimonial to the whole operation came from an unlikely source—a local club pro who attended with his family as our guests—who remarked how impressed he was with our Association and the classy things it does for its membership. See you there next year.



Ball sails into the picnic area, drawing a bead on Kevin DeRoo's child's head. Ball is heroically blocked by unidentified Bull Sheet author. Ball pops harmlessly up into the waiting hands of Kevin. Didn't spill his beer. Didn't give the ball up!



Big inflatable Ozzie was just one of many attractions for kids and adults alike.



You know you're in the "sticks" when corn is used as an ornamental plant.



Ed Braunsky (whose Vikings, by the way, lost to the Bears in the season opener) heads up the piñata committee.



Luke Cella watches as the fatal blow is struck and piñata guts start spilling, leading to a feeding frenzy of already-oversugared kids.



Not pictured, but under the pile—Ed Braunsky.

50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah C.C. November 6, 2002

THEME: *Future—State of the Art*

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	MAGCS Annual Meeting
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Break
9:15 - 9:20 a.m.	Prayer
9:20 - 9:50 a.m.	Greg Martin, Martin Design Partnership: "Golf Course Architecture: State of the Art"
9:50 - 10:30 a.m.	Dr. Al Turgeon, Penn State University: "Competition Between Creeping Bentgrasses and Annual Bluegrasses"
10:30 - 10:50 a.m.	Dave Ward, Superintendent @ Olympia Fields C.C.: "U.S. Open 2003"
10:50 - 11:20 a.m.	An Assistant Superintendent Speaker
11:20 - 11:45 a.m.	TETA Speaker
11:45 - 12:00 noon	Presentation of Ray Gerber & Fred Opperman Editorial Awards
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Recognize Assistant Superintendents
1:15 - 1:45 p.m.	Mystery Keynote Speaker
1:45 - 2:15 p.m.	Rick Grant, Griffin LLC: "New Techniques for Moss & Algae Control"
2:15 - 2:45 p.m.	Dr. Tom Fermanian, U of Illinois: "GPS—Data Entries & Usage"
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Bill Middleton, Emerald Isle: "What is a True Foliar?"
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Annual Election
4:00 p.m.	Adjournment



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