

in the last five to eight years. The problem was, superintendents were hit with all of the new products in a relatively short span, and it was difficult if not impossible to sort out the research that backed product claims.

In response, the GCSAA and USGA took the ball and ran by cosponsoring a huge, detailed study comparing turf quality and efficacy of ten different wetting agents in nine states (see April 2005 issue of *Golf Course Management* with the update available in the August issue). Although the test wasn't perfect and a minor retraction had to be made for the water droplet test results (which in reality will probably not change the results that much), I wholeheartedly applaud this effort by the two organizations and the cooperators for reacting to the need of treating wetting agents like most commercially available pesticides and turf varieties.

So how to interpret the results? It seems most logical to pick the state closest to Chicago that participated in the survey (Michigan or Missouri) since the climate and precipitation *should* be fairly similar. Others might want to pick a site based on turf type or rootzone mix, although most of the greens in the study had USGA rootzones and there were no native soil push-up greens. If Michigan is chosen, all of the wetting agents tested, except Naiad, had higher turf-quality ratings than the control plot for both years. Between the different newer wetting-agent chemistries though (which excludes Naiad), turf quality was not statistically different at the Michigan site.

Of course, there is a caveat. If only the Michigan site is used in analysis for our location, it is hard to relate to some of the findings at some of the other sites, especially Georgia's results, which are significantly different. Luckily, Clark Throssell from the GCSAA and Kevin Frank from Michigan State are set to speak at this year's Illinois Professional Turfgrass Conference (IPTC), so the data revisions and answers to these questions can be revealed then.

### **The Newest Wetting-Agent Chemistries**

Revolution and Dispatch are two of the newest wetting-agent chemistries that were not included in the USGA/GCSAA wetting-agent study. Dispatch was released three years ago as a soil penetrant that is injected into irrigation water to increase infiltration rates. At this time, more than 50 golf courses in Chicagoland are applying it weekly at 12-24 oz./acre over all irrigated turf.

Revolution, on the other hand, is the more traditional boom-applied wetting agent sprayed monthly at 6 oz./1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Just released this year, it has taken Chicagoland by storm with more than 75 golf courses currently using the product. Product claims by the manufacturer are that it produces a more uniform water distribution through the soil profile because the akyl capping of the Revolution molecule reorients the hydrophilic oxirane chains towards hydrophobic soil coatings. This would allow for a tighter binding of water molecules to actual soil particles, thereby increasing pore space and allowing water and air to


*Wetting agents differ in their construction, with the main difference being the length and chemical structure of the hydrophobic tail.*

move through the profile. Early reports from superintendents using the new product have been favorable, but like any new product, it is advised to test the product for yourself and find out if it provides benefits for your situation.

As alluded to earlier, this is a very complex and detailed subject that deserves a lot more explanation from a much more qualified source. To further wet your whistle, I would recommend taking one of the GCSAA seminars taught by Dr. Keith Karnok (online version of "Managing Localized Dry Spots" can be found at [www.gcsaa.org/learn/online/lds.asp](http://www.gcsaa.org/learn/online/lds.asp)) and *definitely* attending the presentations by Kevin Frank and Clark Throssell on the subject at this year's IPTC.



*A special thanks to Larry Lennert and Dr. Stan Kostka from Aquatrols for providing the graphics and some of the background information for this article.*



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# Asphalt Paving 101

## Building and Maintaining Quality Pavements

Photos courtesy Rabine Paving



Constructing a roadway at Motorola complex in Schaumburg, IL.

*Whether the project is a revitalization of existing pavement or an addition—be it the facility's cart paths, utility road, driveway or parking lot—golf course superintendents should have a basic understanding of what to expect from a quality service provider and how to maintain paved areas for optimal longevity of investment. Here, we present Asphalt Paving 101—an overview of what it takes to build and maintain quality pavements.*



Asphalt cart path at Ivanhoe Country Club in Ivanhoe, IL.

### Evaluating Your Short- and Long-Term Needs

Quality paving companies have engineers on staff who are able to evaluate current conditions and provide clear specifications and budgetary numbers that allow golf course superintendents or property managers to make educated economical decisions. Upon receiving an evaluation, you are able to put together invitations to bid using an engineer's specifications, thereby allowing for apples-to-apples bidding. Along with an evaluation, many firms can also provide—often at no cost—five-year budgets based on specific course superintendents' needs. With this information, superintendents can formulate clear-cut paths to address short- and long-term needs.

### Common Specifications Based on Industry and IDOT Standards

Specifications for cart paths will vary depending on type of traffic and stability of subgrade soils. However, the type of traffic and the volume of traffic can vary drastically from one course to the next. Most courses today must support small maintenance-vehicle traffic such as utility vehicles, tractors and pick-up trucks on a daily basis, and large dump trucks a few times annually. This type of use demands building a pavement similar to a light commercial pavement such as would be found in a small office complex

*(continued on page 24)*



or a strip center. Some areas of a cart path may have to support garbage-truck traffic on a weekly basis, which would then require a heavy commercial or industrial pavement. Common commercial pavement specifications on a stable subgrade would be 10" of aggregate base and 3" of asphalt pavement. Common industrial pavement specifications on a stable subgrade would be 12" of aggregate base and 4" to 6" of asphalt pavement.

If soils are structurally marginal, a base of 8" and 3" of pavement in two layers is a common specification. If soils are structurally poor, or groundwater content is high, specifications should reflect a method of stabilizing the subgrade or maximizing the strength of the pavement by increasing pavement thickness. Taking measures to stabilize the subgrade when a naturally solid subgrade is not present is often what separates the best paving construction companies from the rest. It takes an educated engineer to identify the reason for an unstable subgrade and to specify the most economical solution. Very

often, engineering companies are called upon for a second opinion to solve these issues. This can extend the construction schedule and add extra cost not initially budgeted. If your paving contractor has engineers on staff to specify structural improvements without adding engineering costs and provides a warranty to back the changes, the job will continue with minimal delay.

Stabilizing the subgrade could consist of many different applications, such as increasing aggregate base, increasing the asphalt pavement thickness, installing soil-separation fabric, installing under-drainage, lime stabilization of sub-base, or even full-depth pavement as described below:

#### Increased Aggregate Base

After excavation and upon inspection of the subgrade, if the soil is a little soft or appears to retain minimal moisture (groundwater), the most common specification onsite is to increase the aggregate base section with additional crushed gravel (CA-6, road gravel). Many contractors believe in using a 3" to 5" stone when

increasing the aggregate base section and at times this is a good alternative.

#### Increased Asphalt Pavement Thickness

The most cost-effective way to improve the total pavement structure when moisture/deflection of subgrade or aggregate base is present is to increase the asphalt pavement thickness. The structural value of increased asphalt pavement is approximately double that of increased gravel base. For example, an increase of 4" of CA-6 gravel base would be required to equal an increase of 2" in total asphalt pavement thickness. The additional cost of increased asphalt base is often less than the cost of additional excavation and potential hauling of excavated soil.

#### Soil-Separation Fabric

When inferior soils are present in the subgrade and cannot be eliminated without unrealistic costs, the installation of a soil-separation fabric is necessary. Soil-separation fabric is available in many different brands, thicknesses and materials. The goal of



Caterpillar highway/road paver with laser-grade control system.



this fabric is to eliminate the ability of a hydraulic-like soil to interfere with the aggregate base section above it. The purpose of the soil-separation fabric may be temporary such as when moisture conditions are due to seasonal factors, or long-term when conditions are due to lack of stable subgrade soils.

### Under-Drainage

Groundwater is always a concern when building a pavement, but more than ever when irrigation is present. In some cases, where sand and/or gravel are present naturally in the subgrade, under-drains most likely are not necessary. In many cases, subsoils at golf courses consist of different types of clays and organic soils that may provide for a stable sub-base, but do not allow for rapid groundwater drainage. Groundwater will take the path of least resistance, which in this case results in a consistently saturated aggregate base, especially when irrigation is present. Under-drainage systems usually consist of perforated pipe surrounded by washed stone and silt fabric, creating a free-draining trench below the aggregate base. When installed properly, under-drains will allow groundwater to pass under the aggregate base into a storm sewer system or into surface drainage systems onsite.

### Lime Stabilization

Lime stabilization is used on a large scale when the cost of major soil removal or major aggregate base

improvement is needed to bridge over an unsuitable subgrade. Lime stabilization is a method of firming up the subgrade by mixing lime with the existing subgrade soils and then recompacting the soil to create a structurally suitable crust, ready for the aggregate base.

### Full-Depth Pavement

Full-depth pavement is a method of eliminating a large portion of the cost of excavation and import of material by paving a thickened pavement with an all-asphalt base. The thickness of total pavement in this situation will often be half of the specified combined thickness of aggregate base and asphalt pavement. For example, 7" to 12" of full-depth asphalt pavement may be specified in place of 14" to 24" of combined aggregate base and asphalt pavement thickness. The subgrade must be very stable when this specification is utilized. In addition to economics, other advantages of this specification include less stress to tree roots when present due to less excavation, increased durability and life expectancy of the pavement, and elimination of potential base and shoulder erosion.

Specifications for parking lots and roads should be based on similar factors and conditions, although the minimum specifications for commercial parking lots and roads should not be less than 10" of aggregate base and 3" of total pavement, paved in two layers.

## Quality Equipment + Quality People = Quality Pavements

When choosing your paving contractor, look for a company that continually invests in education and equipment technology. Over the last decade there have been major advances in the pavement construction and pavement maintenance industry, some of which are listed below:

### Laser and GPS Technology

Laser and GPS technology installed on grading and paving machinery allows for more accurate and continuous real-time measurements of grade during construction.

### Infrared Pavement-Repair Equipment

Infrared heaters are used to reheat the surface of an existing asphalt pavement. Minor repairs, reshaping and the removal or addition of material as necessary can then be completed. This method of repair eliminates the need for saw-cutting and removal of existing pavement and leaves a virtually seamless pavement for a finished product.

### Asphalt Texturing

This technology consists of imprinted designs in the surface of a pavement. The textures may vary from straightforward brick patterns to unique designs. The surface of the textured area is often colored to enhance the design.

### High-Grade Seal Coat

High-performance seal-coat material with mineral and fiber reinforcements blended with polymers is now available to the industry. This material improves adhesion, flexibility, durability and the overall life of the surface treatment.

Similar quality expectations demanded on state paving projects can be attained using DOT (Department Of Transportation)-approved equipment when paving a cart path, driveway or small parking lot. With today's new technology, golf course superintendents do not have to accept the inconsistencies delivered by drag boxes and other antiquated paving equipment. Saw-cutting and removing areas of newer pavements

*(continued on page 39)*



*Parking lot for corporate office building in Vernon Hills, IL.*



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# TERRY DILLNER, CGCS

## 1955-2005

*I stood in the warm morning sun and felt the sweat trickle down my back. The minister had just asked the pallbearers to remove our corsages and place them on the casket. A lady with a coffee can full of grass seed then stepped up to the end of the casket. Everyone attending was asked to take a handful and sprinkle the seeds over the casket. Connie, Terry's wife, was last.*

*Just about an hour earlier, she gave this eulogy:*

If you ask anyone who knew Terry to describe him using only one word, the first thing they would say is "hard worker."

For 33 years in the golf course industry, he loved his work out on the course. Terry always strove for excellence, took pride in a job well done and instilled these principles in anyone he knew. "Good enough is good enough" is NOT a motto he lived by. Everything had to be perfect, or as close to perfection as the budget, manpower and Mother Nature would allow. And even those obstacles wouldn't daunt him . . . he somehow always found a way to "get it done," long before that phrase became popular. He always referred to the course as **his** golf course and would protect it as fiercely as a mother protects her cubs.

Terry loved home remodeling projects. He was always working on something, making things better for me and the kids. He always knew he was in trouble when I would begin a phrase with, "Wouldn't it be nice?" because that meant he'd have another project to add to his "Honey-Do" list. And then once into the project, when I started a phrase with, "Can I make a suggestion?" he knew he was in trouble because I thought of new ways to make the project more complicated than it already was. But he never complained because he enjoyed the challenge, learning along the way and taking pride for a job well done when it was finished.

As a father, he was their hero. He would always stand up for them, running interference between me and the kids. I was the disciplinarian and he always leveled the field with kindness, gentleness, understanding and tolerance—both behind-the-scenes as well as up front.

As a husband, Terry was my best friend. He was my soul mate, life partner, lover, confidante and equal. He truly was my "better half." Terry gave me balance and taught me tolerance and patience. We thought alike and had the same ethics and principles. It was my honor to have such a wonderful man love me as he did. I will be eternally thankful for that one blind date back in 1981 that led to a lifetime of happiness and joy. I am truly a better person because of him.

Terry wasn't a religious man. He did believe in God but hated the politics behind organized religion. He believed in treating others as you wanted to be treated, work hard and do the best job you can, be truthful—your word is your word, and respect is earned—not demanded. He always said God doesn't close a door without opening a window somewhere. I just pray I recognize that window once it's opened.

In closing, one saying he was fond of was, "Leave things better than you found them." During his brief but full life, he accomplished this with flying colors. His golf courses, his homes, his family, friends, coworkers, his children and myself . . . we are all better for knowing him.

*Connie is one hell of a lady. Terry loved his profession. He had an infectious way of inspiring people, just by watching him work. I have said this many times over the years. The week I started at the Evanston Golf Club, I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I will miss him, as well as his wife and three children. Thanks dear friend.*



A memorial service for Terry G. Dillner, CGCS, will take place on Sunday, September 18, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. EDT at Arbor Hills Country Club, 1426 Arbor Hills Road, Jackson, Michigan, 49201. Please call the clubhouse at 517-750-1400 if you plan on attending so we can get an approximate estimate for banquet requirements.



# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

September 14 – 2005 University of Illinois Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day in Urbana, IL, all the U of I guys hosts.

September 19 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor, IL, **Kurt Sams, CGCS** host.

September 26 – The Wee One Foundation's Annual Golf Outing at Pine Hills Country Club in Wisconsin.

September 29 – "Fair Labor Standards Act in Illinois" seminar at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, IL.

October 3 – MAGCS/ITF Combined Golf Day at Inverness Golf Club in Palatine, IL, **Mike Bavier, CGCS** host.

October 14-16 – EXPO 2005 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY.

October 3-December 9 – The Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management School's Two-Year Certificate Program Fall Session at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.

October 18-19 – The Environmental Resource Center's "Hazardous Waste Management: The Complete Course" seminar at the Wyndham O'Hare in Chicago, IL.

October 20 – The Environmental Resource Center's "DOT Hazardous Materials Training" seminar at the Wyndham O'Hare in Chicago, IL. Details on all of the previously listed programs follow.

October 25-27 – The Toro Customer Factory Service Training Program in Bloomington, MN. Call 888-838-5778, ext. 5545 for details.

November 2 – 53rd Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club, **Tom Lively, CGCS** host.

First things first—welcome to the newest members of MAGCS!

**Douglas Bauer**, Class E,  
Eubanks & Associates, LLC  
**Matthew Breeden**, Class C,  
Seven Bridges Golf Club  
**Christian Daman**, Class E,  
Thelen Sand and Gravel, Inc.  
**Benjamin Grimme**, Class SM,  
Links and Tees Golf Facility  
**Alan R. Hill**, Class C,  
Ruth Lake Country Club  
**Jeffrey Plassmaert**, Class C,  
Bryn Mawr Country Club  
**Adrian Roach**, Class C,  
Highland Park Country Club

Best of luck to all of you, and your involvement in MAGCS is highly valued.

The July 27th edition of the *Kane County Chronicle* featured a story about the drought and its effects on Fox Valley golf courses, and several MAGCS members were chosen to offer their thoughts and experiences for the article. Nice job to **Tony Kalina** (Prairie Landing G.C.) and **Derek Florian** (Fox Valley G.C.) on their very professional assessment of the potential problems this drought can bring in the feature "Rainfall Not on Par This Season" by Roald Haase.

November is just around the corner, and you'll not want to miss the 53rd Annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club. The Education Committee has a great lineup of speakers and topics for the event, including keynote speaker Mike Ditka—legendary coach and player for the Chicago Bears. Block off the 2nd on your calendars now and don't miss (I hate to do this, but . . .) Da Coach. I'm so embarrassed. Oh, and please—no "woof woof"-ing. In the event that Mr. Ditka cannot attend, Bud Grant has been found in a rowboat on the 10,000th lake in Minnesota and has agreed to fill in, offering his unique brand of lively wit.

The combined MAGCS/ITF Golf Day at Inverness Golf Club (Mike Bavier, CGCS) will be held on October 3 (just bad timing for those of you attending the above-mentioned Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management School's Two-Year Certificate Program Fall Session, which gets underway October 3). This event will feature the ever-popular and hotly-contested College Team Championship. Put your team together and wear your colors proudly (just no depictions of Native Americans, pissed-off drunken Irish leprechauns, or anything that might be considered offensive). I don't know what Nittany means, but it probably offends someone . . .

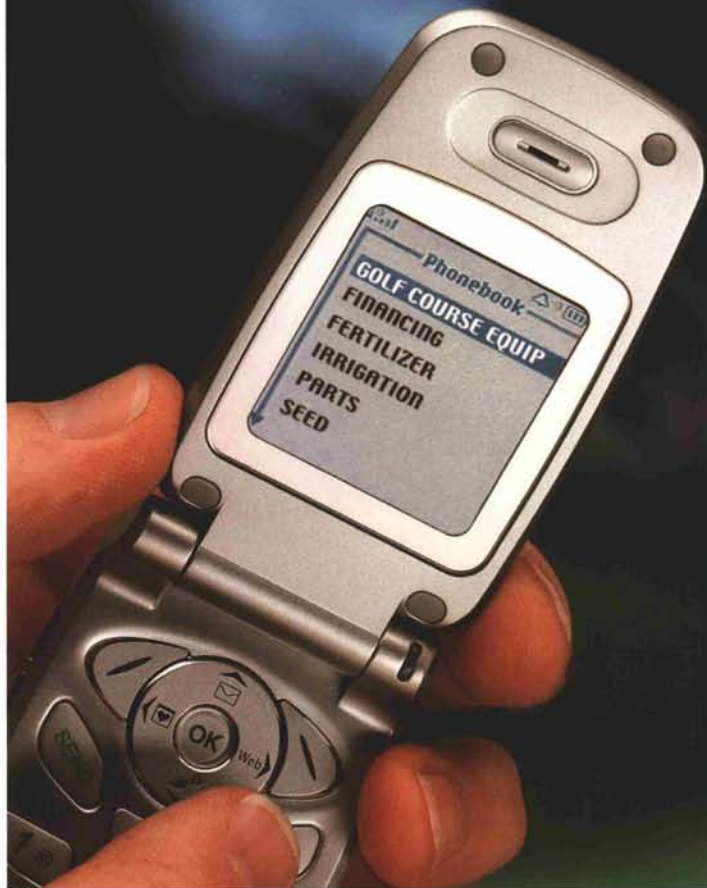
And for those who just can't get enough education, the seminars listed in Dates to Remember are just the tonic for what ails you. To reserve your spot for the September 29th Fair Labor Standards Act thingie, call 866-352-9539. To learn everything you wanted to know about Hazardous Waste Management and DOT Hazardous Materials Training, call 847-297-8464.

Now, if you want to learn all the above and MORE, just sign up for the 2005 University of Illinois Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day, to be held on September 14 at the Landscape Horticulture Research Center and the Hartley Selections Garden, both on South Lincoln Avenue in

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Urbana. You should have received a mailer about this event, but if not, call 217-333-7847 for information. There's college girls there.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of longtime MAGCS member Terry Dillner, who passed away suddenly last month of a massive heart attack. If you read nothing else in this magazine, please read the letter from Connie Dillner (Terry's widow) featured on page 37. Terry and his family—wife Connie, son Tom (27), daughters Teresa (21) and Laura (17)—moved to Jackson, Michigan in 2000 after residing in our area since 1974. Terry served in the capacity of assistant superintendent at Evanston Golf Club under Walter Fuchs and Carl Hopphan, and superintendent of Woodmar Country Club from 1992 to 2000.

Don't forget about the Wee One's Annual Golf Outing the 26th of this month at Pine Hills C.C. in Wisconsin. This organization was founded on behalf of the late Wayne Otto to assist golf management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to catastrophic illness without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. Most recently, the foundation held a charitable golf outing on August 8 on behalf of **Dan Nielsen**, the golf course superintendent of the Golf Club of Illinois who is battling pancreatic carcinoma. More than 75 supporters participated in the event (held at Dan's club), and by all accounts the day was a complete success. To date, the Wee One Foundation has donated more than \$80,000 to support superintendents in need, and

through the participation of all who can attend the outing on the 26th, and all who have joined the foundation, the sky's the limit for the future. In fact, the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents recently contributed \$500 to the fund for Dan and his family, and much more can be done! Please contact either **Dave Radaj**, **Mark Petitgoue** or **Paul Bastron** to donate to this important cause.

On a happier note, congratulations to **Erwin McKone, CGCS** on his recent certification through GCSAA. Erwin, superintendent at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, IN, has been the director of golf operations at Briar Ridge since January 2004, and also recently changed his last name to "McKane" according to the GCSAA press release, so congrats on both of these achievements, Erwin!

The Turf Professionals Equipment Company (TPEC) sponsored an August 3rd junket to the Bears training camp on the campus of the Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais. Those in attendance were treated to VIP treatment at the practice, followed by a round of golf at Green Garden Country Club (**Rennie Jacobson**). They had the honor of being the last ones (possibly ever) to see Rex Grossman actually stand without the aid of crutches.

In Washington D.C., the EPA released its comprehensive assessment of the herbicide 2,4-D, concluding that it poses no risk to human health when used according to label instructions. The risk to homeowners (and their pets) who blowtorch their lawns every spring

with the stuff is another matter altogether . . .

Great scheduling on the PGA Championship/Walker Cup same-weekend thing, huh? Thank God for Tivo! While the PGA was being contested in steamy New Jersey, our neck of the woods played host to one of the most renowned and historic events in golf—the Walker Cup at Chicago Golf Club (**Jon Jennings, CGCS**). The last time this shindig took place at Chicago Golf Club, in 1928, Bobby Jones and Chick Evans led the U.S. to a resounding thumping of the Great Britain-Ireland team. The rematch proved more difficult for the U.S., but the result was the same—the U.S. team won by a 12½ to 11½ skin-of-the-teeth margin. Conditions were "U.S. Open-caliber" thanks to the 8,742 volunteers from around the solar system who descended upon Wheaton for the event, and the quality of golf was superb. The U.S. team's ace in the hole was John Holmes—a guy known throughout many circles for his length—who, along with Nicholas Thompson, put a whoopin' on Oliver Fisher and Matthew Richardson from the GB&I squad. Congratulations to the United States Walker Cup Team, and to Jon Jennings, **Aaron Willing** and the many MAGCS members who donated their time and expertise toward the success of this historic event.

This just in—Augusta National is going to be lengthened. Again.

Congratulations to Monroe Miller, our colleague up the road a way at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Monroe was inducted into the Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame recently for his MANY contributions to our industry, including his fine editing of the Wisconsin association's award-winning magazine, *The Grass Roots*.

The August MAGCS monthly meeting was held on the 15th in "The Friendly Village" of Worth, IL at the Water's Edge Golf Club. Host superintendent **Jason Lemanski** and PGA pro/GM Steve Dell and the staff at Water's Edge provided a wonderful

(continued on page 32)



Dave Radaj, Dan Nielsen, Paul Bastron, Chad Ball, Beverly and Dan Quast on August 8 at the Golf Club of Illinois.