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day from beginning to end. The education portion was very apropos for the site—a panel of experts spoke on the benefits (and risks) of using biosolids as a soil, soil amendment or topdressing material on golf courses. The reason it was timely? Water's Edge is built on a 9" layer of biosolids courtesy of the Metro Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Thomas Granato of the MWRDGC started the fun, and was followed by **Dan Dinelli**, **CGCS** (who has been experimenting with biosolids as a component of fairway topdressing material and divot mix), then Pauline Lindo, U of I's **Tom Voigt**, Lakhwinder Hundal and finally Albert Cox—all of whom had expertise in the use of biosolids. Once the education

program came to an end, it was time to experience the course and enjoy the breeze off the Cal-Sag Channel. Although this reporter played like . . . biosolids, there were some nice scores recorded on the tight, demanding track. The Golf Committee came up with a really cool twist by giving each foursome two range balls to be used by each player in a progressive system whereby player #1 uses it on the first hole, player #2 on the second, and so on through the entire round. The score made by the player with the range ball was the team's score on that hole. Losing both balls meant elimination (in our case on the 5th hole). Prizes were then awarded randomly to the first, third and sixth place teams. Taking top honors was the team of **Rick**

Uthe, **Don Ferreri**, **Dave Kohley** and **Mike Vilendrer** with an 86 (who were spotted hawking balls on the range during the round, I might add). Third place went to **Eric Swanson**, **John Lamkin**, **Scott Stratton** and **Gordon Hagberg** with a 93. Sixth-place winners were **Dave Nadler**, **Dave Louttit**, **Jason Lemanski** and **Larry Tomaszewski** with 99. Low-gross winner was **Dave Kohley** (71) with **Kurt Sams** (74) taking second. Low-net winner **Rick Uthe** shot 64, followed by runner-up **George O'Hara**'s 67. Closest-to-the-pin was **Rob Lewis** and longest drive was kicked there by this guy doin' the talking right now. The Great Gonzo Grey Goose Giveaway capped the day's fun with **Hans Hopphan** and **Mark Schmitz** each



Water's Edge
PGA pro/GM
Steve Dell.

Tom Granato.

Dan Dinelli.

Pauline Lindo.

Tom Voigt.

Lakhwinder
Hundal.

Albert Cox.



Doug Davis, Tony Kalina,
Derek Florian and George O'Hara.

Patti, Sharon, Tom Prichard
and Marsha.

Rick Uthe, Dave Kohley,
Don Ferreri and Mike Vilendrer.



Kurt Sams, Ed Esgar, Dave
Holler and Keith Peterson.

Sam Wineinger,
John Gurke, Paul Yerkes
and Dan Anderson.

Jason Lemanski, Larry Tomaszewski,
Dave Nadler and Dave Louttit.

Jason and
Paul Bastron.

winning a hat, and **Jim Shone** taking home the grand-prize gift basket with oversized bottle of booze and assorted accessories. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in making our day so great—Jason and Steve at Water's Edge; Sharon, Patti and Marsha for again running the raffle hole; and our day's sponsors: Burris Equipment Company, J.W. Turf, Nadler Golf Car Sales, Palatine Oil Company, Syngenta, The Andersons and Turf Professionals Equipment Company (TPEC). You are all the best, and that's no bull biosolid!

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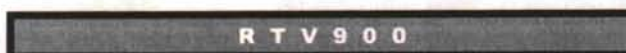
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And the Grasses Shall Abound

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the November 1988 issue of Bull Sheet. The eloquent words of Edwin Wollenberg are especially meaningful in light of this summer's hot, dry, stressful weather.

The summer was hot and dry. Moisture was scarce to moderate, and very spotty. Forty-six days of 90 degrees plus, including seven days of 100 degrees or over. We tied a record set 33 years ago, with plenty of time left on the calendar to break that record. Lawns looked dead and took on the appearance of a stubbled field of grain after harvest.

It is with selfish satisfaction that I retired a few years ago, and do not have to worry about Nature's wrath. But, I do worry, for I have a son and many other superintendent friends, who, although they know the grass will make a "comeback" and green up, do not know if the "locker room and pro shop" superintendents can wait that long and are anxious to make a change. We, the superintendents, know that the grass will be green again and survive, but sometimes we have to be patient with temporary lack of cooperation from Mother Nature.

The golf course superintendent must wear many hats, and that's why they gave us the pretty title of Golf Course Superintendent a few years ago, a replacement for the common, tieless, blue jean and grubby moniker of Greenskeeper in the past.

But I am sure that most golf course superintendents, when they think of what their most important obligation is, automatically think of grass, that which surrounds their responsible domain. Grass grows almost everywhere except in the deepest woodland and on the very parched deserts—and with modern technology in grass survival and growth, we are now conquering many portions of that area, once thought as wasteland. Where trees struggle or can't gain a foothold, grass flourishes and possesses the earth. Wherever there is soil, moisture and some period of warmth, grass will grow.

Man is more dependent on grass than any other species of plant life. We could do without trees, though we would suffer some for want of shade, lumber, and in early history for fuel. We could do without flowers, though we would be deprived of color, beauty, fragrance and certain items of food and fiber. But without grass we would surely starve. The cereal grains are all grasses—corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, etc. The pastures for our meat animals are grass. Grass anchors the soil against erosion. Grass cools the earth and constantly renews the oxygen in the atmosphere. Grass is necessary for life as we know it.

It has been estimated that there are 7,000 species of grass, including the tall giant bamboo that was used on golf courses in yesteryears as whipping poles for dew, worm casts, and leaves or debris on the lush greens or tees. Few of the so-called ordinary grasses grow more than three feet high, and most of the grasses that blanket our Plains states or Midwest flatlands are even shorter. Yet it is so demanding, so vigorous in growth, so skilled in reproduction, that it out-produces all other plants. Maybe someone, or the unique computer instruments of today, have counted the number of individual grass plants in an acre of fairway, but I have never seen the figures. They must run well into the millions.

Grasses, as plants go, are really very simple. Most grasses have fibrous roots, their stems jointed, leaves long and slender, and flowers simple. The seeds carry the germ at one end, and the remainder of the seed consisting of so-called concentrated food; it is this food concentrate that makes the cereal grains so valuable to us. And because grasses have an unusual capacity for

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replacing the lost stems and leaves, it makes pasture grasses and forage crops so valuable to farmers and ranchers because a meadow, range or hayfield tends to replenish itself.

The fibrous roots of wild grass lace the soil so completely that they form a turf and sod. When I was a young boy in the middle 1920s, I had an uncle who went to see his uncle in Montana—still a very wild and untamed area of our nation then. He said his uncle cut sod and laid it up like bricks to build the house, barn and even corral walls to confine the livestock. The sod of the pioneer days on the Plains substituted as building material for the logs of the forest lands. He also remarked that the sod was so thick and tough that it required four horses to pull a plow turning a single furrow through it.

I'm sure we all remember from our school days and early American history, the vast pasture land that existed with grasses so plentiful that for generations it supported herds of buffalo estimated at 100 million or more. For hundreds of years those grassy lands fed those herds and the grass was never noticeably diminished. Then man came with his cattle and sheep and, though some areas were overgrazed, the grass persisted until men with plows ripped up the sod to plant wheat—another grass, by the way, but a nurtured, civilized grass without the staying power of the buffalo grass and all the other wild species. Drought (like this year) hampered the wheat crops and wind blew the dust.

I remember the dust storms of the 1930s, indirectly, and many farmers in the Dust Bowl area moved from the land, leaving behind everything except what they could pack in a car or truck. But after the dust storms had somewhat abated, the grass crept back into the plowland, as it always does.

Man can destroy the grass, but if he turns his back for a few years, nature urges the grass back where it belongs. Grass is persistent. Grass seems to have a fond kinship for the land. Grass can and will, if given half a chance, repair the damage man does to the green around him.

In my almost 40 years as a golf course superintendent, I have seen many ideas evolve to take the extreme drudgery out of playing the game;

from caddies to pull carts, to the money-making destructive motorized monsters of today. These new, modern and progressive vehicles ruin much turf and grass, but when ropes and barriers are constructed to prevent this abuse, it isn't too long before the grass will take over again in these areas when left to its own urgencies.

The tamed grasses feed us and our livestock, and some of them provide shelter and recreational sites for us. We could not live without them in any degree of comfort. But it is the wild grasses that have done most to shape this world. Occasionally man cooperated, and helps produce a better species of turf plant, but for the most part the grasses need little help.

Nearly all plants have strong capacity for self-renewal, and grass is outstanding in this respect. Break off or cut one stem, and another stem will soon rise to take its place. Mow a golf green today, and tomorrow there will be new growth to be cut again. The obnoxious and cursed annuals, such as crabgrass, knotweed or *Poa annua*, will persist in growing and coming to seed regardless of abuse or adversities. And the perennial wild

grass, such as the quackgrass in edges of sand traps and flower beds, when cut down to the roots repeatedly through the season, will still send up a few seed stalks and survivors.

It is this persistence of life and growth that has enabled the grasses to take and hold such large areas of the earth. Their simplicity of flowering, their toughness of seed, these essentially simple ways or parts, are all remarkable and a vital element in their persistence. It is this courage and urge to live, this insistence on growing and seeding and multiplying, that really impresses me. If one can say that any form of visible plant life possesses the earth, that plant is the grasses.

Thank God that it abounds in abundance to feed and nurture us. Gives us a carpet to enjoy the many recreational sports played on it. And a much-needed and pleasant and inviting oasis to view and live with. And for its compatibility with the superintendents and greenkeepers who pamper it, and its acceptance of the homeowners who take it for granted. Yes, that ubiquitous plant called, Grass.





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An Open Letter to the Members of the MAGCS From the Wife of the Late Terry G. Dillner, CGCS (August 16, 1955 – July 30, 2005)

Dear MAGCS Members,

My name is Connie Dillner. Some of you knew my husband, Terry, during his eight-year career (1992-2000) as the golf course superintendent of Woodmar Country Club, Hammond, Indiana. Many of you knew Terry during his 18 years (1974-1992) as an assistant superintendent at Evanston Golf Club, Skokie, Illinois, under the direction of the late Walter Fuchs and Carl Hopphan. And a few of you may even remember him back when he started his career in the golf course industry as a grounds crewmember at Pheasant Valley Country Club in Crown Point, Indiana (1972-1974), also under the direction of the late Walter Fuchs. Terry was a longtime member of the MAGCS until his last career move in 2000 as golf course superintendent for the past five years of Arbor Hills Country Club, Jackson, Michigan.

As many of you may know by now, Terry passed away suddenly a few weeks ago, two weeks short of his 50th birthday. Initially, we thought he died from an allergic reaction from a wasp sting. Even though one can be stung numerous times during their lifetime with no consequences, that doesn't guarantee you are immune. You can be sensitized to the venom, unknowingly develop an allergy, and your next sting could be fatal if your symptoms aren't recognized and emergency treatment isn't promptly received.

However, this is not the case. Terry had a massive heart attack. The sting was purely coincidental and had no bearing on the end result, according to the autopsy results. We all missed the signs. When you hear hooves, you think horses—not zebras. Unfortunately, we should have thought zebras. Terry was having small M.I.s (silent heart attacks) apparently for quite some time and didn't even realize it.

We didn't know he had cardiac problems. He had a thorough cardiac evaluation in June 1999 and everything was fine at that time. However, upon Internet research (after the fact), he did have **many** warning signs, just not the types one would typically recognize with classic angina/heart attack symptoms, i.e., pain in the chest, heaviness, etc. He complained of indigestion (a sign) but three chili-cheese dogs with onions at lunch would give anyone indigestion. Also heartburn (another sign), we attributed to all the coffee he drank from 5 a.m. on. Fatigue and tiredness, yet another sign. It's been a long, hot summer with never enough budget, manpower or cooperation from Mother Nature to remedy the stress levels . . . it would tire out anybody. Terry was going full throttle from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., basically seven days a week. He was a hands-on superintendent, in addition to working on finishing up the home we recently built.

I can't stress this enough to all the members of the MAGCS and to all the professionals who devote their lives and careers in this field: There is more to life than having



Terry, daughter Laura, son Tom, wife Connie and daughter Teresa.

the fastest greens, the nicest fairways, manicured rough, edged bunkers, etc., that both private memberships and daily-fee patrons demand every day.

Your health comes first! The turf will still be there tomorrow. Your family needs you more than that bent, blue, rye or *Poa* ever will. Don't dismiss perceived ailments as minor annoyances. Educate yourself. Know the signs. I wish we did but it's too late for Terry, our children and myself. But maybe, if one other turf professional takes notice, recognizes the signs, and it saves his/her life, then perhaps Terry's passing won't be in vain.

I've been blessed to be with Terry these last 24 years of his 33-year career in this crazy, demanding and rewarding field. I've not just been his wife but also a coworker at his last two clubs: as Terry's administrative assistant (WCC), as a grounds crewmember on his staff (AHCC) and most recently, as membership director and banquet coordinator (AHCC). Yep, I was on a Toro 455D rough mower. I hit a few trees by mowing too close, trying to save the weed whip guys a trip. And I did chop up my fair share of range balls and drainage tile grates. Terry tried to teach me how to mow fairways. I remember him VERY strongly recommending, "Don't crank it off—make wide turns!" But I was happy mowing rough on my 455. I didn't have to worry about picking up those reels in perfect synch before nicking the perimeters on fairways when mowing on an angle. He also tried teaching me how to operate the Park Master, whose sheer size totally intimidated me. It reminded me of an octopus with all those reels and levers going up and down. So I stuck with what I felt comfortable with—my little 455.

But things change quickly in the blink of an eye, so I will help the Arbor Hills' grounds crew finish out the season and put the golf course to bed on this, Terry's last season. I **will** learn how to operate that behemoth of a Park Master, and I **will** mow fairways, and I **will** do a good job because that was his golf course and Terry never left anything unfinished.

(continued on page 38)

In this industry, we (turf professionals and their families) live from golf season to golf season, looking forward to the downtime of winter but also looking forward to spring and the start of a new season. The focus is always about the turf and providing our members and guests the best conditions possible. But perhaps the industry's focus needs to be reevaluated a bit. Because when the final chapter of your life approaches, you're not going to say to yourself, "I wish I had worked more hours out on the course." More than likely, you will say, "I wish I had spent more time with my family. Where did the time go?"

Don't get caught up in the competition of what the other guy is doing at the other club. Don't get caught up in the quest to chase the big bucks at the big clubs. Don't lose sight of why you got into this business in the first place. Because in the end, when all is said and done, and you've mowed your last green, and changed your last cup . . . what you've worked so hard to accomplish and accumulate during your lifetime . . . the house, the cars, all the trappings of success . . . in the end, it's all just stuff, those material possessions.

And the grass will still be there . . . growing . . . as always.

Best regards,
Connie Dillner



Reach = Reward (continued from page 5)

passion, and he ran with it. The trick is to be receptive and responsive to those around you who want to help enhance your facility. Prior to this summer, I didn't even know what a purple martin looked like. Now I can hear their song a hundred yards away, and know they are there. That's the reward. Thanks Ray. Keep 'em flying!

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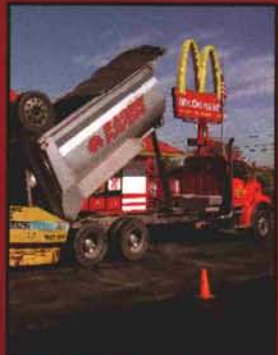
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