

**Install Confidence.  
Install Rain Bird®.**



**You can relax when you renovate with Rain Bird.**

Rain Bird understands that renovation is a major commitment, and we want to be your complete renovation partner. Whether your goals include modernization, improved playability or the need to meet strict watering regulations, we can help you justify and implement a cost-efficient renovation package that's right for you.

Rain Bird products and services offer the unique ability to combine innovation with versatility. We know that your irrigation requirements change with time, so we ensure that our latest innovations will always be compatible with your existing Rain Bird system.

After the installation is complete, we'll be there to help you maintain the quality of your entire system—from central controls to sprinkler heads. Rain Bird knows that a successful renovation includes quality products, excellent service, and a complete commitment to our customers.

So choose Rain Bird, relax, and renovate with confidence.



**HYDROLogic®**  
Water Management Systems

**RAIN BIRD®**

**Call your Hydrologic Representative Authorized Rain Bird Golf Distributor 630-761-9400 or 800-422-1487**





## 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

**Gary Hearn**, Salt Creek G.C.  
Home: 630-540-1460, Office: 630-773-4790  
E-mail: g.hearn@worldnet.att.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Tim Anderson**, Naperville C.C.  
Home: 630-718-9601  
E-mail: tjanderso@aol.com

### SECRETARY / TREASURER

**Dave Braasch**, Glen Erin G.C.  
Home: 608-373-7081, Office: 608-346-9009  
E-mail: dbraasch@glenieringolf.com

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Luke Cella**  
MAGCS, 11855 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439  
Office: 630-243-7900, Fax: 630-257-0362  
E-mail: luke@magcs.org

### BOARD

**Paul Bastron**, Glen Flora C.C.  
Home: 847-746-7212, Office: 847-244-6305  
E-mail: pdbastron@sbcglobal.net

**Tony Kalina**, Prairie Landing G.C.  
Home: 630-690-2683, Office: 630-232-1650  
E-mail: tkalina@prairielanding.com

**Tom Prichard**, Ivanhoe Club  
Home: 815-337-9217, Office: 847-566-2050  
E-mail: tprichard@tivanhoeclub.com

**Todd Schmitz**, Phillips Park G.C.  
Home: 630-851-5636, Office: 630-898-5296  
E-mail: tschmitz@aurora-il.org

**Dan Sterr**, Stonebridge C.C.  
Home: 630-357-4871, Office: 630-898-6139  
E-mail: Djsterr@aol.com

**Scott Witte**, Cantigny G.C.  
Home: 630-497-1909, Office: 630-260-8182  
E-mail: switte@tribune.com

### PRESIDENT EMERITUS

**Phil Zeinert**, Elgin C.C.  
Home: 815-748-5730, Office: 847-622-4823  
E-mail: eccsuper@elgincc.com

### COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Sharon Riesenbeck**, Waupaca Sand & Solutions  
E-mail: sharon@waupacasand.com

### CLASS 'C' REPRESENTATIVE

**John Ekstrom**, Cantigny Golf Club  
Home: 630-836-1038, Office: 630-260-8150  
E-mail: snapp79@aol.com

### TURFGRASS ADVISOR

**Dr. Randy T. Kane**  
University of Illinois & CDGA  
630-257-2005

### EDITOR

**Cathy Miles Ralston**  
Phone & Fax: 847-740-0962  
E-mail: oncourse@comcast.net

### CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**John Gurke**  
E-mail: Boomding@aol.com

### GRAPHIC ARTIST

**Mark Karczewski**

This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

### FRONT COVER

Your 2006 MAGCS Board of Directors and staff includes: (seated, L to R) secretary/treasurer Dave Braasch; president emeritus Phil Zeinert; president Gary Hearn; vice president Tim Anderson; executive director Luke Cella; (standing, L to R) commercial representative Sharon Riesenbeck; director Todd Schmitz; director Scott Witte; *On Course* contributing editor John Gurke; Past Presidents Council chair Ed Braunsky; director Dan Sterr; director Tom Prichard; director Tony Kalina; *On Course* editor Cathy Miles Ralston.  
Not pictured: director Paul Bastron, Class C representative John Ekstrom. (Photo by Jim Trzinski)

## ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

### 3 Setting Goals

Gary Hearn

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

### 5 MAGCS "Inside the Numbers"

Tim Anderson

## SUPER -N- SITE

### 7 Tony Kalina -N- Prairie Landing Golf Club

Josh Murray

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### 9 Breaking the Ice: What Facility Managers Need to Know About Ice Melters

James Brower

## 12 THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke

## COMMENTARY

### 17 A Place For Everyone

Tommy Witt

## SPECIAL EVENT

### 18 The 2005 Illinois Professional Turf Conference: A Good Value for the Green

Sharon Riesenbeck

## ON THE MONEY

### 19 Keep Your Money Working After You Retire

Larry Tomaszewski

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### 21 GCBA says "I Love New York," Part Two—Insights for Superintendents

Sharon Riesenbeck

## TRIBUTE

### 22 Dan Nielsen 1965 - 2005

Brad Anderson

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

## DO YOU EVER HAVE TO GROW GRASS IN A HURRY?

- Is it tough to keep enough grass on your practice tee?
- A week after a repair do your divots look like grass or sand?
- How do your fairways hold up under heavy use?
- How does your turf endure very dry conditions?

Use compost to help solve your turf problems.

- Compost has 25%+ organic content
- Compost is Rich in essential micronutrients
- Compost contains active families of beneficial microbes
- Compost retains 10 to 15 times its weight in water



*GreenCycle* Incorporated  
400 Central Avenue, Suite 115  
Northfield, Illinois 60093  
847-441-6606  
[www.greencycle.net](http://www.greencycle.net)

## PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

Over thirty-four years of caring service  
and delivery of quality products



# "One call does it all"



PALATINE OIL CO., INC.

## 847-358-3600

P.O. Box 985, Palatine, IL 60078





# Setting Goals

*Happy New Year!!! Hope the holidays were blissful and relaxing. This time of the year, I get to rejuvenate the body and soul; basically this means that I have to work on the house and attend social activities. Enjoy the winter months as much as possible; spend time with family and colleagues and take a vacation. Speaking of colleagues, I want to thank Dawn and Scott Speiden from Itasca Country Club for hosting the Fall Dinner Dance. Seems like everybody had a great time. The food was excellent and the deejay was entertaining. Also, I would like to say thank you to the vendors for supporting this event.*

*... the MAGCS  
Board and I  
would like to  
set some goals  
this year and  
hopefully by  
doing so, we  
can paint a  
clearer picture  
for the next  
few years.*

Recognition also goes out to all individual spouses of the Midwest Association of GCS for their dedication and support during the trials and tribulations of last season. We salute you. Thanks for your love and comfort.

With respect to Board business, John Ekstrom from Cantigny Golf Club has been appointed to the Board to replace Chad Kempf as our Class 'C' advisor. Chad moved to Wisconsin and is now working with EPIC Creative Communications. He did a great job on the Board and I wish him much success—good luck!

In terms of other goings-on, the MAGCS Board and I would like to set some goals this year and hopefully by doing so, we can paint a clearer picture for the next few years. We'd like to increase membership. Via the bylaw changes, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) has joined us with the promise of more involvement and timely articles for *On Course* magazine. We'll be striving for better communication between members and the public, both through the Web and *On Course* magazine. We also have outlined some goals related to public relations/media relations to see that our members receive achievement recognition. Another important goal, career enhancement for our members, means ensuring education availability and career development assistance. We'll also be developing a leadership and volunteer management plan. I would like to have two or three surveys this year of roughly eight to ten questions each. This will give the Board better feedback on what the members are looking for and provide the Board with direction. We also want to make better use of our best resource: *On Course* magazine. We'll boost our efforts to send this magazine to "links" that are involved with the golf industry. Finally, we'll be taking strides to stay in tune with environmental issues and the overall Green Industry.

Meanwhile, I hope you will get a chance to attend one or both GCSAA seminars this month at the Midwest Golf House as well as the monthly meeting at Prairie Landing Golf Club.

The GCSAA National Convention remains in Atlanta and the hospitality reception will unfold at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Peachtree Street on Thursday (February 9) and Friday (February 10) of the conference and show. I would personally like to say thank you to all the vendors that have supported this event in the past and will again do so this year. Also, I wish for all making the trek to Atlanta to enjoy the seminars, the trade show and spending time with colleagues. Have a safe trip!





# Got a hole in one? No Problem!

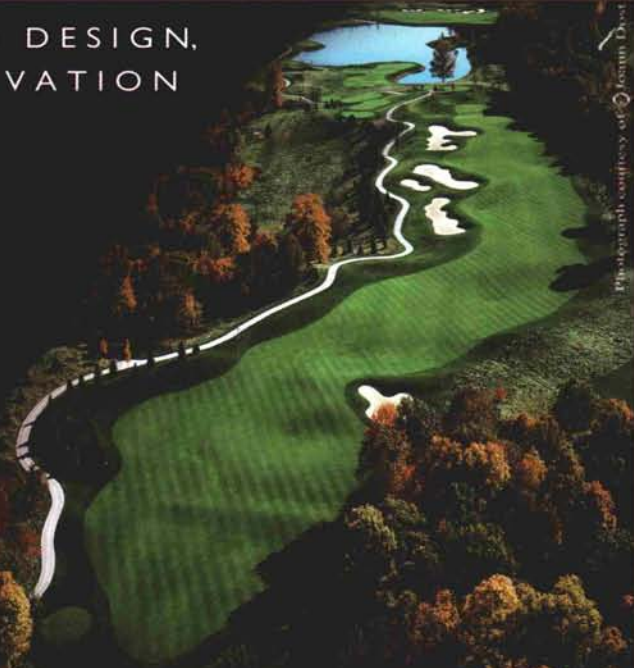
UPM The Good Stuff  
makes permanent  
repairs so fast it  
won't even slow  
down the game.



**BTSTI**

PO Box 1325 ♦ 800-732-9401  
Frankfort, IL 60423 ♦ Fax: 815-469-8248

GOLF COURSE & BALL FIELD DESIGN,  
CONSTRUCTION, AND RENOVATION



# GOLFCREATIONS

[www.golfcreations.com](http://www.golfcreations.com)

Marengo, IL 815.923.1868





# MAGCS

## "Inside the Numbers"

*The fiscal year for the MAGCS runs from January 1 through December 31. Each year, the Executive Committee meets to develop the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Executive Committee consists of the president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. Once the budget has been prepared, it is presented to the MAGCS Board of Directors for approval. For the 2005 fiscal year, the MAGCS operating budget was \$363,300. The MAGCS operates as a nonprofit organization. The Association retains the services of an independent auditor to perform an annual audit of the Association's financial position. For the past several years, the Association has used Arnold N. Schorn & Co., LLC to perform the annual audit.*

The operating budget is your typical "two-headed monster" that poses the perpetual challenge of balancing income with expenses. Each year, the Board approves a balanced budget with income equal to expenses. Looking at a historical period dating back to the year 2000, the MAGCS has seen an increase in the operating budget from \$300,650 in the year 2000 to \$363,300 in the year 2005 (see Figure A). This represents a growth of 21% over a six-year period or an average annual growth of 3.5% per year. This growth has been consistent on both the income and expense side of the budget.

### The major sources of income include:

INCOME CATEGORIES	% OF TOTAL INCOME FOR FISCAL 2005
Revenue from <i>On Course</i> .....	34%
Revenue from member dues .....	25%
Revenue from monthly meeting registration .....	15%
Sponsorship revenue for the hospitality suite .....	11%
Other income .....	10%
Sponsorship revenue for monthly meetings .....	5%
TOTAL 100%	

*Each year,  
the Board approves  
a balanced budget  
with income  
equal to expenses.*

### The major expense items include:

EXPENSE CATEGORIES	% OF TOTAL EXPENSES FOR FISCAL 2005
Expenses related to <i>On Course</i> .....	33%
Member services/other expenses .....	21%
Expenses related to monthly meetings .....	14%
Expenses related to the hospitality suite .....	12%
Expenses related to operations .....	12%
Research and scholarship .....	8%
TOTAL 100%	

In December of 2004, the Board of Directors held a strategic planning meeting. Several goals were established during this meeting. These goals covered all areas of the Association and included: mission statement, vision for the year 2020, membership, communications, public relations, finances, professional development, education, governance and member participation. Relative to Association finances, the following goals were established:

*(continued on page 6)*

**Goal:** MAGCS will work to establish a more diverse revenue stream.

**Goal:** MAGCS will continue to produce a high-quality publication (*On Course*) that will operate at a profit.

**Goal:** Develop the MAGCS Web site as a possible revenue stream.

**Goal:** So as to diversify our revenue stream, switch from GCSAA local seminars that are cohosted to GCSAA local seminars that are chapter-administered.

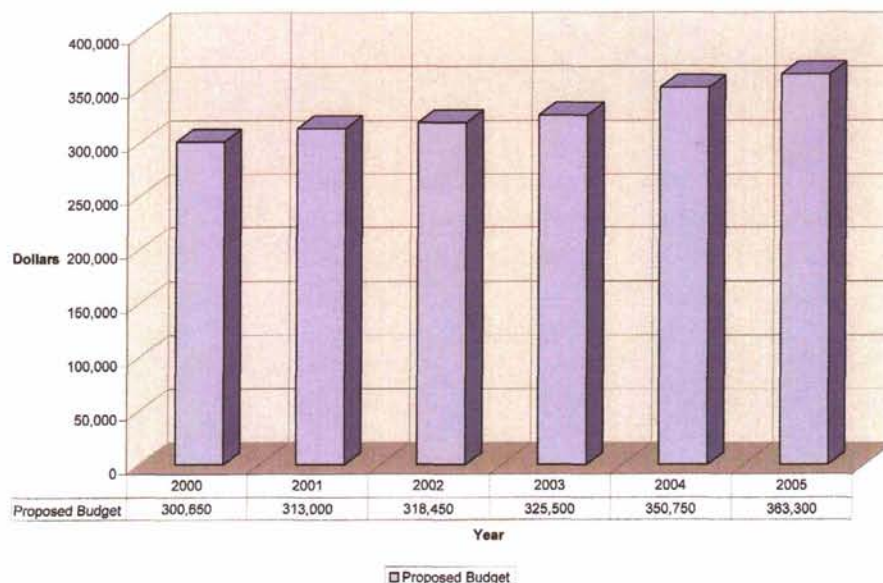
**Goal:** Define an annual and ongoing revenue stream for the scholarship program. Investigate set-


ting up an endowment fund for the scholarship program.

The Board of Directors is already working to accomplish these goals.



MAGCS Approved Operating Budget





**ARTHUR CLESEN INC.**  
*Dedicated to Service!*

# See the difference.

**Priced competitively, quality products, prompt delivery.**

You get fast, courteous service from Arthur Clesen Inc.  
We've staked our reputation on it.  
Try us and see the difference.

▶ **WHEELING** p. 847.537.2177 f. 847.537.2210

▶ **MOKENA** p. 708.444.2177 f. 708.479.9477



# Tony Kalina -N-



Tony, Melora and Andy Kalina.



## PRAIRIE LANDING

*Out in western DuPage County, Prairie Landing Golf Club has been in the very caring hands of Tony Kalina since the year it opened for business. Many of you know Tony from the enormous amount of time and involvement that he has put into our Association. Currently, Tony is in his fourth year serving on the Board of Directors, and continues to contribute to many different committees throughout the year.*

The Kalina family—Tony, his wife of 13 years, Melora, and their 9-year-old son, Andy—currently resides in Winfield, IL. Both Tony and Melora are originally from Omaha, NE, where they were born and raised. They graduated in the same high school class in 1979, but never dated. They got “reacquainted” 12 years later when each was living and working in the Chicago area. They have been happily married since October 1993.

Tony comes from a large family where golf is more than a passion, it’s a bloodline. Two of his older brothers were golf professionals, and Tony’s older

brother Charlie is a 25-year certified golf course superintendent who works for the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department. Tony’s father, Chuck, was a renowned amateur golf champion in Nebraska who competed nationally in two USGA Public Links Championships (1962 and 1963). In fact, given this family background, it’s fair to say that Tony has been involved with the game of golf for nearly his entire life. Father Chuck got Tony started playing when he was only 5 years old. Tony caddied for five years at the Omaha Country Club, from age 11 to 15. For seven years, Tony worked with the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department as an auto/golf equipment operator. In 1985, he enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to

pursue his goal of being a golf course superintendent. In 1990, Tony earned a bachelor of science degree in agriculture with dual majors (horticulture-turfgrass management, and agronomy-soil science).

Upon graduation, Tony was hired by Oscar Miles, CGCS to join the Merit Club as a construction foreman. Tony worked there until early 1992 when he started with Scott Nissley, CGCS, and Meadowbrook Golf Group to grow in an as-yet-unnamed golf course located at DuPage Airport. In late 1993, the DuPage Airport Authority (DPA) decided on a name for their course: Prairie Landing Golf Club. After the golf course was

*(continued on page 8)*



Left to right: Justin Wheeler, AGCS;  
Brian Tameling, AGCS;  
Josh Zartmann, technician; and  
Rogelio Martinez, crew foreman.



completed and when it opened for business on July 5, 1994, Scott Nissley became general manager, with Tony becoming the golf course superintendent in 1995.

Prairie Landing Golf Club is a Robert Trent Jones, Jr. course that was designed by Bruce Charleton. Considered to be a "prairie-linksland" design, the course has 21 holes that boast wide fairways, large, undulating greens that average 9,000 square feet each, and nearly 100 acres of naturalized plant communities outside the golf turfs. Being a self-confessed native-plant enthusiast, Tony is committed to restoring these communities at PLGC by attempting to convert fine-fescue roughs and managing existing natural plant communities around the course.

PLGC has 143 bunkers that dot the course. 2006 marks year seven of a ten-year plan to renovate the bunkers

in-house. Working with the original architect, Tony and his crew are rebuilding poorly performing bunkers and redesigning existing bunkers. As this project nears the ten-year mark, Tony realizes that such renewal may turn into a neverending process.

Since becoming PLGC's superintendent, Tony has dedicated himself to leading a team to produce high-quality golf course conditioning standards. Constantly communicating with the Airport ownership, the clubhouse staff and his own staff to produce a well-conditioned golf experience, all within the constraints of budget, is the challenge Tony most enjoys. Even when thrown a curve ball, Tony thrives on the challenge of creating their team's aim, which is "to enrich our customer's enjoyment of our golf course by exceeding their expectations on course conditioning, our service attitude, and increase our

course's perceived value."

Assistant superintendents Justin Wheeler and Brian Tameling, equipment technician Josh Zartmann, and foreman Rogelio Martinez have the attitude and actions of customer service that make PLGC shine. They, like the many who have served PLGC before them, are talented, dedicated and loyal. They make our golf course conditioning perception a reality that returning customers have enjoyed since opening day. Tony says he just tries to stay out of their way.

MAGCS members can visit with Tony and enjoy Prairie Landing's outstanding hospitality on January 24, 2006, when the MAGCS monthly meeting visits one of west suburban Chicago's finest venues.





# Breaking the Ice:



## What Facility Managers Need to Know About Ice Melters

*The noise surrounding the sale of ice melters seems to have reached an all-time high with more brands than ever before on the market. Complicating matters, they all claim “safe on vegetation,” “less tracking,” or “low-temperature effectiveness” if used as directed. Most newer brands are actually only blends involving one of the more common deicers.*

*Each of the individual components of ice-melt products has some benefits depending on what your needs are.*

When you understand how ice melters work, a lot of the mystery of what they are unfolds. Granular ice melters work by dissolving in the ice/snow, forming a brine. The salt-brine solution has a freezing point lower than water. This brine solution will penetrate/melt to the surface to break the bond between the surface and the ice layer, making for easier ice/snow removal.

Basically, five products go into ice-melter production:

1. Sodium Chloride
2. Potassium Chloride
3. Calcium Chloride
4. Magnesium Chloride
5. Urea

Ice-melt products are either straight products listed above or a combination of several of these. This combination can be in either a granular form or a liquid form. Typically, you see a liquid calcium or magnesium chloride sprayed onto a pellet of sodium chloride or onto potassium chloride. The liquid calcium or magnesium will quickly form a brine by pulling moisture from the atmosphere, causing a faster melting action. We call products that pull water from the atmosphere “hygroscopic.” Remember that all ice-melt products have to form a brine in order to start the melting process.

Outlined on page 11 are the pros and cons of the various products that are used for ice melters.

*(continued on page 10)*



## WHICH ICE MELTER IS THE BEST?

Real confusion usually sets in when trying to determine what ice melter to use. I like to use the following criteria to help people determine what product to use. Ask yourself, what desirable characteristics are most important to you? Consider:

- A. Product availability
- B. Desired melting temperature
- C. Quick or slow melting speed
- D. Product longevity on the ground
- E. Application ease
- F. Environmental friendliness
- G. Cost effectiveness

To elaborate a bit on the above: The product of choice should be readily and locally available. When you're out and need to replace it, Mother Nature is not going to wait. Also consider that for most people, storage space is at a premium. Consider the melting temperature of the product; it is important because if it is 5° below zero and your ice melter is not working, YOU are. Melting speed is important because the faster the product works, the faster you can clean the snow up. However, some slower-melting products will stick around and give you grit or traction. Consider product longevity—will the product wash away or will it stick around for the next storm event? Application ease is important; if the product has a lot of fine particles that clog your spreaders, rendering them unusable, what good is the product? Workers also need to see the products (i.e., spread pattern) to speed product application and to reduce waste.

Consider the long-term economic effects of your ice-melt product. Is your primary concern more environmental, such as turf or trees, or is it your concrete walks, brick work or multimillion-dollar parking garage? Do your storm drains empty into irrigation ponds? The next thing to consider is how cost-effective the product is in light of all of the above. Is the bag price of your product your main concern? Remember that the same weight of calcium chloride will melt twice as much ice as sodium chloride will at a lower temperature. Did you know the biggest cost of winter maintenance is actually labor?

Each of the individual components of ice-melt products has some benefits depending on what your needs are. Sodium chloride bears the lowest price tag and is most available. It figures into most blends and works down to 20°F. Remember that when using a blend of ice-melting ingredients, the blend is always diminished by its weakest ingredient. Below 20°F, sodium chloride needs traffic to generate heat to help it on cold mornings. Make sure that if you buy bagged material, it is a Halite brand [heat-treated to dry it] and that it has been screened to remove the small particles from it.

Potassium chloride is a slow-melting particle. It is commonly used in blends but in small quantities due to the cost of most fertilizer products increasing over the last couple of years. This melter works down to 15° and because of its particle size, also gives some grit or traction on icy days.

Calcium chloride works quickly, drawing water from the atmosphere, and creates its own heat. Because of this, it will work below 0°. It is commonly used as a liquid to activate other products, such as sodium chloride and potassium chloride.

Magnesium chloride, like calcium chloride, works quickly, even below 0°, and is also commonly used as an activator on other products. It is user-friendly and frequently appears in pet-friendly blends of ice melt.

Urea is not commonly used as a ice melter except in specialty locations such as airports or parking garages where anything with chloride molecules—which may pit aluminum airplane bodies, turbines or metal rebar—cannot be used. The chloride molecules will penetrate through concrete and attack certain metals.

In conclusion, all products that are used as ice melters bring certain benefits to the table. The most common concern with ice melters is the potential damage to concrete. All concrete, whether old or new, will be damaged if it is not properly poured, mixed or cured. The natural freeze-thaw cycle will damage poorly laid concrete. It will do so even if ice melters are not in use. Anything that increases the freeze-thaw cycle, including water, can induce spalling in concrete.

*Most ice melters are overused and this is where we see damage to turf areas.*

In turfgrass situations, it is common for decision-makers to choose fertilizer products such as urea and potassium chlorides. The thought process is that they will do less damage. Remember, however, that a typical ice-melter application of such products is much higher than a typical fertilizer rate. Damage to turf will occur if applied 12 or 15 times a year to frozen turf areas because the product cannot leach through the frozen soil. The best results that I have seen regarding minimizing turf damage are the use of the calcium-coated ureas, such as with a product called Power Melt, and the use of magnesium chloride.

The best ice-melt programs I have seen are those that realize that all ice melters have potential risk. Train your crews on this. Make sure you follow proper application rates. Most ice melters are overused and this is where we see damage to turf areas. Always remove the slush once the ice/snow has melted. Always remove snow/ice to the curb away from the vegetation. Inquire as to what is in your bag of ice melt. Blends don't list percentages of ingredients. Even MSDS are vague on the exact percentages. Most importantly, minimize risk by following proper application procedures. This includes removing the snow before applying your ice-melt product and removing the slush afterwards.

If you have questions or want to get more specifics on any of your ice-melt programs, please contact specialists in the use of these products.

