

## Thinking Out Loud

by Bruce Cadenelli



Like most in this business, I see a tremendous amount of reading material cross my desk each month. At last count, twelve magazines alone come into the office every thirty days. In this information age it is extremely difficult to stay on top of everything. I've long wanted to hire someone to read for me, sort out the useful from the useless, allowing me to get through the pile of information in short order. Like much in life, this is wishful thinking! I raise this point to suggest that all MAAGCS members can contribute to the newsletter by sending Chris Ayers information, articles, or anything of importance to be included in future issues. We all read things, or are doing projects at our clubs or businesses that others would find useful and informative. Plus, none of us is that well informed that he cannot learn from other professionals. Keep this in mind as you scan your reading material each month.

I know Chris Ayers and the newsletter committee received many positive comments on the initial '96 issue. Chris, and his assistant, R. Tucker Mostrom, deserve most of the credit. As we are still learning the ropes it will take some time to find and develop our "voice" for the Mid Atlantic and the publication. It will also take more people getting involved before that can happen, so please do your part and contribute to "Turfgrass Matters." Everyone has something to offer. The newsletter is probably our best image-building tool, so we all benefit when it's a first class publication.

HGE or Human granulocytic ehrlichiosis is a new recently identified tick born disease. This is a sometimes fatal bacterial disease transmitted by the deer tick. Yes, the same culprit that gives us Lyme Disease although at times the symptoms may be more intense. One major difference is that HGE does not produce the familiar bulls-eye rash, which can make diagnosis more difficult. Keep your guard up!

I offer an unsolicited plug for the magazine "Maryland Gardener," a lovely and useful publication which is produced quarterly. The magazine is filled with intelligent articles and timely seasonal tips. Cost is \$12.60 per year and can be found at many magazine stands, or by calling (410) 867-1332.

In the March 1996 issues of Golf Digest, Meadow Lakes Golf Course in Prineville, Oregon, was awarded the magazine's first Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. Check out the article, page 36, if you still have the magazine handy. It's another example of how golf and the environment go hand-in-hand.

Each December, the Mid-Atlantic offers a GCSAA seminar at our home-away-from-home, Turf Valley. With more courses employing Spanish laborers, I am wondering if the time is right for the two of us to hold the two day seminar on Spanish designed for the Superintendent and the Assistant. This seminar, designed especially for turfgrass professionals, is a fairly new offering from our national association. Please let the BOD know your thoughts. *Yo creo que el tiempo es correcto para hacerlo este seminario.*

Elsewhere in this issue is an article discussing the use of barley bales in ponds for algae control. With the assistance of Chesapeake Environmental Management, we at Caves Valley will be conducting scientific studies this year to see if results are obtainable. Look for progress reports as the year develops.

Bio-fungicides, biologicals, biorationals, mycorrhizae, insect growth regulators. What's it all mean? How do you sort

out the hype from the truly useful? As we all take the next step away from "chemicals" and into the world of new "safer environmentally friendly" products, a lot of us will be experimenting with a number of different materials. It seems to me that Turfgrass Matters is an excellent vehicle for all to report their findings. Let's discuss what works and what doesn't. One of my first thoughts is that prices need to come down from some of these products to gain wide acceptance. How many of us can afford to treat an area when a new bio-fungicide costs nearly \$7.00/1000! It will be most interesting to see where our business is five years from now.

As the years pass, I've come to appreciate more and more the work of the USGA Green Section staff. Since they see so many clubs each year, their wealth of knowledge is substantial. Stan Zontek has been calling on courses for twenty-five years, while Keith Happ has made a smooth transition from superintendent to staff agronomist. Stan tells me they are nearly fully subscribed in the Mid-Atlantic region, but they can certainly assist more clubs if others wish to take advantage of the service. The bottom line is that they are there to help, whether or not you are a member club. So, don't go it alone! Call their office at (610) 696-4747 for information on their services or to simply get your questions answered. ■

### Scotts® Custom Application Service: perfectly accurate, perfectly convenient.



Scotts Custom Application Service is the thoroughly professional way to apply fairway fertilizers and combinations without leaving tracks and without overlays, skips or interruption of play. Specially designed application trucks and computer-controlled equipment maximize spreading accuracy. And high-intensity lights on the trucks allow pre-dawn and after-dark applications, so there's no need to close the course or interrupt tee times.



Professional Turf Services  
...The Scotts Difference®