Eighty Attend Iowa Greens Course

Pupils Say Course Worth Many $ in Savings

By C. G. YARN

The Iowa Greenkeepers’ Short Course held at Iowa State college, Ames, March 5 and 6, broke all records for attendance, registering over 80 green-chairmen and greenkeepers.

The “Heart of America” Greenkeepers’ association, Kansas City, Mo., was represented by 7 members, and their president, W. C. Peters, acted as chairman of the Tuesday afternoon session. Other states represented were Minnesota, Illinois and North Dakota.

This was the first time these boys have attended our short course and from their conversations I feel they were amply repaid and will do their best to bring others with them to our 1935 meeting.

Kenneth Welton of the Green Section was our principal speaker. He all but opened a hole in our heads to pour into our brains the absolute necessity of having correct top soil.

After Welton’s lecture on the above topic one of the green-chairmen said, “I wish I had heard this lecture three or four years ago.” He feels like some of the rest of us. He doesn’t like the idea of rebuilding his old greens, and putting them out of play for a long period or trying to rebuild his top soil from the top down.

Another golf course superintendent told the writer his club had saved thousands of dollars in future greens expense by following Welton’s advice on top soil and drainage.

One out of state member said he would have to go home and improve the top soil he had already prepared to put on 9 new greens. This man traveled a long way to attend our short course, but no doubt he will be repaid for his trouble and time in being sure of this one important part in building greens.

We were very pleased to have O. J. Noer with us again this year. He is a very convincing speaker and we always (Continued on opposite page)
many new watering ideas of great help in reducing troubles in hot weather. He helped to clear up many controversial points concerning the time, amount and frequency of watering, making observations from a long experience with golf course practices. He advised the use of a spike roller on areas of the green which dry out quickly or do not take water rapidly. Hand watering may be advisable on parts of sharply contoured greens during the troublesome hot weather. The "layer cake" green gives an unusual amount of trouble.

John MacGregor addressed the greenkeepers at the luncheon for greenkeepers. He said recent conditions had suddenly awakened the greenkeepers to the great value of the turf gardens of the USGA Green Section. The necessity for accurate turf knowledge was made imperative by retrenchment in club operating costs. The Green Section and the work of the national association need to be supported. Some aspects of the new regional organization development in the NAGA were explained.

The Iowa greenkeeping group appreciated the opportunity to get acquainted with MacGregor, who has long been prominent in the greenkeeping profession.

On the second day V. T. Stoutemyer discussed turf grasses. Kenneth Welton told of new ideas in golf course management and economies. He described the advantages of smaller greens and areas. He also explained a practical cost accounting system which showed detailed costs to the clubs at a glance. O. J. Noer discussed fertilization of grass turf.

The greenkeepers were told that painting often did not really prolong the life of machinery so much but that it did have a good psychological effect. Painting, it was pointed out, revealed parts which needed replacing or missing bolts, said Prof. E. G. McKibben. He also gave directions for the lubrication of machinery, the care of tools and other mechanical problems.

Prof. E. C. Volz of the Department of Floriculture showed colored lantern slides of useful flowers and discussed their use and care. Prof. H. W. Richey gave some important points on tree pruning and care, using slides to illustrate his remarks.

The life history and control of turf and tree insect pests were treated by Professors Drake and Decker of the Entomology department.

A number of commercial firms had exhibits of machinery, fertilizers, peats and other golf course supplies which attracted the attention of the greenkeepers. The college had a display of various turf grasses and some cultures of turf disease fungi.

Course Worth Many $s

(Continued from page 56)