The Greenkeeper and His Association

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Read At The Second Annual Convention of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

AS WE review the history of golf course maintenance we are amazed by the progress in the science and practice of greenkeeping. Such a review gives us a deep appreciation of the part the greenkeepers have played in golf's attainment of its present status.

Back in, let's say, 1907, golf was played by the thousands. Today its players are numbered by the millions. Think of that growth in a period of twenty years!

Greenkeeping back in the earlier days of golf, as you veterans know, was mainly a matter of cutting and rolling. In those days when you got tired of that, you could—cut and roll. That's about all there was to it then.

Those changing times that saw the first acceleration of the growth that has made golf the giant of sports, brought into the picture for the first time a seriously scientific spirit in golf. This great group of new golfing enthusiasts brought to the sport a mass drive toward perfection, not only in the playing of the game, but in the conditions under which the game was played. The great number of city dwellers who took to the sport probably was responsible for an under-current of better grooming of golf courses. They wanted to get back to nature but they wanted their nature sugar-coated, so to speak.

Old Methods Began to Go

THE old methods then began to be questioned by the ever-increasing army of golfers. The greenchairman, the greenkeeper and the pro-greenkeeper began to hear mention of the actions of a golf ball on the green, through the fairways, in the bunkers and in the rough. These comments jarred the complacent ideas of course architecture and maintenance. Club officials and players began to question policies that took scant, if any, notice of such an aggravating item as a worm infested putting green. Nor was that all.

There was a rising tide of protest against cuppy lies in the fairways. You still hear some of them. Wagon ruts, and holes in the rough, unfairly placed and poorly kept bunkers, lack of drinking water on the course, lack of shelters, poor drainage and a score of other subjects began to get attention, and plenty of it. It must be said for those who were the most ardent and eloquent in their questioning, and most seriously concerned about rectifying the conditions, that they were not adverse to spending some money to get the defects corrected.

Golf had taken a firm hold on its devotees and they were willing to spend some money to provide better tests of golf and put the proper premium on the correct making of a shot, rather than have a good shot nullified by an avoidable defect in course maintenance. Golf stepped out to keep pace with the industrial development of the times.

There had been no extensive study of golf course maintenance. What very limited available data there was concerned the care of lawns and conditions were so different as to make this material practically useless to the golf man. Consequently, every green-chairman, greenkeeper, pro-greenkeeper, and many who were not one of these, began to advance ideas as to how this new demand for improvement could be met and satisfied. Out of this healthy conflict of opinion, many sound ideas came. In the main, though, it was a period of hot-air and dense fog because of the lack of authoritative study and data and the free exchange of practical and significant experiences.

Early Greenkeeping a Mystery

MANY of the older greenkeepers who had a good working knowledge of the fundamentals of the business built around themselves a screen of mystery and reserve, which gave plain evidence that what they had learned—or thought they had learned—in the hard school of experience, was to be used only by themselves in advancing themselves and the interests of their club.

They were not to be blamed for this. It was the
policy of the times. Then along came some apostles of a new philosophy. It's stated in a rather vivid fashion by saying, "If I had a dollar and gave it to Bill and Bill gave it to you, you'd have a dollar and Bill and I would be a dollar shy. But, if I had an idea and give it to Bill and Bill gave it to you, all three of us would have an idea."

There was so much sound common-sense in the new thought that the wise men who made ideas mean dollars to them, threw overboard the old policy of secrecy. You find, among the leaders in this business of greenkeeping, and among those most successful in other lines of commercial activity, that they are free to acknowledge that they used to be hard-shelled in protecting their ideas against exposure to the less competent and experienced. It is emphatically to their credit that these men today are most active in marshalling the present drive toward a more thorough and business-like understanding of the many problems arising each day to plague those responsible for golf course maintenance.

The day of the lone-wolf has gone. In greenkeeping, as in every other phase of human endeavor, unity of the group rather than individualism is the predominant note. Times not only ARE changing, but they HAVE changed. The golden rule is being applied not only as a policy, but also as a measuring rod. If we are inclined to be cynical, we might consider that the betterment is due to the cause mentioned by Elbert Hubbard, who wrote, "Humanity now acknowledges that honesty is the best policy—having tried everything else."

I have, up to this point, outlined generally the conditions that made the organization of the National Greenkeepers Association inevitable.

**Piper and Oakley Were Pioneers**

About ten years ago, two able and earnest authorities became deeply interested in the scientific development of grasses better suited to the playing of golf in this country. They were Drs. Piper and Oakley. Their first contribution to the literature of this subject was "Turf for Golf Courses." It was the pioneer standard volume. It not only advanced some new and some little known theories and practices, but it compiled the results of most successful experience in golf turf culture. It was indeed a book that could be "opened with expectation and closed with profit."

In 1921 the United States Golf Association organized the Green Section. This forward step by the U. S. G. A. established an authoritative bureau of scientific experimentation and assayed the prevailing practices. It spurred greatly the advancement of golf course maintenance in the United States. Golf in general and greenkeeping in particular advanced tremendously from the unselfish labors of Piper, Oakley, Carrier and their associates. The game continues to owe them an increasing debt of gratitude. They gave ungrudgingly of their knowledge. When Dr. Piper passed on to those ever green fields, greenkeepers with whom he had come in contact, whether personally or through his writing, felt his loss keenly.

These two factors, the Piper and Oakley book, and the Green Section, I believe provided the urge that resulted in the formation of a greenkeepers association. Such an association as the National can carry on the work in a practical fashion, focused on the conditions with which its members have to cope, and thus bring to the assistance of its members a practical and personalized help, involving not only the findings of laboratory practice, but those of the many expert greenkeepers.

There has been such promising development of truly scientific methods among greenkeepers that it is not difficult to believe that the time is coming when a very appreciable amount of the burden of this scientific research and development work will be assumed by a thoroughly qualified greenkeepers’ association.

**Young Men Coming Along**

**THERE** are many young men now coming out of agricultural schools with the ambition of making golf courses the field of their life's work. They have established a good scientific basis for their work, which, when correlated with the strictly practical aspects of their labors, prepares them to advance golf course maintenance at a faster rate, and further than we now may deem possible. Though the need and high value of a purely scientific organization devoted to golf turf matters always will be with us, I believe it to be within the province of your organization to benefit golf with an intimate application of a very profitable combination of the practical and the scientific in course maintenance.

When you consider the advancement made by greenkeepers along the above lines since the Green Section came into being, you will realize that this forecast may not be such a wild dream after all. It need not be emphasized that such a development, meaning thriftier and better maintenance to the golf clubs, will mean more money in the pockets of the responsible greenkeepers.

You may say "Pirie's statement may be all right for those who will be in the generation following us, but how about the present?"

I'll say that one of the urgent demands of the present is an individual consciousness of responsibility for the attainment of this future ideal. Subject yourselves and your organization to an analysis to see if you are qualified to work toward the ideal of the future, and to get this ideal defined.

**A Tribute to the Officers**

John Morley, your competent and conscientious president, already has given evidence that the national
organization is of the character to work substantially and speedily toward its bright destiny. Something is being done right at this meeting. Mr. Morley and his associated prime movers in this organization have outlined the benefits to be obtained by an organization such as yours. It takes a lot of courage and ability to make such an organization successful. And it certainly takes the "everlasting teamwork of every blooming soul.” Your officers have great credit due them for the speed with which they have obtained national recognition and respect for the organization. Whether or not this fine work continues depends a whole lot on what each individual member does for and with the association.

What is the association doing to make it worth-while for a plain, every-day greenkeeper or pro-greenkeeper to belong to the National?

What the National Offers Members

It is only a little over a year ago since this Association was organized and what it has accomplished in that time is clearly demonstrated before us now. Here, in convention assembled, are greenkeepers and pro-greenkeepers from all parts of the United States and some from Canada. Sitting in with them are the foremost scientific authorities of both countries on golf grasses; turf diseases, fertilization of soil; golf course drainage; grub control; maintenance problems; construction of putting greens; bent nurseries; care of new courses; protection of trees; bulb grown plants; greenkeepers bookkeeping and tennis court construction and maintenance. Nor is that all!

There is on display every conceivable implement required in the upkeep of a golf course. All are the very last word of their kind and present most vividly the progress made in the last few years along the lines of mechanical development in golf course machinery. Gasoline tractors; gang mowers; power spraying machines; sprinkling outfits; putting-green mowers, both power and hand operated; dump wagons; mower sharpeners, power and hand; compost distributors and mixers; hole cutters; seeding machines; bunker and green rakes; in fact, every utensil one can think of that goes with efficient greenkeeping.

Every possible phase of golf course maintenance is here presented for the man who cuts the greens as well as for the man in the experimental station, laboratory or machine shop, who labors that the greencutters may have better greens to cut and better implements to work with.

Surely, it is worth-while to belong to an association that can, and does, secure for its members the benefits of such a vast wealth of experience and cooperation! This unity of purpose recalls the story of the three stonecutters at work in a stone quarry. One was asked what he was doing and made the brief reply that he was cutting stone. The second man on being asked the same question said he was working for eight dollars a day. The third man in reply to the question said he was building a cathedral. There was one man just working, another man working for what he could get out of it, while the third man—evidently an idealist—was building his “cathedral.” They were all engaged in the same great purpose however—although they were doing so from different motives—and the “cathedral” could not have been built if all of them had not been working together in its erection. This parable teaches us that cooperation is operative, irrespective of human motives, also that it is essential if stately structures are to be built and progressive purposes consolidated.

Association is a Clearing House

The National Association of Greenkeepers has established a common meeting ground and clearing-house upon which and through which can be secured the helpful co-operation of each and every one of its members in the daily problems with which greenkeepers as a class must contend and master if they are to become thoroughly competent in their business. No greenkeeper or pro-greenkeeper can afford to be without the facilities offered him through membership in this Association if he intends to keep pace with the times and be worth more to his club, to his family and to himself. Not only do these facilities cover the practical
John MacGregor Uses

Swift’s Special Golf Fertilizer

A view of the Chicago Golf Club where Swift’s Special Golf Fertilizer has helped produce beautiful greens and fine fairways.

John MacGregor, Greenskeeper of the Chicago Golf Club, uses Swift’s Special Golf Fertilizer with excellent results. Read his letter reproduced here.

Mr. MacGregor knows the importance of using a fertilizer specially prepared for golf courses. It is important that a golf fertilizer contain the proper proportion of the essential elements of plant food.

A few of the well known courses which owe part of their popularity to Swift’s Special Golf Fertilizer are—

Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill.
Midlothian Country Club, Midlothian, Ill.
Acacia Country Club, La Grange, Ill.

These courses are widely known for their beautiful, velvety greens and fine fairways. Follow their example. Use a fertilizer specially made for Golf Courses by Swift & Company—a company with a reputation for making high quality products.

Write today for prices and a copy of our free pamphlet.

Swift & Company
Fertilizer Works
Cleveland, Ohio
Chicago, Ill.
Baltimore, Md.
Hammond, Ind.
St. Louis, Mo.

Say you saw the ad in The National Greenkeeper
side of our daily work, but they also provide the latest scientific data on the more perplexing problems which arise from time to time.

This Association and its individual members owe a great deal to the trained specialists in the various scientific studies essential to a more complete comprehension of the different elements which compose intelligent greenkeeping. These men have given—and are giving—most generously of their time and labors that we as practical men should have a better insight into the basic fundamentals of our calling.

If the National Association of Greenkeepers had done nothing else but bring the scientific and practical men together in amity and understanding to work for the common cause of sound greenkeeping practices its success would have been assured on that accomplishment alone. This, however, is only one of the many truly progressive steps it has taken and when I look back into the years that are gone and compare them with the splendid educational opportunities this association is offering today, I can truthfully and sincerely say to all greenkeepers or pro-greenkeepers that they should not hesitate to take full advantage of those facilities if they are earnestly desirous of developing the best that lies within them and in rendering a full, intelligent, faithful and co-operative service to the great game of golf.

In closing permit me to quote you Henry Van Dyke's inscription for the house of a friend:

"The lintel low enough to keep out pomp and pride; The threshold high enough to turn deceit aside; The doorband strong enough from robbers to defend; This door will open at a touch to welcome every friend."

So may be always the portals of the National Association of Greenkeepers.

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Where the Big Tournaments Will be Held

March 26-30—Men's Championship, Shore Hills Golf & Country Club, Bermuda.

March 26-31—Gulf States Championship, Biloxi G. C., Biloxi, Miss.

March 29-30—Twenty-sixth Annual North and South Open Championship, Pinehurst, N. C.

April 4-7—Florida State Amateur Championship, Timuquana C. C., Jacksonville, Fla.

April 6-12—Twenty-eighth Annual North and South Amateur Championship, Pinehurst, N. C.

April 16-20—Eighteenth Annual Mid-April Tournament, Pinehurst, N. C.

May 7-12—British Open Championship, Royal St. George's Club, Sandwich, Kent.

May 14-19—British Ladies' Championship, Hunstanton.

May 21-26—British Amateur Championship, Prestwick, Ayrshire.

June 11—Qualifying Rounds in National Open Championship, various districts.

June 13-16—Metropolitan Amateur Championship, Fenimore C. C., White Plains, N. Y.


July 18-20—Metropolitan Open Championship, Shackamaxon C. C., Westfield, N. J.

July 31-Aug. 5—Public Links Championship, Cobbs Creek Course, Philadelphia.

August 30-31—Walker Cup Matches, Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill.


October 5-6—Lesley Cup Matches, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y.
The Banquet Arranged by Detroit
Greenkeepers Was A Great Success
Today's low prices on Bent Grass Seeds should encourage the more liberal sowing of these grasses which, on account of their high cost in the past, were restricted largely to Putting Greens.

Sow Bent on Your Fairways and Lawns! The extreme fineness and beauty of turf produced from Bent Seed are well known and its superiority for use on the golf course is recognized.

For Spring Sowing, We Offer

Grass Seed of Known Quality

**TESTED for PURITY and GERMINATION**

South German Bent  Colonial Bent  Rhode Island Bent (Washington Grown)  Bent Stolons

Special prices on the above, or any other turf producing grasses, such as Fancy Red Top, Kentucky Blue, Chewing's N. Z. Fescue, Sheep's Fescue, Poa Bulbosa, Bermuda Grass, etc., upon request.

**COCOOS BENT**

We are now convinced, after several years of trials in the different sections of the United States, other than the Pacific Coast, where it is already recognized as the outstanding Putting Green Grass, of the fine turf producing qualities of this Creeping Bent.

Use Cocoos Bent Seed for your new greens or work it into existing greens, or wherever a fine and enduring turf is desired.

Per lb. $2.50, per 10 lbs. $22.50, per 100 lbs. $200.00

Special Putting Green Bent Formula — Consists of imported and domestic grass seeds of the highest quality, that will produce a fine, uniform and enduring turf. Use 15 lbs. to 100 sq. ft., one-quarter to one-half this quantity for renovating. 10 lbs. $7.00, 100 lbs. $70.00

Standard Putting Green Formula, 10 lbs. $7.00, 100 lbs. $60.00

Superfine Fairway Formula (with Bent) — Contains Bent Seed, as well as Kentucky Blue Grass, Superfine Red Top and Chewing's N. Z. Fescue. We adapt it to your conditions so that a uniform and enduring turf is secured. 25 lbs. $15.00, 100 lbs. $50.00

Fairway Formula, Fine Quality, 25 lbs. $10.00, 100 lbs. $35.00

Special formulas for Tees, Rough, Bunkers, Polo Fields, Club or Private Lawns, furnished upon request

Remember: — All our seeds are of the highest quality, obtained direct from the most reliable sources of supply and are botanically true to name. All seeds are new and are cleaned and recleaned until they are brought up to the highest possible state of purity and germination, special care being given to the elimination of weed seeds.

Without obligation, we shall be pleased to send a representative who, from long experience, is qualified to advise regarding grasses and furnish such other information as is necessary for the best results.

Golf Course Equipment

We carry a complete line of equipment and supplies. Call at our new Golf Equipment Display Place at 40 Vesey St., N. Y., or write to us.

"Golf Turf"— This interesting and instructive book, devoted to production and maintenance of fine turf, sent on request to Chairmen of Green Committees or Greenkeepers.

Stumpff & Walter Co.

Specialists in Golf Grass Seeds and Equipment

30 and 32 Barclay Street

New York City

Say you saw the ad in The National Greenkeeper
Greenkeepers' Golf Show Attracts Nation-Wide Attention

Most complete and up-to-date exhibit of supplies and equipment ever gathered together. Chemical fertilizers and power mowers for putting greens attract keen attention. Good business reported by exhibitors

By Robert E. Power
Sketches by C. P. McCartney, Staff Artist

GREENKEEPERS and others interested in golf course maintenance came from all parts of the United States and Canada to see the first National Greenkeepers' Golf Show in Detroit. The show was held in the Spanish room of Hotel Fort Shelby and while the room was small it was crowded full of a most varied and complete line of supplies and equipment necessary in modern upkeep.

The show was run by the greenkeepers' association and only exhibitors who had been especially invited due to their reputation and standing in the business, were permitted to show their wares. In all there were twenty-seven in this hand-picked group and with the exception of tractors and very heavy machinery which could not be displayed through lack of space, they showed the very latest models of machinery, the newest articles of equipment and the most recently developed fertilizers, insecticides and other products used in golf course maintenance.

All the proceeds from the sale of space at the show after paying the ordinary expenses, were turned into the association treasury so that the exhibitors not only profited from the business they obtained but their presence was a distinct contribution to the greenkeeping profession. Following is a brief description of the exhibits.

The Stumpp & Walter booth was a whole show in itself was a distinct contribution to the greenkeeping profession. Following is a brief description of the exhibits.

Toro Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis, Minn.

The largest and one of the most complete exhibits at the show was that of the Toro Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis, Minn., one of the leading manufacturers of golf course equipment. This company has been pioneering many new improvements, particularly with regard to hand and power mowers for all classes of golf course work.

They have improved their big 5-unit tractor mowing outfit with the adoption of a new automatic steering device which will be supplied on all the 1928 machines. With this device it is now only necessary to touch a lever slightly to guide the tractor without effort on the part of the operator. A slight touch ahead engages a friction cone which is connected by means of a shaft and worm steering gear to the steering cable pulleys causing the tractor to turn instantly to the left. Drawing the lever backwards turns the tractor instantly to the right. When the pressure is removed the cone
We announce with pleasure a price reduction of 50 cents per pound in the 25-pound and larger sizes of NU-GREEN, effective February 15, 1928.

Through greatly increased production and installation of special machinery, manufacturing economies have been effected that were not possible during small scale production of NU-GREEN when first placed on the market last season. These substantial savings are passed on to you in the new prices of NU-GREEN.

**Nu-Green vs. Uspulun**

Four seasons ago, we introduced USPULUN, the original organic mercury seed and soil disinfectant, to golf clubs as an aid in controlling the destructive Brown-Patch disease. The consistent success with which USPULUN checked and prevented both large and small Brown-Patch resulted in its enthusiastic adoption by golf clubs all over the country.

But in spite of its superior effectiveness and advantages over older treatments, our scientific staff was not quite satisfied. It realized the eyesore to greens committees and the handicap to golfers that the disease-ravaged areas presented during the days when new growth was replacing the unsightly brown patches.

With that problem before them, they set to work to perfect a treatment which, in addition to controlling the dreaded Brown-Patch, would also quickly restore the disease-weakened grasses to normal strength and healthy, dark green color, without the added cost and labor of supplementary applications of fertilizers.

For two years, formulae of every description were tested in an effort to find the most effective ingredients, and the proper balance for best results and least danger of injury. Ease in mixing, simplicity of application, and cost of using were all points, too, that received careful consideration.

In the early spring of 1927, we placed on the market a Brown-Patch remedy that was, in the opinion of our scientific staff and the many greenkeepers who co-operated in our field tests, the most practical treatment yet devised. This new compound carried the trade name, "NU-GREEN."

NU-GREEN was successful from the start. Greenkeepers were amazed at its control of the disease and the rapidity with which it brought back their greens to normal health and color. Those who used it as a preventive, saw the humid days and nights pass leaving their greens unspotted and free from the pale yellowish cast of unhealthy or diseased turf.

Now through economy in manufacturing, you can purchase NU-GREEN at a price little greater than the cost of mixing up many home-made compounds. NU-GREEN comes ready for use. No need of the bother and inconvenience of mixing up ingredients yourself. No fear of unbalanced quantities of disinfectant and plant food. No danger to grasses from imperfect mixture. With NU-GREEN, you are assured of the best possible results. It is easily and quickly applied.

**Use NU-GREEN this Season**

If you have not already used NU-GREEN, at least try it out on several greens this spring. Test it against any treatment you have been using, and learn for yourself why it replaced the older treatments at so many clubs last season.

**NOTE—NEW PRICES**

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*Say you saw the ad in The National Greenkeeper*