

Presidents Message

During the past year it has been the policy of the officers and directors of your association to promote better attendance at the meetings by making them more interesting to the members, not only from an educational viewpoint, but also to promote good fellowship and friendliness among them at a moderate cost. It has also been our endeavor to promote more interest in golf as a game among the members by holding golf tournaments at all of our regular meetings throughout the playing season in addition to special guest days between regular meetings.

In all of these projects I believe we have been gratifyingly successful, and I would like to thank all of the officers, directors, members of the various committees, hosts at our meetings throughout the year, and the membership in general, for making possible an enjoyable and wonderful year. Let us look forward to 1951 for an even more successful year and a stronger and better organization.

William H. Stuppel
President.

MIDWEST MEETING AT SAMBO'S

A regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held on Monday, Dec. 4th at Sambo's Restaurant in Chicago. A meeting of the Executive Board together with the Chairmen of the various local Conference Committees was called by President Stuppel in the afternoon. The purpose of this meeting was to co-ordinate the functions and activities of the various local committees in their relation to the coming National Turf Conference.

A regular membership meeting was held in the evening, followed by a review of some of the unusual conditions encountered during the past year. This was accomplished by way of a series of very interesting colored slides, so ably assembled and graciously shown by our official photographer, Paul Burdett.

I wonder how many of us remembered the flood conditions we had early this spring. Or the extreme heat encountered the last of October. That record 84 degrees on the first of November wouldn't feel bad right now.

OLD TIME DANCE SNOWED IN BY OLD TIME SNOWSTORM

The worst snow storm since 1944 caused the postponement of the Old Time Dance and Party scheduled by the Entertainment Committee for members and guests of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents for Thursday, Dec. 7th. Snow started falling late in the afternoon and by evening, with the aid of high winds, had reached blizzard proportions. Only 4 couples (hardy souls) reached Roselle. One remark made was that at times it was like driving thru a rolling snow bank. One of the couples spent the night somewhere between Roselle and their home.

However at the time of going to press, Chairman Ray Davis has promised re-scheduling the party for Thursday, Dec. 14th, and we all hope old man winter will be more considerate and that everyone has an enjoyable evening.

A SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO HIS CLUB OFFICIALS

Mr. George S. May
Tam O'Shanter Country Club
Chicago 31, Illinois
Dear Mr. May:

In line with our conversation of several days ago, I am making the following report on the fall fertilization, chemical, and weed control program for the greens, fairways, tees, and roughs. I will give the procedure, progress made to date, anticipated results, and costs involved.

GREENS: Where a grain and matted condition had developed causing them to become somewhat scuffed and leaving an inferior putting condition after a limited amount of play, the procedure was as follows:

- (1) Repeated raking with a steel wire comb to raise matted grass so that mowing would remove same.
- (2) Lower the height of cut for the balance of season.

The number one operation is complete and is to be followed by a top dressing of top soil mixed with the proper amount and analysis of fertilizer, also arsenate of lead for the control of earth worms and crab grass.

A chemical analysis was made of the soil on all greens to determine the P.H. (acidity), phosphate, and potash content. No test was made for nitrogen because of the extreme fluctuation of this element in the soils. The need for nitrogen can be determined more readily by observation of the color, rate of growth, and other considerations.

The analysis follows: P.H. (acidity) 6.6, phosphate low to medium, potash high. This indicates the use of a 4-12-4 fertilizer at the rate of 200 pounds per green followed by a light application of lime late in fall. Weather permitting, this top dressing will be applied the week of September 24 to 30.

The above treatment will put them to bed for the winter in a condition that will justify us in anticipating an early start with a beautiful set of greens next spring.

FAIRWAYS: A chemical analysis of the fairways showed the following results: P.H. (acidity) 6.6 to neutral 7.0, phosphate high, potash high. This indicates the use of a fertilizer low in phosphate and potash. No correction in acidity is necessary.

We have purchased 20 tons of an organic 6-2-0 analysis fertilizer which will be applied at the rate of 1000 pounds per acre.

Invasion of broadleaved weeds and clover into the fairways, encouraged by close clipping demanded by the modern golfer, made it necessary to take some corrective action. Due to the large percentage of bent on our fairway, it was necessary to select a chemical that bent grass was tolerant to in a much higher degree than that of the weeds and clover which we are to eliminate.

Past experience and experimental applications have proven that 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetate will meet these requirements. Two spray applications of this chemical this fall with an additional application next spring, if necessary, should produce practically weed free fairways for next year.

The prevalence of worm cast and an occasional infestation of crab grass on the fairways indicates that the

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont'd)

treatment of arsenate of lead applied some years ago has lost its effectiveness. Due to the exorbitant price of arsenate of lead during and since the last war, I had refrained from recommending this treatment in the past. Two weeks ago we received a shipment of arsenate of lead, approximately enough to complete our program. We bought it at the lowest market in eight years. Two days after receiving the shipment, it went up \$100 a ton.

In addition to the aforementioned fairway fertility and herbicide program, we have the mechanical condition of the soil to consider. In our imprevous clay soils, cultivation to assist the penetration of water and introduction of air is a primary requirement in turf culture. Water and air penetration is necessary to aid the millions of soil bacteria in the chemical process of converting the organic matter and chemicals into plant food. This condition we will accomplish by using an aerifier. This is a mechanical device designed for this purpose. Towed by a tractor it punches triangular holes about four inches deep into the turf. The hole is approximately one-half inch in diameter at the point of penetration and widens out to about three times that diameter at its maximum depth. This action produces the maximum cultivation with the minimum of turf disturbance.

This fairway program incorporates the use of the most modern equipment. The various procedures, selection of chemicals, rates of application, fertility tests, and fertilizer analysis selections were determined by observations of past results and the study of the latest applicable research and experimental data. The comprehensive fairway improvement program is about fifty percent complete at the present time and by next year they should be in the best playing condition we have ever enjoyed.

ROUGHES. The predominance of blue grass in the roughs allowed for the use of a more effective herbicide. One application of triethanolamine salt of 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid has resulted in ninety percent elimination of all weeds. One more follow up application will make them one hundred percent weed free.

TEES. Work on the tees approximately parallels that being done on the fairways with some minor adjustments in procedure and rates of application.

COSTS: Chemical and fertilizer costs for all these operations will be \$3,150.00. Labor and equipment operation costs will be about the same, making a total of \$6,300.00.

I am taking this opportunity to thank you and the Board of Directors for sanctioning this outlay of money. My pride in keeping Tam in beautiful condition is exceeded only by your generosity in supplying the long green that keeps the grass green, and it does take plenty of that.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) RAY DIDIER
Ray Didier
Superintendent of Grounds.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, after considerable deliberation and review of events of the past year, feel that the affairs of the Association have been ably conducted and executed, and wish to present the following slate of candidates for re-election:

For President—William Stuppel; for 1st Vice President—John Sellers; for 2nd Vice President—Frank Dinelli; for Secretary—Bert Rost; for Treasurer—Walter Kilmer.

For Directors:

1 year term—Melvin Warnecke; 2 year term—Henry Lange; 2 year term—Ray Davis.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

Dominic Grotti—Chairman
Gabriel Rossett
Harold Reid.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH

Bill Daniels has informed us that the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue University would appreciate the donation of any old putters you might have lying around and want to dispose of. Bill says that they could buy new putters but feels that a few old bats such as some of us might have around would stand a better chance of not walking off and would remain available so that anyone passing the experimental greens on the campus could use them. In this way a better durability test could be made of the various strains of grasses under severe conditions of wear. This is your opportunity to make a small material contribution to research.

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