

## FROM A VETERAN GREENS CHAIRMAN

by Tom R. Wyles, Chairman, Greens Committee,  
Exmoor Country Club.

My fifty-odd years as a golfer spans a period from the time we moved the grass with a herd of sheep thru successive developments up to the present streamlined job of turf maintenance. Our first Golf Course Superintendent was the man who watched the sheep. By easy stages, the upkeep of golf courses have become mechanized and turf conditions are more uniform in every way. In addition to machinery and resulting more efficient help, research, modern chemicals, weed killers and worm eradicators have given courses infinitely better turf. It should be born in mind that while worm eradication does away with worm casts, it also robs the soil of Nature's aeration and soil enrichment. Fairways have a tendency to sour and it is very important that this be corrected by liming every three or four years. The position of the Golf Course Superintendent has greatly increased in its responsibility and need of knowledge. His position has increased from a job of merely keeping the grass mowed to a very important executive in the general club operation. Club finances are most carefully watched and the governing board expects him to watch his expense operations and confine them closely to the budget set up for his department. Over the years, this whole procedure has become fairly standardized and the relation of the Superintendent to his Committee drawn much closer. The real importance of the Superintendent's work is closely related to the Greens Committee and it's Chairman. It is important that this relation be cooperative and friendly. The Greens Chairman must be in close touch with all matters pertaining to upkeep operations. This is also true in the non-playing season of the year because during this period plans, improvements and needed equipment are agreed upon. The Greens Superintendent should weigh carefully all complaints. With a large playing membership, these will always be forthcoming. The average golfer judges a course by his good or bad game. When he is "off", then it is the course, and he lets out a yell about some part of it. It is the job of the Greens Chairman to sift these complaints, discuss them with the Superintendent and if necessary, report to the Board such explanations as are deemed factual to the complaint. We have found that one of the best ways to overcome any one member who constantly complains is to put him on the Greens Committee. Introduce him to the many and varied problems of golf course maintenance and he soon realizes the many and complex problems which face the Superintendent.

The organization of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has probably contributed more to better courses and more economical operations than any one thing in general operation and upkeep. All Superintendents should give most careful attention to these meetings and bulletins. The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, the short courses at Purdue and the annual conferences and shows of the Golf Course Superintendents of America are of the utmost value to the Superintendent.

Having played on this converted cow pasture for over fifty years, served on the Greens Committee for about forty and been Chairman of that committee for the last twenty five years, I feel that the good old game has come a long way and like the automobile, is here to stay. I think I have enjoyed my association on the Greens Committee about as much as playing golf. Anyway, my gathered knowledge of general upkeep of the course has improved much more than has my golf game.

## DDT WON'T KILL WILD LIFE WHEN PROPERLY USED

The chemical DDT, used to control mosquitoes and other insects, is not harmful to birds, mammals, or fish if applied in proper quantities and at the proper time. On the other hand, excessive quantities of the chemical can cause mortality in wild life.

This is a summary of results of numerous experiments on the subject. It was provided by Dr. Harlow B. Mills, chief of the Illinois natural history survey, Urbana, in response to a query on the matter which has been a source of controversy among bird fans and others in recent years.

An excellent insect killer, DDT is widely used in mosquito abatement campaigns as a spray, dust and in emulsions which are spread over the surface of water. It is also used extensively to control crop destroying insects such as the corn borer, to kill flies and to check the spread of pests which defoliate trees.

Thus used, the insecticide can be a threat to birds and small mammals that feed on the poisoned insects. It affects the nervous system causing tremors and convulsions that result in death of bird or animals that get too big a dose of it.

"The consensus of scientists that have experimented with DDT is that it is not likely to cause injury to bird population or to other wild life when used in proper quantities and when applications are correctly timed," said Dr. Mills. "A good rule of thumb to follow is that one pound or less of actual DDT per acre will kill the majority of the insects and won't hurt birds. If you use a larger quantity than that, then look out.

When DDT is used in emulsions for water applications it is toxic in lower dosages than when it is used as a spray or dust. In numerous instances where birds have suffered damage from the insecticide the cause has been in application of quantities heavier than those recommended.

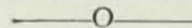
In addition to the correct dosage, timing of application is important. Generally, entomologists recommend that for control of early season insects DDT should be applied, if possible, before the leaves appear and the spring migration of birds begin.

For control of late season insects it is preferable to delay use of the chemical until after the nesting period is over.

Tests of the chemical at the rate of a tenth of a pound per acre were conducted in the Cook county forest preserves a couple of years ago. Foresters reported this light application caused a substantial reduction in the insect population, but apparently had no adverse effects on birds. No difference in results were observed when the quantity was increased 0.5 pound per acre.

In Texas the chemical was used in experiments with chicks. A DDT dust was applied at the rate of 4.3 pounds per acre. The chicks died and the wild bird population was reduced an estimated 50 percent.

In Maryland DDT was sprayed in a woods at the rate of 5 pounds per acre. Scientists reported a heavy bird mortality. Population of five of the most common species was reduced and estimated 6.5 per cent.



## PRO-SUPERINTENDENT TOURNAMENT

The winners of the Pro-Superintendent Tournament held at St. Andrews Country Club on Oct. 8, were as follows. 1st, Ray Gerber and Al Huske; 2nd, Emil Mashie and Geo. Smith; 3rd, Peter Bild and Ray Walden; 4th, Don Strand and John Gibson.

