

## OUR ANNUAL FALL DANCE

Don't forget to attend our Annual Fall Dance, which is this year to be held at Midwest Country Club on Thursday evening, November 5. John Polocovick, owner-manager and Marvin Gruening, Supt., will be our hosts.

It's been a long hard season, so it is time for a little relaxation and you can't do it any better than kicking up your heels a little on the dance floor. The Committee swears that this will be the biggest and best yet. A good orchestra, buffet supper, wonderful hosts, good fellowship, what more do you want. So bring your wives, sweethearts and friends and come out and have a good time. Also, there will be many door prizes.

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## WISCONSIN NOTES

The Wisconsin Greenkeepers held their annual fall tournament at Oshkosh Country Club on September 21. Les Verhaalen reports that it was a nice day and 31 turned out for golf. Joe Knies won the honors for the day and was crowned Wisconsin Champion for 1953. Jack Fram was host.

Les is keeping busy this fall rebuilding his tees and has planted a nursery of 26,000 square feet to Old Orchard bent to be used on five new greens next fall.

These Wisconsin men think nothing of travelling long distances to attend meetings. Onie Williams came all the way from Green Bay to play at Tam O Shanter.

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## EARTHWORM IS OVER-RATED AS IMPROVER OF SOIL

Out in California a professor has turned on the worm.

We've always heard that the earthworm was good for the earth. Now we're told they're over-rated.

"There is nothing to be gained from buying earthworms to improve soil," says Milton A. Miller, zoology professor of the University of California.

The professor looks with a cold eye on the claims of earthworm "promoters" who make claims about "hybrid worms."

"The public should be wary of exaggerated claims as to the benefits to be derived from 'seeding' the soil with earthworms, or the profits to be obtained from making a business of raising and selling worms," Miller was quoted as saying in the magazine, Better Crops with Plant Food.

"The question is not, do earthworms help the soil, but rather, how do earthworms compare on an economic basis with other methods for soil improvement?" Miller said.

Wonder what the earthworms have to say about this, Prof. Miller.

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Our good friend, Joe Kelly, will probably be seen more often at our meetings. Joe has moved from La-Fayette, Indiana to Kankakee, Illinois.

The beautiful weather of this fall has certainly been wonderful, but it would have been perfect if there had been a little rainfall also. Some of the boys were trying to recollect when the last good rain fell. As far as they could figure it was away back in July, at a time when we would rather control moisture by artificial watering, but now we would like to see some heavy rain so we can quit watering.

## SOD WEBWORMS DAMAGE TURF

Serious and widespread damage to lawns and golf turf was caused this summer and fall by sod webworms. They are present every year, but ordinarily not in sufficient numbers to attract much attention. It is thought that their unusual abundance in 1953 was probably due to their gradual concentration in artificially-watered areas of grass during the past several years and the unusually high survival of overwintering forms as a result of the mildness of the weather of last winter. This condition identically parallels that of the summer of 1931 when there was so much damage done to turf by web worms and was due to a hot, dry summer following an unusually mild winter. It may be that there may not be another such extensive outbreak for years. However, more damage is done to turf by the webworm than is generally realized. Other reasons are given for the failure of turf when it is due to the webworm and not realized as such.

Sod webworms are the larvae of young of certain small, whitish moths or millers frequently observed flying about over grass-covered areas, particularly during the early evening. Practically all webworms feed on grasses. The young worms feed on the grass leaves and start at once to form protective silken webs in which they remain during their larval life and from them derive the name "webworm." As the worms become larger they construct, close to the surface of the soil, little burrows or tunnels covered with bits of dirt, lined with silk. They now cut off the blades of grass entirely and drag the into the burrows, where they feed. Severe injury may be caused in a few days time when the infestation is heavy; hence immediate steps must be taken to effect control.

One of the older methods of control was with kerosene emulsion. This method from the standpoint of cost and effectiveness was practical. However, there are several newer remedies, which although more costly, are just as effective and much easier to use. Pyrethrum extracts are effective but very costly if used over large areas. Arsenate of lead sprayed on infested turf at light rates at regular intervals effects very good control of webworms, it requiring very little of the poison to kill the worms as they feed on the sprayed grass. However, probably the best and cheapest control is with chlordane. Golf course superintendents who spray their greens regularly throughout the summer and early fall with light amounts of chlordane ranging from ¼ pound actual chlordane to ½ pound actual to a 5,000 square foot green have very little trouble with the worms. In all treatments, several applications must be made as there are a number of hatches of the worms throught the summer and fall. 1953 seems to have been a banner year, there being webworms in the turf right up to the end of October in the Chicago district. Most of the damage reported was mainly in watered fairways, especially where there was an abundance of bent grass.

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It was long after dark and the men were still coming in from the last green at Tam O Shanter. It was a flashlight finish. We will probably have to make our Fall Tournament an all day affair if its popularity continues to increase as it has in the last few years.

The large attendance at our meetings this year is a great tribute to those of our Association who have struggled so hard to build bigger and better meetings and strengthen our membership. Also, the selection of top golf courses has done much to popularize our meetings.