

SPREADING IT THIN

John Polocovich of Midwest CC went fishing at Del Ray Beach in Florida and caught a 300 pound shark. John says it was quite a fish.

The members of the Hearts club had quite a session at Acacia. It seems that it is a very exclusive outfit with only a few regular members, but with a number of probationary members. Frank Dinelli, club president, says that the reason is that the regulars get tired of taking each others money and that they have to let a little fresh money in once in a while. Well, its a lot of fun anyway.

Mrs. Jock McIntosh is expecting a son, her first, anytime now. Jock is awaiting the event with interest.

Dr. Marvin Ferguson, the national turf coordinator of the USGA will be with us at our meeting on July 11.

Bert Rost, Chairman of the Turf Research Committee, reported that the USGA Greens Section might be willing to present a tidy grant to the University of Illinois for research work at our Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station during this year. The Committee is already at work drawing up a desirable program. This is, indeed, good news.

Dr. Voigt generously offered the facilities of the Medical campus between semesters including an auditorium, lab space and dormitories if we decided to hold a spring Short Course this Spring. The University is playing a larger part in our lives each year.

Comments of our younger members at the Acacia meeting high-lighted the necessity of constant review and rehashing the history of turf as we know it today. Our younger members have never learned the story of the growth of Poa Annuua and some of them do not know why it was ever necessary to have watered fairways. Stop and think of it, boys, some of them think Ike is the first Republican president, too.

Charlie Carr is now at Mattoon Country Club.

The Question Box questions and answers stimulated thinking so much that for an hour or more after the formal meeting broke up, members formed in groups everywhere and animated discussion of problems continued. This meeting certainly justifies the existence of the organization.

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PRACTICAL MAINTENANCE HINTS

Again we have had a very mild winter in the Midwest area. There has been very little snow and not very much rain, although we are now beginning to get some. Frost has not penetrated very far into the ground and at this time is practically all out. It is generally known that our old friend, knotweed, germinates very early in the spring, just about as soon as the frost starts to come out. Knotweed was observed germinating on February 18 this year. We believe this sets some kind of a record. It is hard to imagine any seed germinating in this part of the country in February. There will probably be a bumper crop this spring. The drought of last fall thinned out turf in some places and the early germination, long before the grass can get started, will certainly mean a head start for knotweed. It has been found that the weed is extremely sensitive to the arsenical sprays such as sodium arsenite and arsenic acid when in the seedling stage. Light sprayings are very effective if done early enough and that is the trick, to get your spray rig out on the course early enough. Several applications are necessary to pick up those which show up after the first

spraying. 2,4-D is very effective on the seedling plants, but must be used with extreme caution where bent turf is present.

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It seems that the predictions of some of the old-timers were right. It has been a mild winter. Some of the boys who are trying to maintain curling and skating rinks have a terrific job on their hands and it is really remarkable how well they have done this winter. At the present writing with the temperature in the 50's and 60's, ice is almost non existant. However, with any kind of a decent break in the weather in the next few days they will be on the job again.

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