

WISCONSIN NEWS

Our August meeting was held at Clintonville, Wisconsin, on August 13. 27 members and guests played golf in the afternoon at Riverside Golf Course which our host, Martin Mikulski had in fine shape. Everybody present showed enthusiasm over the course and its splendid condition. Over 40 members and guests enjoyed a very fine evening and meal and meeting in the club house. The educational section of the meeting was a round table discussion on past and present turf problems which had been or were being experienced by various members.

Wisconsin has, this summer, been receiving an excess of moisture thru light rains 2 or 3 times a week. The result has been an abnormal growth of grass. Right now, the grass is more lush and growing faster than than normal spring growth. Many of the superintendents are waging an uphill battle to keep ahead of the grass. Golf courses, in general, are in the finest condition, having the appearance of May or early June. High humidity has caused some fungus diseases, but it has not reached the problem stage.

Our next meeting will be at Nippersink Manor Lodge on September 10. Here we join with our good friends from the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents for our annual joint meeting. All Wisconsin Superintendents make an extra special effort to attend. It will be an outstanding meeting and you will want to resume old acquaintances.

Charles Shiley

Lino (Butch) Bernardini, Superintendent at Knollwod Country Club has been extremely busy this summer getting his course ready for the National Amateur Golf Championship which is to be held there the week of September 10. The course is in wonderful condition and boasts some of the finest greens and tees in the Chicago District. It would give Butch a big boost if we could drop in and visit him during the tournament.

We can't go to press without mentioning that the summer of 1956 has, without a doubt, been one of the most delightful, at least from a golf course superintendent's viewpoint, in many, many years. It certainly has been a relief after the bad summer of 1955. Many courses, especially on the north side of Chicago look as they usually do in May.. We understand that the south side did not receive nearly as much precipitation as other parts of the area, but courses are in wonderful condition.

Refreshments on the course at Glen Eagles were by the courtesy of Illinois Lawn Equipment Company represented by Bob Johnson and John MacGregor. Our many thanks for their hospitality.

Our old friend, Don Strand, has been under the weather this summer and has been forced to resign as Director of the National Association. We are certainly sorry to hear this and hope you will soon be your old self again, Don.

Robert Williams has been appointed Director of the National Association in Don Strand's place.

We often marvelled how Ray Didier could ever keep Tam O Shanter in shape and stand the strain of the two weeks of the big tournament there every summer. We thought he was about the only one who could take it, but we find that Elmer Lempke has followed in Ray's footsteps so far as keeping the course in shape. It certainly was in fine condition for the tournament this year, his greens being the finest we ever saw there.

GUIDE TO THE WEATHER

Look for these signs. Just watch the clouds, note the wind direction and the following information may help you in forecasting the coming weather. Usually changes in the weather come with the wind. So always notice the direction from which the wind is blowing.

In some areas, local winds may change weather conditions from the following predictions. However, a short comparison will enable you to make the necessary adjustment.

Sunrise and sunset skies. Early morning and evening skies are accurate forecasters of weather ahead. A gray sky in the early morning is the forerunner of fair weather. An early morning fog is always followed by a rainless day. A sunrise above a bank of clouds in the early morning indicates a windy day, but little chance of rain, possibly an overcast sky. A faint lavender sky, with high blue above the clouds in early morning or late afternoon foretells good weather, seldom seen in winter. Whether the weather at the moment be clear or cloudy, a rosy sky at sunrise or sunset will bring good weather the following day. A golden amber sky foretells of wind rather than rain. A pale yellow sky warns of rain within the following twelve to twenty-four hours.

Day skies change from fair to stormy weather may be anticipated if the cloud formations change in the general order as follows: 1. Cumulus; 2. Cirrus; 3. Cirrocumulus; 4. Altopcumulus; 5. Cirrostratus; 6. Altostratus; 7. Cumulus-congestus; and 8. Cumulo-nimbus.

White fluffy cumulus clouds bring a day of good weather. Weather change is foretold by white fleecy cirrus clouds. N to NE winds bring an overcast sky but no rain for 48 hours. SE to SW winds, rain in 24 to 36 hours. A cirrocumulus sky with wind from NE to SW may bring a short late afternoon rain. Other winds bring no rain. A sky of dark altocumulus clouds against a background of glaring white sunlight at sunset is usually the forerunner of rain in 24 hours. A dull red Indian red sky at sunset, or at sunrise, warns of rain within the following 24 hours, possibly accompanied by strong winds. If the sun seems to be within a halo, behind frosted glass of cirro stratus clouds, or in a cocoon of altostratus, expect rain within 24 hours. Small dark altostratus clouds usually bring rain by night-fall. A sky of cumulus-congestus clouds with East and Southerly winds brings showers in summer. Wind shift from West to North brings clear weather. Cumulo-nimbus clouds are a sure sign of thunderstorms and showers, but a wind shift to West or Northwest will end rain and bring cooler weather.

Don't take these signs too seriously, they don't always work out, but they are interesting to study, anyway.

SPREADING IT THIN

The rain situation through the district has been very spotty this summer. Emil Cassier at Sycamore Park District says that one week end this summer he had 2½" of rain. Ray Gerber reported the same day that .6 of an inch fell at Glen Oak C. C. and Ben Warren said that at the Nursery, only .2 of an inch fell.

Art Benson who has been at the beautiful Aurora Country Club will become the Supt. of Grounds at the St. Charles Country Club Sept. 1st.

Jim Arendt who is the 10 year old son of Stanley Arendt of Inverness, had a 105 and Mrs. Stanley Arendt shot a 93 at the Glen Eagles Meeting August 6.

While with us August 6th, Fred Grau went over the Warren Turf Nursery thoroly with Ben Warren. The area that Ben has seeded to Fred's Crown Vetch

had been stripped and sold but the Vetch was coming back from the stolens and roots in the soil and re-establishing itself. The Crown Vetch is extremely drought resistant, fire resistant and is not affected by insects, and has a beautiful rose and white flower, chokes the weeds, improves the soil, stops erosion, grows well on subsoil and needs no top soil. Fred is the sole source of the Ugandagrass, which Walter Fuchs has planted on his practice tee. An examination of this tee late in August showed that it was over half covered after being planted less than five weeks and that the grass was growing strongly. This Grass is said to have the fineness of bent, toughness of Bermuda, to be extremely drought resistant, and will stand close mowing.

Ugandagrass can be interplanted with blue grass or Merin Blue Grass and Fred feels that it is winter hardy in our climate. He also feels that it will be an excellent golf course grass for tees, fairways and, in some cases, for greens. It is planted from stolens.

It is always good to have Fred Grau with us. He is probably personally responsible for all the new grass introductions that have become household names with all of us connected with golf courses since 1945 and we all have watched his career with great interest.

Joe Canale of Deer Park C. C. is planning to ask us to hold a meeting with him at his course in 1957. Joe says he has the prettiest 9 hole course in the state, situated in the most beautiful part of the state, down near Starved Rock. It will be a privilege to play there. Joe thinks it reaches a peak of beauty early in June. That's our date.

The head waitress at Glen Eagles C. C. has a new but firm friend in Ben Warren. She refused to serve Ben a Manhattan at the bar before dinner. "You're too young" she insisted.

Norm Kramer sank a 140 yard Worsham wedge shot on the 5th at Glen Eagles.

Al Schaper and Paul Popp took a week end trip to Northern Wisconsin early in August. They went by air. It was Paul's first fishing trip, his first airplane ride and his first summer trip. He would sure like to go again. They caught fish.

Mr. R. R. Richardson of the Chicago Carton Company, who was Greens Chairman of the Chicago Golf Club and the man who hired John McGreagor as Grounds Supt., attended the outdoor meeting at Warren's Turf Nursery. Mr Richardson takes a keen interest in fine turf, and keeps the lawn around his factory in fine condition.

We all recall that Scotty Stewart, our irrigation expert, retired from active service some years ago and decided to spend his time designing watering systems for golf courses. Scotty bought a cabin cruiser and planned to spend a part of every summer aboard on the lake. So far this summer Scotty hasn't had time to even get the boat in the water and this is Labor Day week end. That's the way to retire, Scotty. Scotty gives an interesting report on another friend of ours, Bob Duguid who served Evanston C. C. for so many years. Bob is doing a rather wonderful job at the Temuquana Country Club. Bob has rebuilt 17 greens, made general improvement in the condition of the course and is now planning a complete irrigation system and Scotty feels that when this is finished that Bob will have the outstanding golf course in Northern Florida. It does us all good to know that one of our brothers is doing an outstanding job in another part of the country.

Dave Mastroleo, Chairman of the tournament Committee, did his usual outstanding job in the se-

lection of prizes for the tournament at Glen Eagles. Dave initiated one new custom that met with approval of all those men who regularly attend the meetings. Dave set up three door prizes and three men who didn't play golf took home prizes.

Jerry Dearie of Medinah C. C. has had a good summer. This last fall he built 3 greens on the number 3 course, all have been well received by the members and they have been good greens all summer. Not satisfied with running three 18 hole courses Jerry has raised 2200 pheasants at home and has planted quite a nursery of Zoysia and several acres of Merion Blue Grass. He is a busy boy planning several new greens at Medinah this fall.

Jock McIntosh at Oak Hills is planning to re-build a green or two this fall.

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