

## WISCONSIN NOTES

The May meeting of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at Rivermoor Country Club, Waterford, Wisconsin on May 6. Art Frost, host superintendent had the course in good shape and over 40 superintendents and guests enjoyed golf in the afternoon followed by dinner and the meeting. The meeting was high lighted by a round table discussion of questions and answers moderated by our good friend Charlie Wilson. Our next meeting will be held at Milwaukee Country Club on June 10. John Stampfl will be host superintendent.

I had the pleasure of attending the Northeastern Wisconsin Golf Course Clinic at Branch River Country Club Manitowoc, Wisconsin on Monday, May 13. This Clinic is highly educational and has met with the greatest success. It has sections covering the different departments of golf club operation. This clinic is followed by a social get together of all departments for golf and dinner. This has a general tendency to tie the Northeastern Wisconsin group into highly efficient, active and fraternal groups for the betterment of golf and golf courses in their district.

The son's of two Milwaukee area Superintendents are following their fathers profession. Franks Kress' son, Allen, is starting his second year as Superintendent of Meadow Springs Country Club and Lester Verhaalen's son, Ronald, assuming the Superintendent's responsibility at Koshonong Mounds Golf Course.

Ken Hubbel from down Oklahoma way is the new superintendent at Ozaukee Country Club. Arnold Wessel formerly of Ozaukee is now located at Port Washington Country Club, Port Washington, Wisc.

Charles Shiley

Superintendents in the Chicago area are being thrown off schedule this Spring by the wet and cold weather. After a few fine, warm days near the end of April, the weather has reversed itself and it is more like late March and early April weather than what we had hoped to have this late in May. Heavy rains have soaked the courses, causing many of them to be closed to play over several weekends. We do not have the figures, but precipitation for May will be close to record. Some of the boys have been heard muttering about "getting out of this lousy country", but give them a few fine days and they will forget their complaints and appreciate the beauty of their courses and the countryside this spring. The blossoms on trees and shrubs this spring have never been more beautiful and due to the cool weather the blossoms have been more lasting than is usual the case. Some of the men who have been trying to get construction work finished are having a tough time of it. Frank Dinelli has been working on the completion of a two-acre reservoir at Northmoor, and has found it really rugged going. Before the lake was near completion, it filled up with water and Frank estimates that 4 million gallons had to be pumped out in order to be able to resume operations. Since then we have had another heavy rain and the same thing has to be done over again. Ray Didier, who has been extremely busy with his golf course designing and construction work has been handicapped also. Ray's latest job is at Chapel Hills Country Club where he is building a second nine holes. He expects to have the job done by July 1.

Your Editor's main complaint is that he hasn't been able to plant his sweet corn due to the wet ground and cold weather. Well maybe it is just as well that we will not have as much as usual. They say that corn is fattening, but it sure is good.

Turf has been wonderful this spring, but we have not been able to keep the grass trimmed the way we would like to and it gets a little ragged looking at times. There has been a lot of leaf spot in Kentucky blue grass and the other day we noted some fescue that was hard hit with a fungus disease. There has also been some early Dollar Spot and some of the disease in *Poa Annua* which we have never had identified correctly. It appears in tees and other areas where there is a high percentage of *Poa Annua* and even comes in areas that were immune to Snow Mold this last winter. It looks bad, but does not seem to do a lot of damage to the grass. As has been the case in other years, courses that are away from Lake Michigan are ahead of those near the shore. However, although it is colder there in the Spring, it is also cooler in the Summer, so there is no cause for complaint.

## THE EFFECT OF ARSENATE OF LEAD ON WEED CONTROL

For some reason which has never been satisfactorily explained, arsenate of lead will control crabgrass in the vicinity of Chicago. A lot of lead has been used in other parts of the country but does not have a bit of effect on crabgrass. In the Chicago area courses which have used lead on the turf have been almost completely free of it for many years. Thirty years ago, a golf course on the north side of Chicago was having trouble with worm casts on the fairways. In fact the casts were so bad that it was the practice on that course to drag the fairways with steel mats to level the casts out before the grass could be cut. In the fall of 1927 it was decided to treat the fairways, greens and tees with arsenate of lead at the rate of 200 lbs. to the acre. The treatment was a big success, not only totally correcting the worm cast problem, but the following summer it dawned on the Superintendent in charge that he had little or no crabgrass anywhere in the area treated. Naturally he was delighted and figured that it must have been the lead that did the trick, as the leading was the only thing done that was not regular procedure. Subsequent treatment were made in the following years and this course has never had enough crabgrass on it to bother about. There was another course in the same area where the greens became so infested with crabgrass every summer that a number of women were hired to pick it out by hand. When the greens were finally treated with arsenate of lead, the crabgrass disappeared completely and has not been a problem since. We might add, also, that greens years ago would also become badly infested with mouse ear chickweed. It was found that the weed was completely eliminated when arsenate of lead was sprayed onto the leaves of the plant. Dry applications did not seem to be successful, but when the lead was sprayed on and allowed to remain on the leaves that the chickweed turned yellow and finally disappeared. At least one Superintendent in the Chicago district is experimenting with regular spraying of lead arsenate on *Poa Annua* to determine whether it will have a like effect. It may be that spraying is the correct procedure and will give better results than the dry method. We might also add that there was a period when it was thought that Chlordane would take the place of lead arsenate, but although it is a necessary product to use, lead arsenate is still needed if we are to keep some of these weeds under control.

Paul Burdett is president of the Izaak Walton League which meets in Warrenville 3rd Sunday evening of every month. Paul says that they have some very interesting programs.