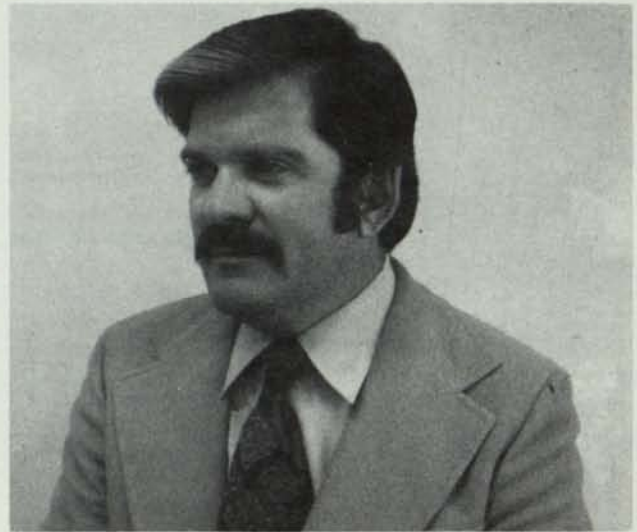


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### *The President's Message*

Like everyone, I have a problem with **Poa annua**. My problem is somewhat more difficult than many, as our fairways had never been seeded to bentgrass. Let me give you a little background. Until Briarwood Country Club became a private club 15 years ago, fairways were predominantly Kentucky bluegrass. How I wish they had remained that way! If the stories are true from what old timers who played here when this course was public tell me, they were beautiful.

When I came here twelve years ago, fairways were being mowed too low for Kentucky bluegrass and **Poa annua** was coming in strong. An irrigation system had recently been installed in fairways. The members of Briarwood didn't want to convert to bentgrass by plowing up fairways; this action was too drastic, and it was important for the young club just in the process of starting out and acquiring new members not to have interrupted play, etc. I guess they had a good point at the time. Even so, they were strongly advised against this action of leaving the fairways alone by the late, great agronomist, O. J. Noer, who visualized the **Poa annua** problems of the future.

O. J. urged them to plow everything up and seed with creeping bentgrass, but alas, they accepted the second alternate which was to drill seed into **Poa** with bentgrass and hope for the best; that's how I inherited the **Poa annua** fairways of Briarwood. I admit I came close during my twelve year tenure, especially during the very hot, humid summers, of almost convincing my members to plow up the fairways, but each time in the final analysis the decision for such a drastic action to improve our fairways was not in my favor. Inconvenience of play was also a reason to stop my proposed program. So each summer we have drilled bentgrass into our fairways and though it's a very slow process, we have established, I would estimate, between 35 and 40 percent.

Finally, after a very bad spring 1971, we embarked on what we call our four year intensified program of establishing a desired fairway grass into our predominantly **Poa annua** fairways. I would like to tell you about it. With the help of the USGA and my friend Lee Record, this is what I am now doing, and I believe it's a very good program.

During the spring we disc drill all fairways and seed with a mixture of **Poa trivialis** and Manhattan ryegrass wherever there are dead spots or the **Poa**

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**annua** is heavy. **Poa trivialis** and Manhattan will germinate when soils are still cold better than anything else we have tried. In my experience, seeding with bentgrass in early spring is wasting time and good money. The bentgrass limply comes up and shrivels away in the thatch. **Poa trivialis** has a strong root system and survives considerably better than the bentgrass. Wherever we used this mixture last year it really looks great and is now established in the **Poa annua** areas. If anyone has doubts of my success, be free to come up and see me. A picture is worth a thousand words. I know that O. J. Noer in his remaining years was very strong in suggesting **Poa trivialis** be mixed with bentgrass. The discing in the spring is also a good practice, because it breaks up the thatch and encourages rhizome development in established bentgrass.

As the summer progresses and the **Poa annua** begins to die out in problem areas, we will then aerate up to twenty times (just like plowing) and drill seed a 50-50 mixture of **Poa trivialis** and bentgrass. These cultivated areas will then be roped neatly off and the remainder of the fairway left in summer play. The seeded areas might be from 5000 square feet to almost an acre, but whatever size they might be, they will no longer be babied, hand watered, prayed for, worried about. We will jump right in and chop them up.

Immediately after Labor Day, **phase three** will begin. Every fairway at this time will be aerified twice (three or four times on the perimeter) and seeded wherever the areas are thin or unhealthy looking.

This program, as I have mentioned, will be carried out for four years and by that time, our hope is that most of the weak **Poa annua** area will be eradicated. Through this cultural practice, I believe our permanent grass will be 75 to 80 percent desirable bentgrass. Drop in and see our fairway program. It may inspire you if you are having problems with **Poa annua**, or perhaps you might add something to our program. I'll buy the lunch!

Paul Voykin, President



The editor took a couple hours off. The big ones did not all get away.



### Editor

Ye editor paid a visit to Amos Lapp, superintendent at St. Andrews Golf Club. He has been superintendent at this club for many years and has a total of nearly fifty years under his belt as a golf course superintendent.

The condition of the course was excellent. Amos stated that it is not unusual to have from five to seven hundred golf players in a day, along with one hundred seventy-five riding golf cars on the thirty-six holes. To cope with this kind of traffic requires a different type of maintenance program than one would find on a private golf course.

Amos says the fairways are mowed with an eleven unit and one, nine unit machine with lights on each unit, starting work at four A.M. on busy golf event days. This is some contrast to the horse drawn mower days!

Amos has rebuilt several old tees and also built several new ones, increasing their size as much as one hundred percent.

It will be interesting to observe in the near future years the strain of grass that performs the best under heavy play. Amos used three different strains: C15 Bent, A20 Blue Grass, and pencross Bent.

Amos also informed me he has planted over one thousand new trees of different varieties in recent years. In a few years, the place will look like a forest!

Most superintendents know that keeping golf cars in good running condition is no small job. This responsibility comes under the grounds department and they have to handle one hundred seventy-five cars. That's a large number! They are completely overhauled during the winter months, plus all the other equipment used for the maintenance of the golf course must be repaired if necessary. After this, a vacation is in order!

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