

Guest Editorial

Carl Hoppfan
REPORTS???

YOU BET!!!

To look back over the past years and analysis how one's feelings and opinion can and do change could very easily provide adequate material to write a book. For quite a number of years after having assumed golf course responsibilities I remained firmly convinced that my one and only purpose in life was to basically grow good turf. The truth of the matter is that growing good turf is but one of a number of responsibilities that are required before one can truthfully say he has filled the bill. To be able to communicate, not only to a Green Committee or Board of Directors, but to your golfer in general and make them all some what aware of the involvements that are a part of proper turf management ranks very high on the list. A report, no matter how long or short, but properly prepared and presented will bring about results equivalent to Spring fertilization.

For the past six years I have kept a very close record on golf course labor distribution. A daily recording of all job assignments by every member of my department has provided a tool that I have benefited from tremendously. Actually to break down the various care or maintenance requirements that are performed on the golf course is not that involved. If taken by categories such as greens, tees, fairways, etc., a rather easily understood system can be set up.

For instance, the lead category on my form is:

GREENS

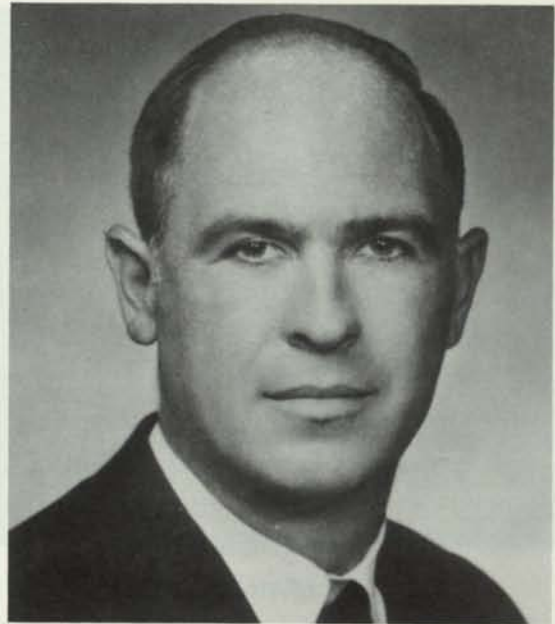
- A1 — mowing
- A2 — mowing banks
- A3 — changing cups
- A4 — aeration & topdressing
- A5 — fertilization
- A6 — spraying — pest
- A7 — watering
- A8 — misc.

Each worker has a breakdown card right in his time card slot and as he punches out each day just a few extra seconds are required to record the endeavors of the day.

Immediately adjacent to the time clock I have posted a form chart of all the various jobs and their respective code numbers. At the bottom of this chart, printed in very large and bold letters, is a small paragraph expounding on the importance of this labor report and the fact that compiling these figures is a waste of time unless everyone is completely honest as well as accurate in the recording of their duties. Bi-monthly I then collect and record the results of all the cards into a general ledger book.

To verbally attempt to convince a Green Committee or Board of Directors of the definite need for a certain piece of equipment too often fails. We now enter with something that everyone understands; numbers and dollar signs on a piece of paper. Six years ago, 1967, my labor records show that 4.5 men spent 2136 man hours maintaining our 84 sand traps. This was 15.9% of the total hours spent maintaining the entire golf course. Now, in 1973, 1.5 men spent 824 man hours maintaining the same traps, which was 7.4% of total hours worked.

A report clearly showing how one initial investment will in turn do a better job, save time, and most important of all cost no more and maybe even save money has sold more proposals of mine than days and weeks of talking has ever done.



Charles G. Baskin, G.C.S.A.A. President

ANAHEIM, CALIF.—The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America today announced that New Orleans, Louisiana has been selected as the site for the organization's 46th International Turfgrass Conference & Show, which will be held February 16-21, 1975, at The Rivergate.

"The Conference has been both gratifying and encouraging in its overall effect based on the participation of the many who are attending," stated newly elected GCSAA president Charles G. Baskin, who is superintendent of the Country Club of Waterbury (Conn.). "Record crowd attended the Conference. We expect to exceed these records in 1975," Baskin added.

Based in Lawrence, Kansas, GCSAA has nearly 3,600 members, including the nation's top golf course superintendents who are the pace setters in the production and maintenance of the world's finest golf turf.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Midwest Association

- Donald D. Lawrence
Ellwood Greens
Class A
- James H. Inwood
Renwood Country Club
Class D
- Peter N. Frandsen
Renwood Country Club
Class A
- Robert Slome
Green Valley Golf Course
Class B
- Terry R. Turnquist
Hickory Hill Golf Club
Class B
- David W. Nevenhoven
Old Wayne Golf Club
Class D
- Gerald C. Adank
Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc.
Class EE