



MIDWEST BREEZES

Most golf course Supts. had hopes that a good spring would be a prelude to the start of a beautiful summer. It has turned out to be the opposite. *Poa Annua* has moved in with a bountiful crop of seed. The old saying used to be that when *Poa Annua* produces a large crop of seed it is a sign of a hot summer. This is nature's way of being sure there will always be *Poa Annua* in the future years. Should this be true, be sure your air conditioner is in good order.

Several golf courses in the Chicago area have started to change their bluegrass turf fairways over to bentgrass. This editor hopes their decision is one that they will not regret. A transition such as this requires considerable time and patience. It will not happen in one year or for several years thereafter, and in the meantime *Poa Annua* loves the kind of maintenance that the bentgrass requires. Fairway maintenance budgets will need to be increased. More water will be necessary. More fungicide will be required, and more fertilizer. I hope all of these requirements were taken in consideration before this type of transition went into effect.

Many people who can speak with authority have stated that in the not too distant future there will be a deficiency of water that will be available for irrigation purposes.

I am sure many of us know that bluegrass requires less water to survive; it may turn brown and look dead, but a good watering will bring it back to life. This is not true of bent or *Poa Annua*.

Carl Langrebe, Supt. at Hinsdale G.C., reports that his club is in the process of installing a Toro automatic irrigation system on the golf course. I am sure this will make Carl happy when it is completed. No more worrying about the night watering man. All of the pipes smaller in diameter than four inches are being installed by the pulling method. This makes a very neat installation and very little inconvenience to the golfer.

There is a new turfgrass fungus disease on golf course putting greens in the Chicago area. After a relatively moderate infestation in 1979, it has become very serious in 1980. It is called Red Leafspot (*Erythrospilum*). So far it has infected one specific strain of bentgrass found on putting greens. The severity of the disease has made it necessary for some golf courses to remove the old sod and plant new sod of a different strain of bentgrass. Various fungicides that have been recommended by universities that are doing turfgrass research work have not been successful. The golf course superintendent are doing everything possible to find the cause of Red Leafspot and what, if anything, can be done to correct it.

At 2:30 in the afternoon of June 7th a severe thunderstorm that produced hail up to the size of a tennis ball caused significant damage to the greens of the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois. Most of the greens have the appearance of having up to several thousand ball marks on them. Some of the cars in the parking lot had windows broken by the hail.

The M.A.G.C.S. June 12 meeting held at Ridgemoor C.C. was attended by over seventy members. 58 of these played golf on a super conditioned golf course made possible by the knowledge of our host supt., **Peter Hawn**. The fairways were just beautiful. One would hate to take a divot. If it happened I am sure he or she would fell very badly.

Not only the golf course was excellent, the strawberry patch was equally as good. It is too bad if you missed it. That is your penalty for driving the ball down the center of the fairway.

The dinner was just great. We thank Ridgemoor C.C. members and all the employees for making this a most enjoyable day.

THE MOLE - June 6, 1980

At the Riverside meeting of the MAGCS in May a discussion about fuel prices and availability came up. The mowing practices of some superintendents have changed permitting longer grass blades on the fairways because of less frequent mowing. Some salesmen territories were also cut to provide more efficient servicing of customers. And fuel efficient cars and trucks are replacing the larger ones.

On May 15 at Grayce's Frankfort Inn a fellow superintendent was honored by over 50 of his fellow superintendents. **Al Lagman** was surprised when each of the honoring superintendents brought a golf cap from their pro shop for Al to wear while fishing in Northern Michigan. Al has served his term as Superintendent at Kankakee Country Club, Old Oak Country Club and recently at Palos Country Club.

While superintendents in the Chicago area are recently using female help on their grounds crew, women's lib has been demonstrated in the Golf Course Superintendents ranks for over 40 years. Next year, **Arlene Sliker** will retire from Streator Country Club. Arlene has been Superintendent at Streator since the early 40's. **Joan Essman**, Arlene's daughter, will be taking over when Arlene retires. No place for male chauvanism in Streator.

An old friend, **Leon Short**, is closing the doors on his operation in East Peoria this month. Leon's son, **Bob**, has decided to change his line of work and Leon is planning to retire to Winterhaven, Florida. Leon says he will be sadly disappointed if any friend is near Winterhaven and doesn't stop in to say hi.

Hi Ray;
One of the wealths of early to rise!

MORNING GLORY

To watch the morning Sun,
Climb it's stairway in the sky.
And hear the birds sing a song of cheer,
They know the reasons why.
One cannot help but marvel,
At the start of every day.
How all of nature joins together,
To sing, "Hip, hip, harrah!"

Superintendently,
Kenneth R. Zanzig
Green Garden C.C.