

A Book Review on **Practical Golf Course Maintenance**

Fred Opperman
Editor

This is the first time that I have reviewed a book, and it has been quite a pleasure to review this one. I recently read *Practical Golf Course Maintenance: The Magic of Greenkeeping* by Gordon Witteveen and Michael Bavier. After reading it, I felt that it is one that should be on the shelves of all "Greenkeepers." While it could have been written by most seasoned golf course superintendents, for most of them, it is a review of the practical greenkeeping routines they are already

implementing on a regular basis. It should be read by staff members to refresh and review the vital parts of turf management, for it illustrates the hands-on approach to daily problems and solutions that are overlooked in most classrooms. Finally, it should also be read by the assistant, the foreman who has come up through the ranks, and by any other person new or interested in the profession of greenkeeping who desires the practical knowledge that is usually learned through experience but made available through this book.

Practical Golf Course Maintenance takes you chapter by chapter (20 chapters, each on a different subject) through the whys and wherefores of cutting greens and tees and fairways, bunker maintenance, topdressing, aerating, spraying, setting tee markers, seeding and sodding, and how to handle cart traffic and paths. You'll find it covers not only the basics on how to run a golf course but also on using creativity in the little things that need to be done, such as using flowering pots as tee markers for ladies day. Well-illustrated, many pictures reflect

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The Station

R.L. Hastings

7ucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long trip that spans the continent. We are traveling on a train. Out the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hillsides, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain hour of a certain day we will pull into the station. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there, so many wonderful dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes for loitering—waiting, waiting for the station.

“When we reach the station, that will be it!” we cry. “When I’m 16!” “When I buy a new 650 Mercedes!” “When I put my last kid through college!” “When I have paid off my mortgage!” “When I get a promotion!” “When I reach the age of retirement, I shall live happily ever after!”

Sooner or later we must realize there is no station, no one place to arrive once and for all. The truly joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us.

“Relish the moment” is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” It isn’t the burdens of today that drive men mad. It is the regrets over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are the twin thieves who rob us of today.

So, stop pacing aisles and counting miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more . . . cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.



A Book Review . . .

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the activities of that chapter.

During the past several years, Gordon and Michael have given seminars all over the globe to greenkeepers, and this book is the result of those seminars and clinics.

To order a book, send a check to Michael Bavier, 434 Valencia Ave., Barrington, IL 60010, along with the ship to address. Please include phone numbers on all orders. The cost is \$35 plus \$5 shipping (for the first book and \$3 shipping for each additional book). Orders may also be placed directly through Ann Arbor Press by calling 800-858-5299.



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