

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the  
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENTS.

Editor — Ray Gerber  
865 Hillside Ave.  
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137  
Phone — 469-6467

Associate Editor — Robert Williams  
90 East Franklin, Apt. 208  
Lake Forest, Ill. 60045  
Office Phone — 432-0088



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*The President's Message*

Let's start off with your President giving you his version of a State of the Union Message. Being a part of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents Board of Directors for the past few years has truly been an educational experience; planning and achieving with willing, hard working and concerned people radiates pride. The success of our association's events throughout the year, such as the Annual Turf Clinic and Flower Show reflect the caliber of people we have within our midst. If there has been one outstanding lesson that I personally have learned from my years on the Board, it has been the similarity between this and maintaining a golf course. No matter how successfully great a project or idea might be, someone won't like it. But then I guess we all have accepted this as a normal way of life. Your Officers and Board of Directors will strive to make 1977 a most pleasant and enjoyable year of events for our entire association.

Our 24th Annual Turf Clinic with it's theme "50 Years of Beautiful Golf Courses" has to be considered a glowing tribute to many fine people within the turf industry. A feeling that you are going first class starts from the moment one passes through the entrance arch that guards the facilities of Medinah Country Club. From that moment on until your departure, every step of the way is top shelf. The blending process used to bring speakers to the podium enables all age factions a short time to compare past, present and future. What could be more fitting to close out our 50th Anniversary than "50 Years of Beautiful Golf Courses".

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**JOHN JACKMAN, HOST SUPERINTENDENT**

**24th Annual Turf Clinic**

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
**THEME**

**"50 Years of Beautiful Golf Courses"**

Medinah Country Club - December 1 & 2, 1976  
Wednesday Morning, December 1

- 8:30 Registration ..... Howard Baerwald
- 9:30 Call to Order ..... President MAGCS
- 9:35 Welcome Host Supt. .... John Jackman
- 9:40 ..... **Session Moderator - Robert M. Williams**  
**Keynote Speaker.....Dr. Fred V. Grau**  
**"Through 50 Years"**
- 10:30 ..... 50 Years of Experience Panel  
(Frank Dinelli, Domenic Grotti, Charles Shiley  
Wally Piepers, Wm. Stupple, Art Benson, Sr.)
- 11:00 Questions
- 11:15 Films (Two) ..... "Conditions Years Ago"  
Narrated and Sound by Ray Gerber
- 12:00 Lunch

**Wednesday Afternoon**

**Session Moderator - Mike Bavier**  
**WATER AND EROSION CONTROL**

- 1:30 Illinois State Water Survey .....  
..... Robert Sasman, Hydrologist
- 2:00 Questions
- 2:10 Erosion Control with Round Covers .....  
..... Jim Thompson
- 2:30 Questions
- 2:40 Controlling Algae and Aquatic Weeds  
..... John Lebedovs
- 3:00 Questions
- 3:10 Erosion Control Along Pond and River Banks ....  
..... Robert G. Lukas, Vice President Soil Testing, Inc.
- 3:40 Questions
- 3:50 Lake Aeration . Dr. Mervin Browne, Kem-Bro Inc.
- 4:10 Questions
- 5:00 Cocktail Hour
- 6:30 Banquet ..... Guest Speaker, Mr. Leo McNamara  
Wilson Sporting Goods

**Thursday Morning - December 2, 1976**

**Session Moderator - Roger LaRoche**

**NATURAL BEAUTY IS REWARDING**

- 9:00 50 Years of Golf Courses in Scotland .....  
..... Carl Schwartzkopf, USGA Green Section
- 9:30 Questions
- 9:40 1975 Award Winning Landscape  
(Glen Oak Country Club..... Fred Opperman
- 10:00 Questions
- 10:10 Trees, their Trimming and Care.. Art Benson Jr.
- 10:30 Questions
- 10:40 Proper Planting of Trees, Types, Locations .....  
..... Dick Nugent, Architect
- 11:00 Questions
- 11:10 Controlling Ornamental Insects and Diseases -  
New Dutch Elm Control .....  
..... Tom Morrison, Arborist
- 11:30 Questions
- 12:00 Noon Lunch

**Thursday Afternoon**

**Session Moderator - Richard Lamkey**

**FLOWERS - THEIR IMPORTANCE**

- 1:30 Flowers, Irrigation, Installation by vibratory plow  
..... Dennis Fulton
- 1:50 Questions
- 2:00 Annual Flower Planting ..... Dr. Fosler, U of I
- 2:20 Questions
- 2:30 Creative Flower Planting ..... Ted Mochel
- 2:50 Questions
- 3:00 Summary of Clinic and Closing Remarks .....  
..... Dr. Grau
- 3:30 Close of Clinic

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## FROM SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SUPPLY CO.

Frost damage to an irrigation system occurs from the following causes and in the following order of frequency:

1. Low temperature at periods of light or no snow cover.
2. Poor drainage procedure - drain entire system poorly.
3. Incomplete drainage - forgot to drain part of system.
4. Water standing on the ground surface above an open drain valve or sprinkler head.
5. Contraction of piping and ground heave due to temperature change.

"Blowing out" of irrigation systems with an air compressor has gained in popularity in the last five years. Coupled with good procedure, blowing can minimize most of the above causes.

The following sequence for drainage should be followed in order and tailored to your particular installation:

1. Several days or a week before actual draining:
  - A. Locate irrigation drawing.
  - B. Turn off water supply.
  - C. Open drains that flow directly into tile lines, creeks, or ponds.
  - D. Insert sprinklers at the high and low points of the lines to allow air to replace the water as the low head drains.
2. Connect suitably sized air compressor near the source of water. **[Note]** A piping system of 3" and less can be blown quickly with 1-125 cfm compressor. Piping systems 4"-8" can be blown faster with less chance for error with 2-125 cfm compressors.
3. Beginning at the pumphouse, open each sprinkler outlet until you get air and no water, then close, on one branch of the main line and follow it to the dead end. Do the same on each branch of the main line until you have air and no water coming from each outlet. **[Note]** Several men "leap frogging" with golf carts makes this quite fast. Be sure to allow compressor to build up pressure so the water will be moved with a large volume of air.
4. Repeat step 3 to check drainage.
5. Starting again at the pumphouse and working toward the end of each lateral, crack the drain valves slightly to be sure air and no water escapes. Close the drain, wait a minute, and repeat. Water may have collected at the low point. **[Note]** Drains and standing surface water usually occur at low points in the terrain. Closed drains prevent the surface water from entering the pipe line through the drain valve, along with stones from the drainage sump, and eliminate the drain closing chore during spring turn-on.

The basic piping system is now drained and special attention is needed to properly drain the pumphouse. One small slip at this state of drainage could be very expensive.

6. Pumphouse drainage:
  - A. Starting at the discharge line in the pumphouse wall, trace the flow of water in the piping through gate valves and check valves and open necessary drains.

- B. Drain pump volutes by removing the bottom plug or opening drainage cock.
  - C. Remove or drain suction drop pipe.
  - D. Remove water from pressure reducing valve covers by blowing out or loosening cover bolts.
  - E. Turn pump motors off and protect windings against possible rodent nesting.
  - F. Drain water from pressure gauges, switches, tank sight glasses, tank air chargers, and other special items subject to freeze in the pumphouse.
7. Program automatic valves to operate once a day for 5 minutes to prevent the solenoid plunger from sticking and reduce the moisture in the solenoid coil and automatic controller contacts.

Before going out and renting an air compressor and blowing your system, take several hours with your blue print and the above procedure. Write down in sequence the steps you plan to take when you start actual drainage. The steps can be listed by thinking of yourself as entering the pipeline at the source of water and your job is to push the water out on top of the ground as you move through the pipe. What routes will you have to follow to push all of the water out the dead end of every line? What will you do when you come to a branch tee that feeds another fairway or splits and goes both ways at the front of a green? When do you get to the end of the line when the system is looped? The same routes you took entering the pipes at the source to get to the dead ends must be followed by the wall of air you will put into the system when blowing out.

Frost damage repairs have got to rate near the top of the bad job list. In addition, they occur at a critical time of year from a manpower standpoint, and can cause several weeks of anguish if the dirt is not properly flushed after the repair is made. Now is the time to think about any necessary pump and sprinkler repair required for next year's operation.

Get the necessary parts on order and make the repairs conveniently in the winter rather than wait for the spring rush.

Good luck in your drainage this fall. The old adage "you make your own luck" was never truer.

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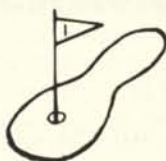
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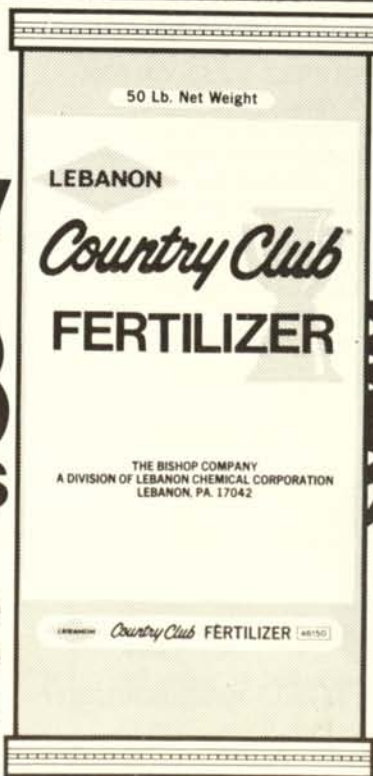
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## PLAYERKILL ON FROSTY GREENS TO PLAY OR NOT TO PLAY ... WHOSE DECISION?

Like a slap in the face, the sign on No. 1 tee coldly states, "Golf Course Closed Because of Frost".

The overworked, harassed green chairman sighs resignedly and says, "Boy! How will I explain this to the Saturday morning boys?"

He turns and enters the pro shop. Before getting half way through, the golf professional halts him with a half-hearted, "Good morning, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_."

After a pause, he asks, "Say, do you think we can get the superintendent to reconsider and open the course? We've already had to close four Saturdays this year because of rain and this sure bites into my sales."

Shaking his head, the green chairman heads for the locker room again, only to be stopped once more. The first foursome of the "Saturday morning Dew-busters" group has recently arrived and they look pretty steamed up!

"Why on earth should the superintendent close the course because of a little frost. I pay dues all year 'round and I resent coming here and being told that I can't play ... besides, Saturday morning is the only time I can get out for golf."

"Look, there are only four of us and we certainly can't cause any damage. How about letting us tee it up?"

### UNAWARE OF TURF THREAT

Does all of this sound too familiar? It certainly should - particularly for those courses located in areas where fall and spring frosts are common occurrences. And it is only natural for people to react in this manner. Why shouldn't they? Their reactions stem from the fact that they, unlike the superintendent, do not know why traffic on frosted turf (especially greens) presents a threat to the continued health, vigor and playability of that turf.

### EXPOSE THEM TO FACTS

This is not to say that we should try to make every green chairman, golf professional, club manager or golfer an expert agronomist. Far from it. On the other hand, it actually behooves us to make sure that they are exposed to certain facts about "playerkill" ... which is the net result of permitting play on frosted or frozen turf.

An example of how frost can affect major tournaments took place recently during the Del. E. Webb Pro-Am in Nevada. An early morning frost delayed the starting of the field, resulting in selection of the winning team on the basis of 27 holes instead of two full rounds.

Illustrations above depict how much playerkill one foursome, in the normal process of playing to and holing-out, can create on a frosted or frozen greens. The total number of foot imprints is not the basic reason for closing a course (although this is certainly a consideration); rather, the superintendent is concerned about the damage done to the individual leaf blades within each imprint. If conditions are such that individual cells within the leaves contain ice crystals, it is almost certain that these cells will be ruptured when trod upon. When enough cells are ruptured, the leaf blade will die or, at best, be severely injured.

Playerkill is reflected in a slight depression of the turf which produces the much-hated "bouncing ball" type of putt. Worse yet, it becomes practically impossible to maintain a true-line putt - regardless of how well the ball is stroked. These are just two of the short-term undesirable effects of playerkill on frosted or frozen turf.

### LONG-TERM EFFECTS

More serious - and of importance to all persons interested in the golf course - are the long-term effects of playerkill; those which persist until weather conditions are such that vigorous turf growth resumes, and the damage heals over. A few words of caution are really necessary at this point - these long-term effects can occur just as easily on overseeded bermudagrass greens as they can on bentgrass greens.

### TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS

To the superintendent, the reasons are obvious; if playerkill occurs relatively late in the growing season when soil temperatures are low, the chances of re-seeding or renovation procedures being successful will be very poor. True, the grasses used for overseeding (or re-seeding) purposes are of the "cool-season" types, but they, like all living organisms, have definite temperature requirements which must be met in order for them to germinate, grow and mature.

Playerkill is not to be taken lightly by any green chairman, golf professional, club manager or golf course superintendent. Without true putting surfaces and near flawless turf that all golfers seem to demand, the over-all operation of the golf club is bound to suffer.

### POOR TURF RESULTS

Simply stated, poor quality turf results in fewer players, which, in turn, leads to lower sales in the clubhouse and increased headaches for the green chairman.

The need for closing a frosted or frozen course boils down to a clear understanding of all factors involved. Once these factors are placed in the proper perspective it becomes obvious that the superintendent, with his agronomic knowledge and expertise, is the one club representative who should bear the responsibility and authority for such a decision.

### NOTIFY CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

In addition, it should also be the superintendent's responsibility to ensure that other club representatives are notified immediately as to his decision so that the golfing membership can be informed. Finally, the superintendent must watch the course conditions very carefully so that he can reopen the course as soon as weather conditions permit.

How about it? Is the price paid for one round of golf on frosted or frozen greens worth all the potential trouble mentioned above?

by Paul M. Alexander, Ph.D.

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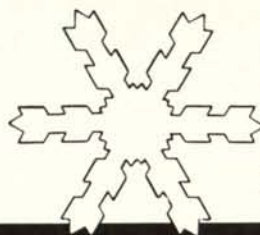
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Editor

## MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Shiley, Supt. at Plum Tree National Golf Club has decided to hang up his spurs and enjoy life. Most of the years of his life were on a golf course. We all hope he will find time to visit his many golf course Supt. friends and that he will have many more years of enjoyable life with Mrs. Shiley.

The golfing season is coming to an end in the Chicago area. All in all it was not a bad year for golf course conditions. Precipitation was less than normal. The Supt. with a good irrigation system and by using proper chemicals for disease control had very few problems.

It was an ideal fall for construction work. Very few days of work were lost due to weather conditions.

Bob Williams, Supt. at Bob O'Link Golf Club has done some real nice work. He constructed a 9,000 square foot green, filled in sand traps and built a few new ones. Also planted new trees and shrubs and enlarged his turfgrass nursery by several thousand square feet. Also built a new maintenance storage building.

The editor, along with Amos Lapp and his son, Kenneth made a quick trip to Michigan City, Indiana to check on a new golf course under construction. The Purr-Wick system is being installed on all eighteen greens. Really something different than the old method. It will be interesting to observe its function in the future. Get in touch with Dr. Wm. Daniels, Purdue University for more information.

The later part of October, Turf Products Ltd. sponsored an educational meeting at Indian Lakes Country Club, consisting of speakers from various companies dealing in supplies related to problems that occur on golf courses. The speakers all were well versed in their products and kept the audience of one hundred fifty in their chairs during the day long session. Speaking for the golf course Supts. it is always a pleasure to listen to men like Dr. Bill Daniels from Purdue University, Dr. Al Turgeon, University of Illinois and Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State University. Men like these are always in a position to bring the latest information in turfgrass management to a gathering of golf course Supts.

Paul N. Voykin, who just finished presenting talks to the New York State Turf Grass Association and the Kishwaukee College in Illinois is on his way to present a speech to the University of Delaware's Turf Grass Conference Dec. 6. Paul's two very relevant

and interesting talks, "Overgrooming is Over Spending", and "General Managers and How to Survive Them" have received a lot of interest the past few years.

Paul and Ruth Burdett have moved to their permanent home in Green Valley, Arizona. Many of you know Paul was a successful business man dealing in golf course supplies. Paul's motto to his customers was service. This he fulfilled by working long hours seven days a week if it was required. He was always willing to share his knowledge in turfgrass problems with others. After forty years of traveling the highways, Paul decided four years ago to take a trip on the highway leading to Arizona, and Green Valley a short distance from Tucson was the place for them. If any of you are in the Tucson area, stop in to see the Burdetts. Who knows what they may have on ice! Good luck, Paul and Ruth and may the wind always be at your back.

The Kankakee C.C. is looking for an experienced golf course supt. This is an 18 hole course, manual watering system, good equipment, and many supt. benefits. Contact:

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The 1977 slate of candidates for national office has been released by the G.C.S.A.A.'s Nominating Committee. The election will be held at the 1977 Annual Membership Meeting in Portland, Oregon. The nominees are: For President - Theodore Woehrlé, C.G.C.S.; For Vice-President - George Cleaver, C.G.C.S., Melvin Lucas, Jr., C.G.C.S., and Charles Tadge, C.G.C.S.; For Directors (two to be elected) - Hobart Burgan, C.G.C.S., Edward Dembnick, C.G.C.S., Louis Haines, C.G.C.S., David Harmon and James Wylie, C.G.C.S.



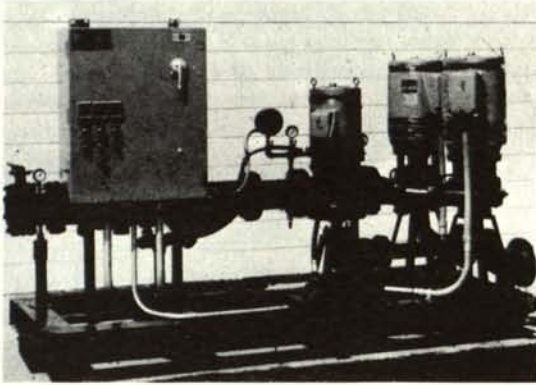
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